

Can I Take A Little Wine?

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Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from King James, New King James, Amplified & New International versions of the bible.

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DEDICATION

To the two precious gifts to me from God : my wife Ijeoma Nnennaya Ezeji-Okoye and my son Chisom Emmanuel Ezeji-Okoye .

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CHAPTER 1

GENESIS

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass and herb yielding seed after his kind; and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was itself, after his kind; and God saw that it was good. – Gen. 1:11,12

Beginning with Genesis seems appropriate because we will be looking into the beginning of wine. The scripture quoted above recorded the beginning of the creation of wine.

One thing you will have in mind as you read on is that the earth and its fullness belong to God. God created everything on earth. I can also, say at this juncture that God created the fruit tree that yielded fruit extracted for wine making. The scripture in Gen. 2:5 -8 reads “And every plant of the field before it was in the earth and every herb of the field before it grew; for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul, and the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there he put the man whom he had formed”. This passage shows that the first man, Adam, became a living being who had to till the ground. That led to the preparation, planting and cultivation of a vineyard. The vine was among the first plants cultivated. The literal meaning of vineyard is simply a plot of land where grape vines grow. The first man that scripture recorded as owning a vineyard was Noah as written in Gen. 9:20 And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard. So the vineyard was part of the blessings God promised His people. The fruit, especially the grapes, were extracted for wine making.

The literal meaning of wine from the New Webster’s Dictionary is a drink made from the fermented juice of grapes, a beverage prepared from a fermented plant or fruit juice. Passage such as Ezek. 27:18:- Damascus was thy merchant in the multitude of the wares of thy making, for the multitude of all riches; in the wine of Hel’-bon, and white wool. This informs us that ‘wine’ was an article used as commerce. When Solomon determined to build the temple, as he needed to buy timber, wine was used as a means of payment as recorded in 2 Chron. 2:10: -And behold I will give to thy servants the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand measures of beaten wheat and twenty thousand measures of barley and twenty thousand baths of wine and twenty thousand baths of oil. Fines were sometimes paid with wine. Amos 2:8 reads - They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge, in the house of their god; they drink wine taken as fine. Apart from the daily use of wine by the Hebrew people, wine was also, given as a gift. Melchizedek brought wine and bread to Abraham when Abraham returned from battle as recorded in Gen. 14:18: - And Melchizedek, King of Salem, brought forth bread and wine; and he was the priest of the

Most High God. Wine was said to revive the faint, which meant that wine was also used as a medicine as recorded in 2 Samuel 16:2 reads - And the king said unto Ziba, what meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, the asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink.

The Greek word for wine is Oinos. Oinos is a primary word for wine, while the Hebrew words for wine are Yayin and Tiyrosh or (Aciye)

1. Yayin: - This is the usual Hebrew word for naturally fermented grape, capable of intoxicating, if overused. It is usually rendered 'wine' and because of the fermentation, it becomes alcoholic.
2. Tiyrosh or Aciye: - This is the usual Hebrew word for fresh grape juice (as just squeezed out) Tiyrosh is distinguished from Yayin. While Yayin is fermented, and capable of intoxicating if overused, Tiyrosh is not.

In our present day, we still have Yayin (Wine) and Tiyrosh (non- alcoholic /juice)

YAYIN (WINE)

Wine in today's generation is Yayin , because of its fermentation which makes it alcoholic. We have two kinds of wine namely, Red wine and White wine.

Red wine derives its color from the skins of dark-skinned grapes, which are left in the juice for some days while it ferments before the fruit is put through the press.

White wine (often pale yellow) is made from the juice of light-skinned grapes. The fruits are put through the press as soon as they are picked. The alcoholic content of Yayin (wine) whether Red or White varies according to the kind of grape or the conditions of ripening and the duration of fermentation. The longer it is left to ferment, the stronger the alcoholic content. Fermentation is largely completed in vats or casks, though for some White wines it may continue after bottling, giving it a sparkling wine. The expiration dates of Yayin (wine) are longer because of the alcoholic content. Alcohol is a good method of preservation.

