

ALCOHOLISM AND DRUGS

1. The condition of the alcoholic is found in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.
2. You need to become a member of God's family by recognizing your sin, confessing your faith in Christ and experiencing the new birth.
3. Your sin of addiction can be forgiven (1 Corinthians 6:11).
4. The Holy Spirit will dwell in you, and you will be God's temple (1 Corinthians 6:19).
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the scriptures and their meaning for your life (read 1 Corinthians 2).
6. God authored the scriptures for the purpose of helping you (2 Peter 1 :20-21).
7. Read the scriptures prayerfully, and begin to do what His Word says.
8. Pleasing God should be your chief goal, not just shake off a bad habit.
9. Sinful habits must be replaced, not just stopped or broken.
10. The scriptures supply the replacement of new and righteous habits (Romans 6: 19; Ephesians 4; Colossians 3).
11. Put off the old nature, and put on the new nature.
12. You must learn a new lifestyle whether you are feeling low, disappointed, or angry, and you must cultivate new friendships, new behaviors. You also need to find new places to go where you won't be tempted (1 Corinthians 15:33; Hebrews 10:24-25).
13. Don't get drunk with wine, because that results in debauchery (corruption). Instead, be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16-17).
14. The Greek word for debauchery is "*asotia*", and it means "unsavable, a life mined and destroyed by drunkenness, beyond reclamation."
15. Being filled with the Spirit results in a life of joy and wise action, a life dominated and controlled by the Holy Spirit.
16. The Holy Spirit must fill every aspect of your life, just as alcohol once dominated it. This is applicable at work, at home, with your family, with your friends, etc.
17. There are five things you must do to break with your old lifestyle.
 - a) First, repent of your sin to God. Seek His help to understand the scriptures and apply them to your life. Then, do whatever God requires of you.

- b) Next, you must probe every area of your life. Make a full list of ways in which you are failing God and others. Also, make a list of the things the scriptures tell you to do now.
- c) Third, you must work closely with someone who practices biblical counseling.
- d) Fourth, in accordance with 1 Corinthians 15:33 cut off completely every association with those with whom you once indulged in alcohol.
- e) Finally, use your list to restructure every area of your life to eliminate all the old ways. Instead, list new biblical alternatives.