

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

A mother warned her two young boys before they went out to play to not go across the street and to stay on their own property. One of the boys went immediately to the back yard (full of play equipment) and happily spent the morning there. But the other boy stayed in the front yard looking across the street and at times getting very near to the curb. Both boys technically obeyed their mother. But the one boy went as far away from the temptation as possible but the other went as close as he could get without transgressing the command.

Our lives, like these boys, are full of choices. There are black areas (where it is very clear that it is wrong) and white areas (where it is very clear that it is right). Depending on our age, maturity and knowledge of the Word, there may be areas that seem to be gray. And so we make a choice. Will we get as close to the curb as possible and engage in what is seemingly allowable by God or will we go as far away from sin as possible even avoiding the appearance of evil so as to not mar our testimony and seek to obtain God's perfect will for our lives that we might fulfill our destinies?

Once we have accepted Jesus as our Savior and Lord by grace through faith, we are not to be the boss anymore. We have accepted the outward call. But the next call is the inward call of holiness. To follow him and take up our cross implies a death to our self and our desires and even our rights sometimes to follow his will and way. Loving Him and loving others demands that we think of how our lives affect others and not just ourselves.

*Matt.7:13 says, "Enter ye at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."*

I believe this narrow path is like a mountain path- difficult but oh, so worth it!

And so, **drinking or not drinking alcohol** is really part of a bigger issue. **It is, I believe, making a choice to take the high road (high standard) or the low road (low standard).** By God's grace may you choose the high road of total abstinence.

There are 627 scriptures in the Bible on wine or drinking. Two very important words to every Christian are faith and love. Faith has only about 300 and love 450 scripture references. And yet in 12 years of living in Arkansas and attending many wonderful churches, seminars, and meetings, I don't recall hearing one sermon on drinking alcohol. There are at least 12 good reasons for not drinking alcohol:

## 1. God's Highest Standard is Total Abstinence.

**Priests were not to drink during their time of ministry in the tabernacle. The penalty was death for the offending priest.**

*(Lev.10:8-11) "And the Lord spake unto Aaron, saying, 'Do not drink wine or strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statue forever throughout your generations: And that ye may put difference between the holy and the unholy, and between the unclean and the clean; and that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.'" It is clear from this passage that a priest was to be a holy and clean vessel. To drink alcohol was considered unholy and unclean.*

Yes, not all people were priests. But that was not God's original plan. He wanted Israel to be a kingdom of priests. But because of fear and unbelief, when they heard God's voice on Mt. Sinai, they chose to receive God's Word and presence secondhand from Moses instead of experiencing God's presence for themselves. And they continued to react in unbelief and rebellion. They chose the low road.

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

Under the New Covenant, however, those that have received Jesus as Savior and Lord are considered priests. Our “tabernacle” is our body for it houses the Holy Spirit.

*(Rev.1:6a) “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;...”*

*(1 Cor. 6:19-20) “What? know ye not that your **body is the temple** of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your **body** and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

*(Rom. 12:1) “I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (v.2- be not conformed to the world)*

*(2 Cor. 6:17) “ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the **unclean** thing, and I will receive you.”*

*(2 Cor.7:1) “Having therefore these promises dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the **flesh** and spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*

We function as priests when we praise and worship God and walk in holiness and righteousness.

**Kings and prophets were not to drink wine.** Drinking would affect their vision and judgment. **But the people refused God’s standard.**

*(Prov.31:4-5) “It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.” (Verses 6-7 allows wine drinking for medicine. According to ancient Greek writings on medicine this wine recommended for the stomach was not intoxicating. <sup>1</sup> (See also 1 Tim.5:23)*

*(Isaiah 28:7,8) “But they have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way, the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumbled in judgment, for all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.”*

We function as kings when we exercise authority over principalities and powers and through intercession proclaim God’s word over our families, churches, and country.

**Those taking the Nazarite vow were not permitted to drink wine.** They were not to take wine or strong drink or any product made from grapes, either in liquid or solid form. Probably God gave this command to safeguard the possibility of a Nazarite partaking of alcoholic wine by mistake. God didn’t want a totally devoted person to be exposed to the possibility of intoxication or addiction. The highest standard for God’s people is total abstinence.

*Num. 6:2,3,4 “Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the Lord: He shall separate*

---

<sup>1</sup> Hayford, Jack, Spirit Filled Bible: A Personal Study Bible Unveiling All God's Fullness in All God's Word (New King James Version), Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nov. 1991, p. 1912

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence

## (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

*himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.*" (also was not to cut his hair or come near a dead body).

These outward acts were to be a sign of their inward commitment to the Lord. They were to be holy before the Lord. God required Samson to be a Nazarite all his life but he broke his vow because of the influence of wine, fornication, and rebellion. (Judges 13:4) But Samson had sexual relations with Delilah (a harlot) and drank wine (Judges 14:10- the word feast -means act of drinking )

God's standard of total abstinence was ridiculed in Amos' day. They gave the Nazarites wine to drink, tempting them to commit sin.

*Amos 2:12* "But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink, and commanded the prophets saying, Prophecy not."

**The Rechabites, a Kenite tribe, were commanded of their father to drink no wine and were declared by God to be an example of obedience to covenant.** Jeremiah tests them years later and finds them faithful (Jeremiah 35:1-18)

**Bishops and deacons were cautioned about drinking.**

**1 Tim.3:2,3** "A bishop (overseer) then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach, not given to wine (not a tippler- one who habitually drinks), no striker, not given to filthy lucre, but patient, not a brawler, not covetous..."

**Titus 1:7,8** "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God, not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate..."

**1 Tim. 3:8,9,10,11** "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, (abstain from wine) faithful in all things.

**Titus 2:2,3** "That the aged men be sober, (voluntarily place limits on one's freedom, abstain from wine) grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things."

