

Scriptures For Overcoming Substance Abuse

**“Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler;
whoever is led astray by them is not wise.”
Proverbs 20:1**

The New Testament is clear when it comes to substance abuse (alcohol and illegal drugs). Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, commands god’s people *“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”* (Ephesians 5:18).

The Bible message is this: We can handle the stresses, strains and pressures of life by looking to God by faith and being continually filled with the Holy Spirit. We don’t have to turn to addictive, destructive substances to relieve our stress.

An addict seeks relief from emotional pain, stress, worry and guilt, yet by pursuing relief through substance abuse, he becomes a slave of that which is supposed to set him free. In actuality, chemical addictions increase stress by producing a false sense of euphoria that is initially gratifying but always short-lived. After the chemically induced high wears off, guilt, shame and humiliation take center stage, further driving the addict deeper into the cycle of dependence.

God’s Word promises to help us come with and conquer life. Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit not alcohol or drugs, enables us to overcome the challenges of life with confidence and joy!

The following biblical principles and promises, when diligently applied to daily living, will insure a substance free lifestyle that depends upon God to meet every need and fulfill every dream!

- **Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.**

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ Himself”.

I Corinthians 6:15

“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God” You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

I Corinthians 6:19-20

- **Jesus warns against the abuse of alcohol.**

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.”

Luke 21:34

- **Wine is a mocker, beer a brawler.**

“Wine is a mocker, and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.”

Proverbs 20:1

Also see Isaiah 5:11, Romans 13:13, I Corinthians 5:11, Galatians 5:21, I Peter 4:3, I Thessalonians 5:7-8

- **Do not love wine.**

“He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never become rich.”

Proverbs 21:17

- **Heavy drinking brings misery. Consider the sad picture of a drunkard. (The Bible tells it like it really is!).**

“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long over wine, those who go to taste mixed wine. Do not look on wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it does down smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your mind will utter perverse things. And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. They struck me, but I did not become ill. They beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink.” Proverbs 23:29-35

- **God’s wrath was upon Israel for the nation’s sin of drunkenness.**

“Woe to the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim, and to the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is at the head of the fertile valley of those who are overcome with wine! Behold, the Lord has a strong and mighty agent; as a storm of hail, a tempest of destruction, like a storm of mighty overflowing waters, He has cast it down to the earth with His hand. The proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim is trodden under foot. And the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is at the head of the fertile valley, will be like the first-ripe fig prior to summer, which one sees, and as soon as it is in his hand, he swallows it.”

Isaiah 28:1-4

- **Isaiah gives a vivid picture of a drunk losing his moral judgment.**

“These also stagger from wine and reel from beer; priests and prophets stagger from beer and are befuddled with wine; they reel from beer, they stagger when seeing visions, they stumble when rendering decisions. All the tables are covered with vomit and there is not a spot without filth.”
Isaiah 28:7-8

- **Paul gives a timely warning and instruction.**

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk with wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit.
Ephesians 5:15-18

- **Drunkenness breaks down morals.**

Genesis 9:20-23 The example of Noah.
Genesis 19:30-38 The example of Lot.

- **No drunkard will enter heaven.**

“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither the sexually immoral...nor drunkards....will inherit the kingdom of God.”
I Corinthians 6:9-10

- **One can be delivered and saved from drunkenness and SET FREE!**

“That (drunkards etc.) is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
I Corinthians 6:11

- **Do not associate with drunkards.**

“Now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater, or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.” I Corinthians 5:11

- **Be wise! Do not join those who abuse alcohol or drugs.**

‘Listen. My son, and be wise; keep your heart on the right path. Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat.’ Proverbs 23:19-20

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom!” II Corinthians 3:17

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