TIYROSH (NON-ALCOHOLIC WINE/JUICE)

These are the classifications of non-alcoholic content. This wine did not pass through the process of fermentation. Juices are extracted from fruit such as grapes, oranges, mangoes, e.t.c. and are packaged fresh without fermentation. Its durability is always short because it has no alcoholic content.

Wine was made to cheer the heart as recorded in Ps. 104:15: - And wine that maketh glad the heart of man. Wine is actually a gift from God for useful purposes as we have discussed such as commerce, a gift to cheer the heart, and for medicinal purposes. However, the devil came and deceived the people to start misusing wine, to the extent that the people later

thought wine was a gift given by Baal. Hos 2:8 reads - She has not acknowledged that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil, who lavished on her the silver and gold which they used for Baal. God spoke of such atrocities, as the people were wasting their God-given inheritance of grain, wine and oil, including silver and gold for the Baal goddess. This point will narrow us down to the misuses of wine. It started from the dangers of drunkenness, which began with Noah Gen. 9:21 reads - And he drank of the wine and was drunken and he was uncovered within his tent. This singular act became another recorded downfall of a just man after Adam. Noah was an upright man that survived the destruction of the earth by flood. Noah succumbed to the temptation of over use of wine which was the aim of the devil. This led to serious abuses of wine. As we read earlier, Yayin is normally fermented for preservation, and is capable of intoxicating if over used because of its alcoholic content. After the downfall of Noah, the Israelites began to drink Yayin by bowlfuls thereby abusing wine. Amos 6:6 reads - Who drink wine in bowl and anoint themselves with the finest oil. The kings of that time became interested in drinking and were not concerned about the ruin of the country. Also Isaiah 22: 12-14 reads - And in that day the Lord God of hosts called you to weeping and mourning, to the shaving off of all your hair in humiliation and to the girding with sack cloth. But instead, see the pleasure and mirth. Slaying oxen and killing sheep, eating flesh and drinking wine (with the idea) Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die! And the Lord of Hosts revealed Himself in my ears (as He said) surely this unatoned sin shall not be purged from you until you are punished and the punishment will be death, says the Lord God of Hosts. Imagine the abuse of wine ministered by the devil? The Kings were no longer interested in what was best for their country. As if overindulgence in wine and negligence towards their duties for the sake of wine was not enough, they began to drink 'OXOS' and SHEKAR as well

OXOS: - This is a Greek word for vinegar. Vinegar denotes 'Sour wine' a drink made from wine that had been soured or over fermented. It is used as a preservative in pickling and as a condiment. The New Webster's dictionary defined vinegar as a liquid containing up to 6% acetic acid, obtained by the oxidation of the ethyl alcohol in wine... by bacteria.

Farm families use vinegar to preserve their food or crop. For example, the preserve cucumbers as pickles and they also preserve pepper used to flavor food. Because of its acetic acid content derived from over fermentation, the farm families enjoy using it to toast bread as well as for preservation Ruth 2:14 reads - And Boaz said unto her, at mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread and dip thy morsel in the vinegar..... It was never meant to be taken as a drink. The devil deceived many laborers and common soldiers so that they drank the vinegar. They drank it because it was common and more affordable for them than wine.

SHEKAR: - This is a Hebrew word for strong drink. The English translation calls it strongdrink, though New International Version (N.I.V) calls it beer. Strongdrink was actually differentiated from wine because it was purely an intoxicant, i.e. intensely alcoholic liquor. Shekar in early times included wine, but meant strongdrink made from any fruit or

grain. The English translated Bible, singled out Shekar as strongdrink. Strongdrink is highly intoxicating. The level of intoxication of Shekar is very strong. Shekar is regarded to as our present day alcoholic drink. Strong drink was used as a drink offering. Num. 28:7 reads - And the drink offering thereof, shall be the fourth part of a hin for the one lamb in the holy place shalt thou cause the strong wine to be poured unto the lord for a drinking offering. Please note that a drink offering is to be poured out not taken in. The spiritual understanding shows that during the burnt offering, any sacrifice made by fire needed a strong drink to be poured out for the fire to catch easily. Num. 28:6 reads - It is a continual burnt offering, which was ordained in Mount Sinai for a sweet savor, a sacrifice made by fire unto the lord; any burnt offering needs strongdrink. Strongdrink is similar to kerosene today. Strongdrink are actually meant to serve as kerosine. It is called a drink offering because the Israelites are to offer the fruit of their land to God. The lamp sacrifice cannot burn well without pouring on the strongdrink. For every burnt offering a drink offering is required. Levites were always appointed to supervise the offering.