Why does God seemingly allow some wine drinking? Could it be that some allowance was made for medicinal purposes or was God in this area wanting to take the high road of total abstinence a voluntary choice?

**2. Drinking can lead to and is associated with sin and worldliness.**

**Proverbs 23:29-35** "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in his cup, when it moveth itself aright. (fermented) At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again. (Sorrow,

## Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence

### (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

grief, strife, fighting, lack of self control, adultery, cursing, impure thoughts, willfulness preventing reformation, insecurity, insensibility rendering him helpless are some of the sins listed here that go with drinking).

**Hosea 3:1** “ Then said the Lord unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the Lord toward the children of Israel **who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.**” (Idolatry is associated with drinking).

Noah's drinking caused his son Ham to commit a shameful act (probably homosexuality). Amnon's drinking caused him to commit fornication with Tamar. Lot's drinking gave opportunity for his daughters to engage in incest with him and Nabal's drinking may have contributed to his acting like a fool. The Nicolaitans' drinking was associated with idolatry and sensuality.

**Deut.21:20** “And they shall say unto the elders of the city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.” (Leads to stubbornness, rebelliousness, and gluttony, and disrespect for parents)

**Daniel 5:22-23** (Talking to Belshazzar) “But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is and whose are all thy ways, hast not glorified.” (Associated with idolatry)

**Hosea 4:11** “Whoredom, and wine and new wine take away the heart.”  
(The Hebrew meaning of the word zenuth - whoredoms- can mean infidelity, adultery, idolatry, apostasy, or unfaithfulness. These things with alcohol affect the purity of one's heart).

**Habakkuk 2:4,5** “Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith. Yea, also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a **proud man**, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people.” (Pride- the root cause of most drinking!)

David Wilkerson, evangelist and author of The Cross and the Switchblade also wrote a book entitled Sipping Saints.<sup>2</sup> He states that the greatest sin in moderate drinking more than the drinking is why saints drink and the thoughts preceding the drink. It is pride, that says the drinking won't addict me or overcome me. Pride that says I can do what I want regardless of how it influences young people. David Wilkerson deals with alcoholic teenagers most of whom had parents who were moderate drinkers.

My brother in law, a very upstanding Lutheran music teacher drank moderately. But as the stress of teaching increased, he began to lean on the relief from that tension that alcohol provided. He became an alcoholic and finally recognized it himself. He humbled himself and told his congregation and class and had himself committed so he could dry out. Today he is free and drinks no alcohol even though most in my family continue to drink moderately. He chose the high road of total abstinence.

### **3. It's evil , grieves God and can lead to the loss of being left behind in the rapture, or even heaven!**

**Isaiah 5:11-14** “Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto **them that are**

---

<sup>2</sup> Wilkerson, David, Sipping Saints, David Wilkerson, 1978.

## Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence

### (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

***mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:** which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the Lord of Hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.”*

In this scripture God is not only condemning drunkenness but those that drink wine period. And means in addition to. He is condemning both moderate and heavy drinkers.

***Isaiah 5: 11,12** “Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night till wine inflames them! And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands. Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have **no knowledge**: and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.”*

Here again, in the first sentence God is pronouncing a woe (that which causes God grief) to drunkenness but in the second sentence he also includes those that were at the feasts where drinking was going on.

***Luke 12:45,46** “But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat his menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink and to be drunken; the lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.”*

***1 Thessalonians 5:6,7,8** “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober (abstain from wine, watch). For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation.?”*

Which road will you choose?

#### **4. It’s a stumbling block to Christians and non-Christians!**

***Habakkuk 2:3** “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor a drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken **also**, that thou mayest look on their nakedness! Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the Lord’s right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing shall be on thy glory.”*

Again, God pronounces a woe to not only giving a neighbor a drink but also making him drunk. He is condemning moderate drinking and heavy drinking. Twice in this section, glory is mentioned because drinking is the opposite of moving in the glory. It is the devil’s counterfeit.

***Romans 14:21** “It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.”*

***1 Cor. 6:12** “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”*

For those that claim to be “free in Christ” and not “legalistic”, I say to you, Read the whole book! Romans

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

deals with our Christian liberty in chapters 1-8 but in conclusion in chapters 12-15, Paul exhorts the Gentile Christians to righteousness out of love. If one person becomes an alcoholic from your “moderate drinking” example, can you with clear conscience continue drinking????

One of my clients has two older sons that don't go to church and are either backslidden or unsaved. However, a couple came to one of the sons' homes and began to witness to them. He told his mother that he didn't regard their testimony because he knew that they both smoked and drank. Is there something non-Christians know that some Christians are not aware of? Non-Christians see that which is on the outside and associate smoking, drinking, cursing, loose living with worldliness.

One of the first things God told me after getting saved was to not drink at all. But my husband continued drinking beer. One day he told me to get beer with my groceries. I had just gotten home and two young men from our church drove up. One had just gotten saved. He had been involved with all kinds of wickedness. They asked to help me put away my groceries. I wanted to dig a hole in the floor. From then on, I told Wayne he would have to get his own beer. Some years later, because of an TV evangelist preaching against drinking, Wayne poured all his beer and wine down the drain. He did not want his kids to drink. He wanted to be a good example. He has never taken one drop since then.