In our day, we still have Shekar (strongdrink). From the bible references, we see that strongdrink are meant for pouring out on the altar during burnt offerings. The strong drink that people drink today includes spirit and beer, spirit are today's brandies. Brandy is defined as a spirit distilled from wine, while beer is defined as an alcoholic drink brewed from fermented malt, flavored with hops. This group, spirit and beer, are out rightly intoxicating. The New Webster's dictionary defines malt as a grain used in brewing and distilling. This grain is allowed to germinate in water and then it is heated and dried. If this malt is not fermented, it remains non-alcoholic and is simply the malt we drink today. But the Devil's wisdom is to intoxicate.

CHAPTER 2

ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

And the Lord spake unto Aaron saying, do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation lest ye die; it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generation. Lev.10: 8- 9.

Priests are officially ministers or worship leaders in the nation of Israel who represent the people before God and conduct various rituals to atone for the sins of the people and their own sins. With the appointment of Aaron, by God, as the first high priest, the priesthood was formally established. Aaron's descendants were established as the priestly line in Israel. They carried out their important duties from generation to generation as a special class devoted to God's service.

The office of priest was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The son of God became a man so that He might offer Himself as a sacrifice once to bear the sins of many as written in Heb. 9:28: - So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. Hence, there is no longer a need for the priest to offer a sacrifice to atone for man's sin. Jesus Christ has made a permanent sacrifice through His death on the cross. Priesthood and holiness were meant to be inseparable. But the sinful nature of the priest allowed corruption to enter the God - ordained office. However, the priesthood to which the nation of Israel was called to at Mount Sinai continues today in the church. This is expressed in 1 Peter 2:9- You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praise of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. This permanent sacrifice of the death of Jesus Christ had actually made as many as believed and received Jesus Christ to be priests and kings. So Christians are made kings and priests unto God as read in Rev. 1:6: - And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever Amen. And not only that, we shall also reign on the earth. Rev. 5:10 reads - And hast made us unto our God kings and priests. And we shall reign on the earth. Christians are not just priests but kings that will reign. Many have argued and contested that it is quite wrong to say that believers are priests. They argue and made their facts to be based only on ordained men. But God, Himself, made this promise for believers: This is expressed in Exodus 19:5-6: - Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine, and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and an holy nation. These are the words, which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. Another promise was made by God, the prophet Joel predicted the future outpouring of the Holy Ghost: Joel 2: 28-29 reads - And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And this event that took place after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. John 20: 22

reads - And when he had said this, he breathed on them and saith unto them receive ye the Holy Ghost. Also Acts 2:4 reads - And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with others tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance. These are all facts of the truth that Christians are qualified as priests and kings, so every believer is a priest. It is possible to be called a Christian and not be qualified as a priest, simply because you have not given your life to Jesus Christ. Before I knew the truth of Jesus, I didn't like it when Christians quoted this verse to me: John 3:3: - Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee 'Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'. A churchgoer or a church worker is called a Christian. There is no doubt, but it is very possible that he/she is not a priest or king that will reign on earth. Paul wrote in Roman 10:1-4: - Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved, for I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge, for they, being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Paul prayed this prayer for the Israelites, and by His Grace, I pray the exact prayer for as many called Christians today who have the zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. As many as have the zeal of God, according to His knowledge, are priests and kings that reign on earth. Signs and wonders follow them. They are not just priests because they know God. They renew their strengths daily and do great exploits.