*What about you? For the sake of others -for the sake of your children and the children of this land will you take the high road?*

## ***5. Nutritionally and physically, drinking defiles and harms the body.***

***Daniel 1:8*** “*But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*”

Most people recognize the physical dangers of drunken driving. But how much drinking adversely affects driving? According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism driving involves “multiple tasks, the demands of which can change continually. To drive safely, one must maintain alertness, make decisions based on ever-changing information present in the environment, and execute maneuvers based on these decisions” Drinking alcohol impairs driving tasks and increases the danger of crashing.<sup>3</sup>

Most state laws set the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limits at .10 percent. A 160 lb. man drinking two 12 oz. beers on an empty stomach would have a BAC of .04 percent. But a driver's ability to divide attention between two or more sources of visual information can be impaired by .02 percent (one beer). When the BAC reaches .05 percent or more, impairment occurs in eye movements, glare resistance, visual perception, reaction time, certain types of steering tasks, information processing, and other aspects of psychomotor performance. Compared with alcohol abstainers, the risk of a single vehicle fatal crash with a BAC from .02-.04 percent is 1.4 times higher, between .05-.09 percent-11.1 percent higher, .10-.14 percent- 48 times higher, for those above .15 percent- 380 times higher.” Add to those statistics the inexperience of young teenage drivers and the percents go shooting up.<sup>4</sup>

“Alcohol is known as teratogen which literally means ‘monster producing’. According to Sophie Pierog, Director of Pediatrics at the Jersey City Medical Center, ‘Alcohol has an early effect on the organization of brain cells. A smaller number of neuronal cells are formed, and there is a disorganization of these cells

---

<sup>3</sup> "National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism No.31 PH 362 January 1996, p.1  
<http://pubs.niaa.nih.gov/publications/aa31.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p.1

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

within the brain as the embryo develops under the influence of alcohol. Babies of drinking mothers suffer growth and developmental retardation, along with disfiguring abnormalities.” These babies, he says, are smaller in height and weight, have smaller hands, have many times a characteristic fish mouth, small eyes, low nasal bridge, hair on the forehead and face.<sup>5</sup>

When a person drinks an alcoholic beverage, it flows into his stomach, is absorbed through the walls of his stomach and into the bloodstream. That is when he feels its effects. The rest of the alcohol passes into the small intestine where it is absorbed and circulated throughout the body in the bloodstream. That’s how it reaches the brain and affects motor reflexes.

The body disposes of alcohol through elimination and oxidation. Only 10% of the alcohol passes out through the urine. As the alcohol in the bloodstream passes through the lungs, it evaporates in the air and the result is ‘alcohol breath’.

90% of the alcohol leaves by oxidation. “ Oxidation is the union with oxygen to produce energy and heat. When alcohol is oxidized by the body it produces carbon dioxide and water. The liver engages in this oxidation process by turning the alcohol into a chemical called acetaldehyde. Combined with oxygen it forms another chemical called acetic acid. The liver can only oxidize a certain amount each minute so even one glass of wine will remain in the body for hours. When the blood alcohol level reaches .50 percent the drinker is in a deep coma and in danger of dying. When it reaches 1% in the blood, the brain is paralyzed and certain death occurs.<sup>6</sup>

What is oxidation? When you cut an apple in half and it turns brown, that is oxidation. When meat rots, that is oxidation. Oxidation is actually caused from free radicals. The abundance of free radicals in our bodies can cause a chain reaction that leads to disease. ( Antioxidants such as those provided in fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and olive oil reverse this process. ) Alcohol creates free radicals.<sup>7</sup>\*(Walking in Divine Health, Dr. Colbert, M.D., p. 34-35)

The negative effects of alcohol abuse can be brain damage (it destroys brain cells), problems in the nervous system causing vision damage, cancer, headaches, insomnia, damage to the heart, bone marrow, destruction to the gastro-intestinal tract, and most notably to the liver.. And of course, pregnant women should not drink alcohol at all to avoid negative effects to the fetus.\*(What is Abusive Consumption of Alcohol?)

While positive effects of moderate wine drinking are reported by some such as the prevention of ulcers, having anti-bacterial and anti-virus effects, and the aiding of iron absorption, the same beneficial effects can be obtained through a healthy diet of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lean meats.

One beer every night will add 1,036 additional calories a week or 15 pounds a year. Three glasses of wine will cost 318 calories or an additional three miles on a treadmill just to walk off the extra calories.\*(Village, Alcohol:Beer, Wine, and Liquor in Your Diet, p.2) Calories from alcohol add up quickly and go straight to your abdomen. Dr. Colbert in his book, What You Don’t Know May Be Killing You!,said, “Avoid alcoholic beverages, not only because alcohol is toxic to our bodies, but also because it triggers a tremendous insulin release and promotes storage of fat.” (p.144)

Water with lemon, anyone?

---

<sup>5</sup> Wilkerson, David, Sipping Saints, David Wilkerson, 1978, p.10,11

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p.24-25

<sup>7</sup> Colbert, Don, M.D., Walking in Divine Health,

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

As defiling as alcohol is to the body physically and nutritionally, it is even more defiling spiritually for -

## **6. Drinking is walking in the lust of the flesh and can lead to a demonic stronghold.**

*Gal.5:19* “Now the works of the flesh are manifest which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, (meth- not necessarily excess but giving opportunity for excess such as a banquet or drinking bout) revellings and such like of the which I tell you before as I have told you in time past that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (How about a little moderate adultery, witchcraft, a moderate murder, moderate drinking?!)

*1 Cor. 5:11* “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner: with such a one no not to eat.”

*1 Cor. 6:9-10* “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

Alcohol has a mysterious supernatural power from hell. Men can't resist it when things in their life are going bad. Lifetime moderate drinkers fall into its claws when circumstances of life crash down on them. It offers a substitute peace- a temporary relief from pain- a healing from aches and sorrows. Instead of falling to their knees, they grab the bottle.

It has in its power the ability to put the soul to sleep. It sears the conscience until its pricks can no longer be felt. The deception it produces starts with the use of alcohol itself. Proponents of its use stubbornly acclaim it until the alcohol claims them. It produces a hunger that never is satisfied. It promises happiness and life but delivers despair, hopelessness and death. Surrounding each deceived victim are the very demons of hell. It promises heaven but delivers hell.

Alcohol drowns thought into a sea of forgetfulness. “It turns the spiritual mind into a sieve that cannot retain the promises of God. Truth is pickled and ejected out of ones mind.. Passion for God is replaced by a passion for poison.”\*([Sipping Saints](#), p.25-26)

Seeking to eliminate boredom, emptiness, and to live it up, alcohol seekers are enslaved, dangling in the unrelentless claws of the MONSTER ALCOHOL.

Alcohol is a substitute for salvation. It is a substitute for the true Comforter, the Holy Spirit. Its need originates from unfulfilled spiritual desires. It can be a crutch for weak Christians who haven't learned how to tap into the river of LIFE.\*([Sipping Saints](#), p.53)

*Ephesians 5:18* “And be not drunk with wine wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

Getting drunk is being contrasted with being filled with the spirit or drinking in the Spirit. Like wine drinking being filled with the Spirit possesses you. It intoxicates but has no headache or hangover. Instead, it leaves the afterglow of God's presence of love, joy, and peace. Drunkenness is darkness. The fullness of the Spirit is light. Moderate drinking is looking at the curb. Peace and joy can't be found in a bottle! Get off the curb and get drunk on the Wine of God's Spirit and know the joy unspeakable and full of glory!

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

## **7. Drinking is associated with foolishness- the opposite of wisdom.**

**Proverbs 20:1** “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whoever is deceived thereby is **not wise**.”  
Alcoholic beverages seduce and deceive users and can cause one to mock God’s standard of righteousness and lose self control with regard to sin and immorality.

**Proverbs 9:5,6** The foolish woman says “Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live: and go in the way of understanding.”

*Wisdom is calling- take the high road!*

## **8. Drinking can lead to economic hardship.**

**Proverbs 21:17** “He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth oil and wine shall not be rich.”

## **9. The word “wine” in the Bible does not always mean fermented wine.**

In the Old Testament, the word **yayin** can mean fermented or unfermented wine. The verses we have shared all mean fermented wine. Fresh wine before fermentation was called yayin-mi-gat ([Jewish Encyclopedia](#)). **Shekar** (translated strong drink) is undiluted, fermented, and made from palm juice, pomegranates, apples, or dates. However, sometimes the word **tirosh** is used and it rarely means fermented wine. It is the unfermented fruit of the vine, sweet juice, or grapes still in the cluster. It has a blessing to it.

**Isaiah 65:8** “Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine (tirosh) is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not, for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants’ sakes, that I may not destroy them all.”

Wine (yayin) and strong drink (shekar) was used in drink offerings. Drink offering comes from the Hebrew word (necek) and the root word (nasak) which means to **pour out**. There is no mention of a priest drinking the drink offering. The only mention of priests drinking the drink offering is in **Deut. 32:38** and God condemns them for it. Along with their idolatry, it would bring judgment (Deut.32:36). Priests were not to drink wine. It was poured out on the ground at the base of the altar or on the sacrifice itself. Even the pagans who offered drink offerings to their gods poured them on the earth.”Baal, the Canaanite god of fertility and nature commands, ‘Pour a peace offering in the heart of the earth, honey from a pot in the heart of the fields.’”. Jacob first offered a drink offering (Gen.35:14). A drink offering was offered with burnt offerings and meal offerings. The amount of wine was one-fourth hin for a lamb and one-third hin for a ram.

A drink offering was poured out daily at the morning and evening burnt offering, (Num.28:7,8), on the Sabbath (Num.28:9), New Moon (Num.28:14), Unleavened (Num.28:24), First Fruits (Lev.23:13), Trumpets (Num.29:6), Day of Atonement (Num.29:11), and Tabernacles (Num.29:12-39). The drink offering was also part of the ceremony that ended the vow of the Nazarite.

Most of the time wine was used to pour out a drink offering. But sometimes water was. The Feast of Tabernacles included a daily drink offering. The priest would fill a golden pitcher at the pool of Siloam, and pour out the water at the altar.

Undoubtedly, fermented wine was used because it symbolized Jesus death. He was our drink offering. He became sin for us. He became fermented WINE - a symbol of sin and wickedness. When his side was pierced blood and water flowed OUT on to the ground. He was poured out for us. But he refused to partake of the wine or vinegar mixed with myrrh to dull his pain. He was also a spotless priest.

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

*Isaiah 53:12* “Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death; and he was numbered with the transgressors: and he bare the sin of many; and made intercession for the transgressors.”

The word **oinos** in the New Testament means either fermented or unfermented wine dependent on the context. “Writers of the New Testament knew it could be either. Greek writers such as Aristotle, Nicander, Anacreon, and Athenaeus speak of sweet wine that does not make the head heavy.

Roman writers explain processes used in dealing with freshly squeezed grape juice to preserve it from fermenting. They knew that grape juice would not ferment if kept cool (under 50 degrees) and oxygen free. Columella writes, “That your grape juice may be always as sweet as when it is new, thus proceed. After you apply the press to the grapes, take the newest must (fresh grape juice), put it in a new container, bung it up, and cover it very carefully with pitch lest any water should enter, then sink it in a cistern or pond of cold water and allow no part of the amphora (container) to remain above the surface. After forty days, take it out. It will remain sweet for a year.” The Roman writer Pliny writes, “as soon as the must (grape juice) is taken from the vat and put into casks, they plunge the casks in water till midwinter passes and regular cold weather sets in.”

Another method to keep grapes from fermenting was to boil them into a thick syrup (grape honey). Ancient historians call this wine. (Grape juice boils at 212°F; alcohol evaporates at 170°F which is 42° below. The object of boiling is to preserve the sweetness of the juice.) This method also keeps the juice sweet because of the high concentration of sugar. This paste could be used for jam or dissolved in water to make grape juice once again. (References in the Bible to honey usually refer to grape honey not the honey of bees).