After reading the facts on this chapter, is there any question that believers are priests? Believers (Born –Again Christians) today are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation a peculiar people, that they should show forth praises of him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. That means the commandment of God to Aaron saying, do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation lest ye die; it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generation. Lev. 10: 8- 9 is also applicable to all believers without option or compromise. There is a great difference between nominal Christian and Born – Again Christian. A nominal Christian has a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge for they are ignorant of God's righteousness, while A Born – Again Christian has zeal for God according to His knowledge, for he gave his life to Jesus Christ who is the end of the law for righteousness. So it is possible to be called a Christian and God's commandment to priest will not interest you because you are not a priest. But to a believer, God's commandment to the priest should interest you because you are a priest. I write this book of 'abstinence to wine' to believing Christians so that God will open their spiritual eyes in order to understand the truth that will set them free. When I was an unbeliever, I did not know the truth. I attended church every Sunday, yet I saw nothing wrong with drinking alcohol. I had the zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. During that time, I did not have the privilege of reading the bible. I would have been making the same blind arguments many make today even after seeing God's commandment to the priest. I would have said "it was meant for the priest alone". Many deny that believers are priests simply to compromise on drinking alcohol. One thing is very clear from the scripture, all the anointed ones are to separate themselves from

fermented wine as written in Ezekiel 44: 21: - Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court. I ask of you to become a Christian- priest. You have to decide if you are to be either a believer or an unbeliever. Every Christian should be a priest. A Christian is to be either hot or cold. God forbid that we'll be cast out from the heavenly race because of being lukewarm. Jesus hates us to be in-between. He says we cannot serve two masters at the same time. Ye cannot serve God and be drinking alcohol. It is not possible. If we are Christians let's all be believers. Jesus says, "If you love me, obey my commandments". God says that we should not drink alcohol, so why do we keep on drinking and continue to justify our sins? We should not misunderstand what Jesus is saying. If we persist in drinking alcohol, we are serving the devil. The Bible says in John 8:44-47: - Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do; He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own. For he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God). Very clearly, as an unbeliever you confess your father's deed, the devil.

At this point many that are reading this book are no longer comfortable with me. Temper justice with mercy, if I have offended you. Truth in the word of God is like a fire and a hammer. Feel the pain and allow the fire to consume the ignorance that you may be free. The devil has come to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus came to give eternal life. Remember, the Bible says that we are not just a priest, but also kings that will reign on earth. As there is a commandment to the priests not to drink wine and strong drink, kings received their own command. Prov. 31:4-5 reads - It is not for kings, o Lemuel; it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for prince's strong drink. Lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. I am always excited to discover the truth in the Bible. The word of God said we are made kings Rev. 5:10: - And hast made us unto our God kings and priest; and we shall reign on the earth, kings are meant to be wise and are not supposed to be deceived by wine. To avoid repetition, we will discuss it in detail in the chapter, Who is Wise, Who is Foolish?

The Bible also mentioned that the Nazarites should abstain from alcohol. A Nazarite is a person who took a vow to separate himself from certain worldly things and to consecrate himself to God. Num. 6:1-3 reads - And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying 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 himself from wine and strong drink, and drink no vinegar of wine or vinegar of strong drink neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes... Among the Hebrew people, anyone could take this vow; there were no tribal restrictions as in the case of the priest. Rich or Poor, Man or Woman, Master or Slave, all were free to become Nazarites. The Nazarite vow was part of the old law and is not imposed on modern Christians. But because it was personal and voluntary, just as salvation remains personal, we do have much to learn from this Old Testament practice. God wants us to live a separated, holy life and to abstain

from things of the world. Christians must be dedicated to God's service not just for 30 days or one year as in the days of the prophet Amos that recorded many Nazarites. Amos strongly condemned the people for tempting the Nazarites to break their vows by offering them alcohol to drink. Amos 2: 11-12 reads – And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? Saith the Lord. But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets saying prophesy not. Modern Christians live a separated, holy life and are to abstain from things of the world as if they had taken a Nazarite vow for life. Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist were the only people that were Nazarites for life. Among the three, only Samson was called by the name a Nazarite. His parents were told by an angel before his birth that he would be a Nazarite to God from the womb until the day of his death. Judges 13:7 reads– But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive and bear a son: and now drink no wine, nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death. While Samuel is not specifically called a Nazarite, hints from the Bible suggest that he was. His mother, Hannah, made a vow before his birth 'no razor shall come upon his head'. 1Sam1:11 reads– And she vowed a vow, and said, o lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. Samuel was probably a Nazarite for life. John the Baptist's refusal to drink wine is an indication that he was a Nazarite. Matt. 11:18 reads– For John came eating nor drinking, and they say he hath a devil. His manner of living also indicates this probability as recorded in Lk. 1; 15 – For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink and he shall be filled with the Holy ghost, even from his mother's womb. Let as many as have believed in our modern day Christianity, live a separated, holy life, and to abstain from drinking alcohol for God does not want us to drink alcohol.