Another method was to dehydrate the grapes to a proper point, sprinkle them with olive oil to keep them moist, and store them in earthenware jars. A very sweet beverage could be made later from these stored grapes by adding water and steeping and boiling them. Roman women were allowed to drink this grape beverage but forbidden to drink fermented wine. The best wines were considered to be those wines that were sweet and unintoxicating.\*(Spirit Filled Bible p.1538-1539)

When water was added to the syrup or dehydrated grapes the ratios were 20 parts water and one part wine.”\* Other sources say eight parts water to one part wine. (Modern day wine has 7-22% alcohol - average 12%, beer 5%, stronger drinks 40%) If that Biblical wine had 10% alcohol with 20 parts water it would have 1/2% alcohol! If it had 5% with 20 parts water, it would have only 1/4% alcohol! However, the Biblical wine probably had much much less alcohol than that!

“Jewish social and religious customs mandated never serving unmixed wine especially if it was fermented. Some Jewish rabbis said that unless fermented wine was mixed with three parts water it would defile the drinker. Others demanded ten parts water.

In Revelation when speaking of the wine of God’s wrath being poured out “without mixture” implies the normal way was to mix water with grape beverage.

**Summary: Wine in Biblical days was 1) grape juice freshly squeezed 2) grape juice preserved 3) juice from dried grapes 4) grape wine made from grape syrup and water 5) unfermented or fermented stored wine diluted with water at a ration as high as 20 to 1. If the wine was fermented and served unmixed, it was considered barbaric, defiling, and incapable of being blessed by the rabbis. Christians in Biblical days were even more careful about wine than were the Jews. Therefore, it is impossible to defend the modern day practice of drinking alcoholic beverages on the**

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

**basis of the Jews and Christians use of “wine” in Biblical times.”\*(The Spirit Filled Bible, Wine in NT Times, no.2)**

## **10. Jesus did not drink fermented wine at the Lord’s Supper or create fermented wine during the first miracle!**

Neither Luke or any of the other writers use the word wine (oinos) in regard to the Lord’s Supper rather the fruit of the vine. Unfermented wine is the only true natural “fruit of the vine” containing 20% sugar and no alcohol. Fermentation destroys much of the sugar and alters what the vine produces.

The Lord’s Supper was instituted when Jesus and his disciples were eating the Passover. The Passover law (**Ex. 12:14-20**) prohibited during Passover week the presence and use of seor (Ex.12:15)- a word referring to leaven, yeast, or any agent of fermentation. Seor was obtained from the thick scum on top of fermenting wine. All hametz (anything containing any fermentation) was forbidden (Ex.12:19, 13:7). Fermentation symbolized corruption and sin (Matt.16:6,12, 1 Cor.5:7,8).

**1Cor.5:6-8** *“Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”*

**Jesus fulfilled the law in every requirement. He would have followed the law for the Passover and not used fermented wine. Also, Jesus was High Priest of the New covenant so he would not have drunk fermented wine.**

Jewish rabbis who hold a more stricter interpretation of the Hebrew scriptures insist that no fermented wine can be used at Passover. Some Jewish sources affirm that unfermented wine at Passover was used in NT times.

Symbol has to actually represent a spiritual reality accurately. The bread represented the body of Christ so it had to be unleavened bread (uncorrupted with fermentation) so the fruit of the vine representing the incorruptible blood of Christ is best represented by juice that is unfermented (1 Peter 1:18-19). Scripture states that the process of corruption was not allowed to work in either the body or blood of Christ (did not start to decay) (Ps. 16:10, Acts 2:27, 13:37). Both of these are properly symbolized by uncorrupted and unfermented bread and wine.

Paul instructs the Corinthians to put away spiritual yeast that is the fermenting agent of malice and wickedness because Christ is our Passover (1 Cor. 5:6-8). It would be inconsistent with the goal and spiritual requirement of the Lord’s Supper to use something that was a symbol of evil.

John 2:11 states that the primary object of the Wedding of Cana was to manifest forth his glory. To suggest that the righteous Son of God showed forth his deity as the only Son of the Father by miraculously creating gallons of intoxicating wine for a drunken party and this was important for his Messianic mission is just not true. Would Jesus Christ have supplied intoxicating wine so people could get drunk? NO!

Jesus was perfectly obedient. Could he have drunk intoxicating wine or encouraged others to do so when Prov.23:31 says “look not thou upon wine when it is red.. when it moveth itself aright”- when it is fermented?

Current medical experts have found unmistakable evidence that even moderate consumption of alcohol is damaging to babies of pregnant mothers. Surely there were pregnant mothers at the wedding. Would Jesus

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

have risked the life or health of the unborn? To suggest he didn't know is to question his deity, wisdom, and discernment of good and evil.\*([Spirit Filled Bible](#),p. 1538-1539)

**Summary: The wine at the wedding of Cana used to manifest his glory was pure, sweet, unfermented fruit of the vine.**

## **11. The “positive” scriptures on wine must be understood in context.**

*Psalm 104:15* “And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man’s heart.”

In this chapter the writer is extolling the Lord as creator who made the earth and the produce for mankind. Harvest time was a joyful time and as the workers would tread the grapes, they would sing and joke and have a joyful time. After all their hard labor, they were enjoying the fruits and the increase. The word for wine is yayin which may be unfermented grape juice, grapes, grape honey, or fermented wine. Even if it is fermented wine, remember they drank it highly diluted. They would have to drink 20 glasses of Biblical wine ( diluted 20 to 1) to equal one glass of modern wine having 10% alcohol. It cannot be equated with modern day drinking.

*Ecclesiastes 2:3* “I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom, and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men, which they would do under the heaven all the days of their life.”

*Ecclesiastes 9:7* “Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.”