We are so precious to our lord Jesus Christ. Please have it in mind that we are today's Nazarites. Glory Be To Jesus. But the hour cometh, and now is, when true worshippers shall worship the father in spirit and in truth, for the father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. No pretense, no contention, no more debates, every believing Christian is a priest, king and today's Nazarite. Let's all abstain from alcoholic drink. When I see Christians drinking alcohol claiming all sorts of references in the scripture to justify their ignorance, I always remind them that the letter killeth but the spirit in the Word gives life. If God is a spirit, we are advised to worship him in spirit and in truth. Jesus won the battle over satan. Psalm 91:11 reads– “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways,” was the word Satan quoted for our Lord Jesus to tempt Him, but Jesus won that battle by saying it is written again “Jesus said unto him, it is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”. Many of us lose the battle when we are tempted by the devil to drink alcohol simply because we always succumb to a Bible reference quoted by the devil. The only weapon to win the battle just as Jesus did is; it is written again. Never allow the devil to quote scriptures, instead quote scriptures to the devil. I cannot imagine myself, even in my own house reading and studying

the bible with a bottle of alcoholic liquor at my side. It is normal and natural to read and study with a bottle of a non-alcoholic drink. The bible says that if Christ is in you, you are above the law. In other words, the spirit within you always bears witness of the good and the evil. There are certain things we as Christians do not partake in because the spirit bears witness that it is not good. There are no bible references to tobacco, marijuana, or cocaine yet we abstain ourselves from such. The Spirit of God in us bears witness that we are not supposed to indulge in them. Today, many believing Christians take alcohol in secret. My question is, why is it so? I have only seen them drink and argue about alcohol in their houses but they avoid it in open conversations. Who is deceiving whom? Though Europe and America have gone nuclear in their disobedience to God's word If the church can ordain homosexuals as priests and sees nothing wrong in it, know that by now alcohol will be the order of the day for Christians. For lack of knowledge God's people perish. I prefer not to perish simply because I want to remain ignorant. Obedience is better than sacrifice; the commandment is 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. Titus 1:7.

CHAPTER 3

REVELATION

But God hath revealed them unto us by his spirit: for his spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God - - - - 1 Cor. 2: 10

Just as Genesis is the book of beginnings, Revelation means ‘unveiling’ or ‘disclosure’. Thus, Revelation is an unveiling of the character and program of God. Apocalypse is a Greek word meaning ‘unveiling or ‘disclosure’ or revelation. This chapter will unveil certain things we do not know about alcohol and Christians. The question of whether a Christian can, with the Lord’s approval, drink alcoholic beverages has been a controversial issue among Christians. This singular question gave me a big burden, which prompted me to ask God for wisdom. I know that God is not the author of confusion. I asked God why is this question still unresolved? And the Lord said to me, “1 Cor. 2: 4– 5. And my speech and my preaching, was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but with demonstration of the spirit and of power; that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” TO GOD BE THE GLORY, HE SAID STAND ON THIS WORD AS I BEGIN TO UNVEIL THE HIDDEN WISDOM. God is a personal spirit, distinct from the world. He is absolutely holy and is invisible to finite. Although people on their own can never create truth about God, God has graciously unveiled and manifested himself to mankind. Other religions and philosophies result from the endless human quest for God; Christianity results from God’s quest for lost mankind. God has made himself known to all people everywhere in the marvels of nature and in the human conscience, which is able to distinguish right from wrong. This knowledge is universal and continuous, by it God has displayed his glory.

The word of God has a great deal to say about alcohol. The Lord does not want us to be in ignorance concerning His teaching on the use of alcohol. I called upon him and he answered and showed me great and mighty things.

THE GREAT AND MIGHTY REVELATIONS ON ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

1. IT BROUGHT SHAME AND EMBARRASSMENT IN GODS KINGDOM: Gen. 9: 21 reads – And he drank of the wine and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. This is a big shame and embarrassment in God’s kingdom. It happened to Noah. A hero of faith who obeyed God by building an ark (a giant boat), thus becoming God’s instrument in saving mankind from total destruction by the flood. Before his drunkenness, let us understand the kind of man he was. He lived at a time when the whole earth was filled with violence and corruption. Yet he did not allow the evil standards of his day to rob him of fellowship with God. He stood out as the only one who “walked with God” This was true of his great grand father, Enoch. Noah was a righteous man. The Lord singled out Noah from among all his contemporaries and chose him as the man to accomplish a great work. When God

saw the wickedness that prevailed in the world, He disclosed to Noah his intention to destroy the world by a flood. He instructed Noah to build an ark in which he and his family would survive the catastrophe. Noah believed God and obeyed him and, according to all that God commanded him, so he did. He is therefore listed among the heroes of faith. And he drank wine and was drunk. That became another downfall of a righteous man after Adam. This brought shame to the kingdom of God. After living so long as an upright man, a man in whom God confided to, a man of faith, a man to whom God gave his promise, a man God blessed, Noah brought shame to the kingdom because of wine.

2. ALCOHOL REMOVES SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE RIGHTEOUS: Hosea 4:11 reads -Harlotry and wine and new wine take away the heart and the mind and the spiritual understanding. When I saw this revelation, indeed I realized that God's thought towards us is one of peace and not of evil, to give us an expected end. If a man is intoxicated by alcohol, his heart, mind and spiritual understanding becomes diminished. At that point, the heart, mind, and spiritual understanding are poisoned. That is why a man would sleep with his daughter. Lot committed such an atrocity as he was deceived by his daughters. This happened because of the influence of alcohol. Gen. 19: 35 reads – And they made their father drink wine that night also; and the younger arose and lay with him; and he perceived neither when she lay down nor when she arose.

There was no Biblical reference showing where and how Samson broke his vows by drinking alcoholic drink, but I received a revelation concerning this. Samson couldn't have slept with a harlot without been intoxicated. Harlotry and wine takes away the heart and the mind and the spiritual understanding, which leads to an early grave. Many men of God have fallen into this trap. In majority of cases when a pastor slept with a woman, who is not his wife, alcohol took away his heart, mind, and his spiritual understanding. A man sleeping with his daughter or a man sleeping with his house-help, lesbianism, homosexuality, e.t.c is the common causes of alcohol. This information is not by scrutiny neither is it by might and power but by God's revelation. What you are reading is not man's wisdom but the Holy Ghost's teaching, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. I asked God, "I understand wine takes away the heart, but why are harlotry and wine mentioned together?" God reminded me about "Babylon the Great" – an apocalyptic image of great moral corruption. Rev. 17: 5- 6 reads – And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATION OF THE EARTH– There is an evil spirit behind alcohol. The aim of this evil spirit is to make God's people to err. Hos. 4:12 reads - My people (habitually) ask counsel of their (senseless) wood (idols) and their staff (of wood) gives them oracles and instruct them. For the spirit of harlotry has led them astray and they have played the harlot,

withdrawing themselves from subjection to their God. Another aim of this evil spirit behind alcohol is the sexual immorality committed. Rev. 17:2 reads – With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. And the last aim is to make sure that the names of those who fall into this trap would not be recorded in the book of life. Rev. 17:8 reads – The beast that thou sawest was and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. Immediately I remembered what our Lord Jesus Christ told his disciples, about Satan falling like a lightning (flash) from heaven, and he gave them power, then warned them not to rejoice that the spirits are subject to them, but they should rejoice that their names are enrolled in heaven (that is Book of life). This means that though they might be dedicated, called zealous Christians who were respected in their community, had clean lovely homes, fine marriages, clean healthy children, are husbands and wives who exhibit in their daily living the fruits of God’s spirit, ministers, deacons, deaconesses, casting away demons, signs and wonders following them; all that matters is that their names be recorded in the Book of life. “But what if I have not actually committed fornication or neither slept with a harlot, but only sipped alcohol”? Matt. 5: 28 reads – But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