These two verses from Ecclesiastes have to be understood in the light of what the whole book is about. Solomon, its writer, after a lifetime of seeking the things of the world, was brought to repentance by the rebuke of the Lord (1 Kings 11:9-13). More than likely it was at this time that he wrote about the vanity of his worldly pursuits and his attempts to find peace and joy in temporal things. His consideration of life without God led him to the conclusion that life is unjust so like pleasure seekers of today he concludes you might as well enjoy yourself because it will soon be over (Ecc.2:24, 3:12, 5:18, 8:15, 9:7-10). He concludes that everything is futile without God: wisdom, pleasure, alcohol, human achievement, great riches, sex. He ends the book by concluding that the only thing that matters is to fear God and keep his commandments.

Consequently, one cannot use these scriptures to justify wine drinking. Even in his pursuit of pleasure and alcohol, he equates it with folly (Ecc.2:3)

The other verses in scripture that view wine in a “positive” sense are those referring to offerings or the harvest produce. Sometimes the word for wine is tirosh which rarely means fermented wine. Sometimes the word for wine is yayin which may be fermented or unfermented wine and even the fermented wine was heavily diluted with water.

**Summary: To use scripture to justify moderate drinking would at best present a very weak case.**

**And what is moderation?** When you don't swagger down the street like a maniac? Is it halfway between lightheadedness and silliness? Is it okay to be talkative and loose but if it steps into violence and cursing is wrong? Is drinking all right if it causes a depressed person to relax but wrong if it causes him to gossip? Can two drink the same amount of alcohol and one be kind and the other mean and so one is moderate and

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

the other abusive? Is one a moderate drinker if he can hold down three or four cocktails but immoderate if he vomits? Where is the drawing line?????\*([Sipping Saints](#), p.51)

## 12. The word wine is used figuratively in both a positive and negative sense.

**Deut.32:14** “*Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the **pure blood of the grape.***” Before Israel sinned, God blessed her with many material blessings. She drank pure grape juice. This refers to physical drinking but also is symbolic in that her covenant relationship with God was pure too.

After she sins in idolatry and other abominations, God says of Israel:

**Deut. 32:32-33** “*For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter: their **wine** is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps. Is this not laid up in store for me, and sealed up among my treasures? To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense, their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste. For the Lord shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left. And he shall say, Where are their gods; their rock in whom they trusted? Which did eat the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offerings? let them rise up and help you, and be your protection.*”

**They were not to drink of the drink offerings or eat of the fat of the sacrifices. This in combination with their idolatry brought the condemnation and judgment of God. Notice that wine (fermented) is symbolic of DRAGONS and the venom of asps.**

**Proverb 4:17** “*For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.*” (symbolic of the violence of wicked men)

**Jeremiah 51:7** “*Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord’s hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.*”

**Rev.14:8, 10** “*And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication....The same (that worship the beast and receive his mark) shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out **without mixture** into the cup of his indignation, and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.*”

(Wine in these verses are symbolic of the wrath of God. Babylon or a symbol of the wicked world system is equated with “wine”.) See also Jer.25:15, Rev.16:19, 17:2, 18:3).

**Isaiah 55:1,2,3** “*Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money: come ye, buy, and eat: yea, come, buy **wine** and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an **everlasting covenant** with you, even the sure mercies of David.*” (Sweet, unfermented wine here is symbolic of the blood covenant)

**Song of Solomon 1:2** *Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.*” (Our bridegroom’s love is better than the wine of the world but his love is intoxicating like wine) (See also 1:4, 4:10)

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

*S of S.*

*5:1* "I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my **wine** with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved." (The Lord is telling us to drink abundantly of the sweet wine of his love)

*S of S. 7:9* "And the roof of thy mouth **like the best wine** for my beloved, that goeth down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak." (The lips and speech of the bride is compared to wine causing her and others to speak because she is full of the Spirit and full of love for Jesus)

*S of S. 8:2* "I would lead thee, and bring thee into my mother's house, who would instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of **spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate.**" (Pomegranate is symbolic of righteousness. Priests wore pomegranates on their robes.)

*Ps.104:15, Esther 1:10* - Wine is symbolic of joy. There is a temporal "joy" from fermented wine but the wine of the Holy Spirit brings joy and no hangover)

*Acts 2:13* "Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine." (symbolic of being filled with the Holy Spirit)

*Matt.9:17* "Neither do men put new (neos-new in relation to time, recently come into existence) wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish but they put new wine into new (kainos-qualitatively new, freshness, renewed) bottles, and both are preserved."

*Luke 5:37-39* "And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better (chrestos-useful, better, easy, good, gracious, kind from 5539 chresimos-serviceable, profit).

The Lord wants us to have fresh unfermented spiritual wine in new hearts (wineskins). Fresh bread (fresh revelation of the Word) and fresh wine (pure, fresh, free flowing Holy Spirit operating in our hearts and lives!

We are in a beautiful restaurant with a wonderful smorgasboard of every food imaginable- fresh bread, lean meats, crispy salads. But you look around and walk right out through the back door. Outside is a huge garbage can of spoiled meats, moldy bread, wilted vegetables, and spoiled food. This is what I want, you proclaim!

There is the Lord's Table and He says, Come and dine. There is the world's table prepared by the devil and his demons. There is a wine of the world and a wine of the spirit . What are you drinking????????

## "Drinking New Wine" A Personal Testimony of Charlene Gates

As I look back over my life, there's no doubt that God has had His hand upon me all these years. Through pain, hardship, and subsequent joy unspeakable and full of glory, He has been at my side. My earliest remembrance of speaking to God was sitting in the window seal gazing up at the stars. I would cry for my mother- oh, how I wanted a mother to love me. She was abruptly taken away one day following a nervous breakdown that terrified all of us. After that, all I remember is our weekly Sunday visits to the Jackson State Mental Hospital. My grandparents raised me the best they knew how. But unknown to them, a cousin was molesting me right under their noses each time he visited us. Because of this sinful violation of

## Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

my young innocence, I grew up very shy and insecure, not trusting anyone. When I met my daddy at the age of 13, he tried to make up for all the years he missed by showering me with money, clothes, and attention. He was not saved so he didn't think anything about taking me to restaurants and allowing me to drink alcohol. Many times I would come home so drunk that I would vomit all over my room. At this point, I was living with my aunt and had a beautiful room of my own. My aunt was single and very jealous of my relationship with my dad and continuously criticized me. One day, a girlfriend and I stole her dad's car and drove to San Antonio, Texas where we avoided the police for three weeks. When finally brought home, my dad enrolled me in St. Scholastic Boarding School in Covington, Louisiana. It was a Catholic school. I had one nun as a teacher, who I admired and wanted to be like. She was beautiful and sang and played the guitar. We went to mass every morning but never heard the gospel. During my summer vacation, I met my first husband, who I loved dearly but living on the LSU campus, I was constantly with students who drank and partied all the time. I was 18 years old when my first son was born. My doctor prescribed diet pills so I would not gain too much weight. Four years later, my second son was born. By this time, I was really hooked on these diet pills and only the alcohol would bring me down so I could sleep. This addiction led me into a vicious reoccurring cycle of panic attacks, nerve pills, and alcohol until my husband could take it no longer and asked for a divorce. In the meantime, the devil was saying to me, you will always be a drunk so you may as well give up. I listened to him and tried to commit suicide several times. That's when I was put into a mental hospital to dry out. Even in the hospital I had an affair with another patient. The doctor forced me to tell my husband who took it as the last straw. He left me and took my two boys. Although it was very devastating to me, at the same time, I felt I was a bad mother and it was the best thing for them. Alone with no skills, I got a job at a bar and then at a convenience store. I worked my way through business college, still drinking and getting drunk on the weekends and after work to numb the pain, but somehow managing to stay sober in the daytime.

I was hired as a typist clerk by the civil service department and subsequently worked for the state in various departments for 15 years. I met my second husband in a bar. After living together for a few months we married. He was way older than I and had seven children. I became the step mother who stood in the way of their mother and dad getting back together and I paid a horrible price. I was drinking about three and a half gallons of wine a week, sometimes with vodka chasers, however; I had worked my way up through the ranks to become a legal administrative assistant for a general council but I was still bound by alcohol. One day, the lady across the street from me who I considered to be a hypocrite, gave me a bible for Christmas. I was not pleased to say the least although prior to this incident, I had several times cried out to God while drunk and reading the Psalms out of my grandmother's bible.

I still had panic attacks and always managed to get out of doing any kind of public speaking that would bring attention to myself. Fear has torment. I remember one day I was at a meeting and we were all sitting around this huge conference table when suddenly my boss instructed each one of us to give a brief description of our job duties. I was so gripped with fear that by the time it was my turn, I excused myself and ran out of the building and went home to my crutch- a bottle of wine. Would I ever be free, I thought? But God was working behind the scenes, getting people in place to reach me with the gospel.

God gave me a promotion that placed me on the thirteenth floor of the Department of Natural Resources where a quiet little lady, holding a bible introduced herself and invited me to their bible study during lunch. I rudely turned her down and then went into another office mocking her to my co-worker. This didn't detour her at all, for a few days later there she was again with the same invitation. The Holy Spirit was working on me and the devil too because I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. The alcohol was taking its toll on my nervous system and the nerve pills I was taking during the day didn't seem to be working anymore. So, the next time she came into my office, I accepted her invitation on the condition that I would not have to read out loud. I'll never forget the day I walked into the conference room filled with Christians. There were sweet smiles on each face but they were careful not to give me too much attention. God knew just what I needed. I could actually feel love and acceptance in that room. I went back again

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

and again until one day we were reading in the book of John where it says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God, " when unexpectedly, with a loud voice I remarked, " This is Jesus!" Surprised, everyone replied, "Yes, that is Jesus!" My first revelation was revealed in this scripture that I had memorized when I was a little girl going to vacation Bible school. God used it years later in my life to reveal Himself to me. What a God!

As time went on, I was convicted to go to church so that first Sunday morning, I brought my mother with me. Yes, God had answered my prayer and my mother was living with me. I ended up taking care of her for 15 years until I had to put her into a nursing home because she kept wandering off and getting lost. We decided to attend a church called Family Worship Center . I hadn't been to church in years and it was very hard for me to muster up enough courage to go. When we finally reached the door of the church, there walked out several people hugging us and shaking our hands. To this day, I preach the importance of extending love and acceptance towards people, especially , new people who come to your church. I remember hearing someone speak out in an unknown tongue that day and I had God bumps all over my arms. I knew God was in that place. When the pastor gave the altar call, I ran to the front of the church, regardless of the eyes that I thought were on me. I had to get to that altar. After repeating the sinner's prayer, I felt a burden being released from my spirit- I immediately felt an overwhelming peace in my soul. I was saved!!!

When I got home that day, my same hypocrite neighbor who gave the bible I took with me to church came over to invite me to their barbeque. So spontaneously, I reached under the sink to pour me a glass a wine, when I heard a voice say to me, "You don't need that anymore!" Instead of taking a drink, I poured it all out in the sink-- such peace came over me again. I was delivered!! You see, the devil had told me there was no hope and that I would always be an alcoholic--- it was a disease! Not!!!! The moment I said the sinner's prayer and gave my life to Jesus I became a new creation--- old things had passed away and all things became new! The scales came off my eyes and I could see the truth! The scripture "Whom the Son sets free, is free indeed!" became my personal scripture that had manifest itself to me! I began sharing my testimony with everyone. I even made a trip to the liquor store where I helped build a wing onto with the money I spent there. I told them all that Jesus had set me free! Did you know that a year later that same liquor store closed down!?? Just think what would happen if we had a revival! All the gay bars would close down, all the adult porno shops would close down-- oh, God bring us revival!! A few weeks later while watching an evangelist on TV, I was baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. This gave me the power to stand in my deliverance. To this day, I have never desired a drink of any kind of alcoholic beverage.

Years passed since that wonderful day that I found the Lord. My second husband, who didn't want anything to do with me or God, left for another woman. But God didn't leave me there alone. He brought me a Christian man who went to the same church and who loved the Lord and me dearly. We have now been married for 16 years. We met at church where I was in choir and ushering in the single's ministry. God brought a frightened, insecure person full of fear, to a faith filled woman of God who has been preaching the gospel and ministering in son before huge crowds of people. Only Jesus could make such a change in my life. I love him so much!! God has had His hand on me since I was a youth. He has restored all the devil stole from me and given me a life unspeakable and full of glory. Whoever would believe that God would use my husband and I in so many endeavors- from running a Christian bookstore, pastoring a church, holding revivals, and awakening the church to the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. We've met so many ministry leaders and pastors. I even went to Israel in 1999.

In 2003 I graduated from Shalom Bible College and Seminary and am studying for a Masters from Messianic Bible Institute. When my son Chad was 29 years old, he went to be with the Lord. This was a horrible time of testing for me and I questioned God for a while. Fortunately, my other son, Charles, who is 38, calls me mom. God has restored our relationship as mother and son and he is so very proud of me.

# Taking the High Road of Total Abstinence (Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

Once I was singing before a crowd of people and afterwards he came to me and said, "I could hardly believe that was my mother." It brought tears to my eyes. Now I am 60 years old and my husband is 72. We both feel an urgency to work while it is still day, for there is coming a time when we cannot work. We must redeem the time for the days are truly evil. Soon, we will meet Him in the air to forever be with the Lord. We must do all we can to fulfill our destiny and purpose on this earth to bring in the end time harvest of souls before Jesus returns. Looking back on my life, I can truly proclaim as the song goes, "Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father!"

Note: Charlene is now drinking the "new wine of the Spirit" where there is no hangover, no fear and condemnation only love, joy, and peace. She and her husband direct Messianic Encounter Ministries and both flow in so much love for people! How about you? Do you claim to be a Christian and are still drinking the wine of the world (literally and figuratively)? Are you a sipping saint who desires to have one foot in the world and another foot in the kingdom? Alcoholics know who is a real sold out Christian and who is not. You are not going to win an alcoholic to the Lord and drink yourself. It's time to get sold out to the Lord and drink the pure river of life and the intoxicating presence of the Lord!

## Summary

1. God's highest standard is total abstinence. Priests, kings, prophets, Nazarites, Recabites were not to drink. Bishops and deacons were to abstain from drinking.
2. Drinking is associated with sin and worldliness such as fighting, strife, adultery, cursing, idolatry, whoredom, pride, and impurity.
3. God calls it evil.
4. Drinking even moderately can cause a brother to stumble and mar your testimony.
5. Drinking can harm you nutritionally and physically.
6. Drinking is a lust of the flesh and can lead to a demonic stronghold.
7. Drinking is associated with foolishness- the opposite of wisdom.
8. Drinking can lead to economic hardship.
9. The word "wine" in the Bible is not always fermented wine and even the fermented wine was diluted as much as 20 to 1.
10. Jesus did not drink fermented wine, use fermented wine at the Lord's Supper or Passover, or create fermented wine at the Wedding of Cana,<sup>11</sup>. There is wine of the world and wine of the Spirit. What are you drinking?

## Footnotes

1. Hayford, Jack, Spirit Filled Bible: A Personal Study Bible Unveiling All God's Fullness in All God's Word (New King James Version), Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nov. 1991, p. 1912.
2. Wilkerson, David, Sipping Saints, David Wilkerson, p. 1978.
3. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, No.31PH 362, Jan.1996, p.1, <http://pubs.niaa.nih.gov/publications/aa31.htm>
4. Ibid., p.1
5. Wilkerson, p.10,11
6. Ibid., p.24-25.
7. Colbert, Don, M.D., Walking in Divine Health, Siloam Press, April 1999, p. 34-35.
8. "What is Abusive Consumption of Alcohol?"
9. "Village, Alcohol, Beer, Wine, and Liquor in the Diet"

Taking the High Road  
of Total Abstinence  
(Reasons Why Christians Should Not Drink Alcohol)

©Dr. Edith Saller, Nov. 2003, No printing without permission. 3098 CR 425, Berryville, AR 72616. Ph: 870-749-2386. email: [edith812@yahoo.com](mailto:edith812@yahoo.com).

10. Colbert, Don, M.D., What You Don't Know May be Killing You!, Siloam Press, p.144.
11. Wilkerson, p. 25-26.
12. Ibid., p.53.
13. Jewish Encyclopedia
14. Hayford, "Wine in NT Times, (1), p. 1538.
15. Ibid.
16. Wilkerson, p.18.
17. Hayford, "Wine in NT Times" (1) p.1538.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid., p. 1539
23. Ibid., p.1538-39.
24. Wilkerson, p. 51.

Bibliography

1. <http://pubsniiaaa.nih.gov/publications/aa31.htm>
2. <http://www.ncadd.org/facts/fyidvi.html>
3. <http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/AWARE/qai3.htm>
4. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcoholic-beverage>
5. <http://www.browardhealth.org/15583.cfm>
6. <http://www.medpagetoday.com/PrimaryCare/DietNutrition/th/2959>
7. Colbert, Don, M.D., Walking in Divine Health, Siloam Press, April 1999.
7. Colbert, Don, M.D., What You Don't Know May Be Killing You, Siloam Press, Strang Communication Company, 600 Rinehart Rd., Lake Mary, Florida 32746, 2000
8. Wilkerson, David, Sipping Saints, David Wilkerson, p.1978.
9. Hayford, Jack, Spirit Filled Bible: A Personal Study Bible Unveiling All God's Fullness in All God's Word (New King James Version), Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nov. 1991 (See sections on wine)