“Hia!” I shouted!! No wonder harlotry and wine are intertwined. Why? I noticed that those cities that are near rivers drink a lot and commit immoral acts and all manner of atrocities. Rev. 17: 1 reads - Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying ‘Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters. Now I understood, the great harlot herself, that is the evil spirit behind alcoholism resides on many waters. Therefore, those of you who are from cities surrounded by many waters, 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, for it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Lk. 21: 34 reads -Be always on the watch and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen and that you may be able to stand before the son of man. The aim of the devil is to take away the heart, thereby defiling it but thy Lord said “be Holy”. Lev.19: 2 reads - Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them, you shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. God loves us and He calls us His children. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. To those who read and believe the revelation from this chapter, the Bible says in Matt 5: 8 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. God is interested in our heart. God knows that one of the ways the devil can defile our inward part is by alcohol. Lk 11:39 reads Then thy Lord said to him, now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your inward part is full of greed and wickedness.

Brethren, do you know that the tabernacle of God is with us? Rev. 21: 3 reads – And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying ‘behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. Can you imagine this? If God dwells with us, how would He (God) tolerate the spirit of alcohol to dwell with Him there? He placed the command for us not to drink wine and strong drink and at the same time gave us the power of choice. The two cannot work together and what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temples of the living God. As God said in 2 Cor.6: 16 .I will dwell in them and walk among them; I will be their God. And they shall be my people.

- 3 ALCOHOL MAKES ONE UNHOLY/FALSE PROPHET: Lev.10: 10 reads– And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy and between unclean and clean. Holiness is one of the essential elements of God’s nature and is required of his people. God’s high expectations of His people flows from His own holy nature. Ex.19:6 reads– And he shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and an holy nation. Remember that wine takes away the heart. Now if a man continues to take alcohol, he is no longer holy because the heart is defiled. Therefore, he becomes unholy. When he is unholy, he would not be able to distinguish between what is clean and helpful and what is unclean and unacceptable. The priest was to teach the people the difference. Ezek. 44:23 reads – And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. When the heart, mind, and spiritual understanding is defiled by the spirit of alcohol, there is every possibility that heresies will occur. The devil’s aim is to give you alcohol (the wine of poison) simply to make you a false teacher or prophet. What if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved into judgment? God’s word never returns to Him void. He cannot even alter the thing that is gone out of His lips. There is a severe punishment, or rather destruction, for false prophets and teachers. God never intended us to be influenced by alcohol. The hour cometh, and is now, for those that will worship God in spirit and in truth to read this chapter in spirit. The man without the spirit does not accept the things that come from the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. And he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things but he himself is not subject to any man’s judgment. Holy Spirit, I give you thanks and praise, for there is great joy in revelation. I would never have known the extent of damages of alcohol except by revelation. Can you imagine? Alcohol drinking creates a false prophet, a false teacher.
4. ALCOHOL MAKES THE RIGHTEOUS TO ERR IN VISION: Isaiah 28: 7-8 reads - But they also 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 stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.

It is one thing to receive vision from the Lord, and yet it is another thing to understand the vision. How do one make a clear judgment without stumbling? We should be filled with the Spirit instead of wine. God never intend for us to stagger from beer or befuddled with wine. But instead to pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in bonds; that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. God wants us to speak His word boldly without staggering or stumbling. If we are not in the Spirit how do we acquire His knowledge? Of course, not them that stagger or stumble under the influence of alcohol. With the influence of alcohol we will not want to learn and if we do not learn to acquire wisdom from above, how do we understand the end time? For how long will you remain babes?

5. ALCOHOL MAKES THE RIGHTEOUS BECOME A TALE BEARER: Prov 11:13 reads - a talebearer revealeth secrets; but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter. This is a person who spreads idle rumors or gossip that is likely to cause trouble or harm. Alcohol takes away the heart. A man whose heart, mind, and spiritual understanding have been taken away by spirit of alcohol has every tendency to be a talebearer. God cannot entrust His throne to a talebearer. Those that have faithful spirit conceal matters because they are filled with the Holy Ghost. Talebearers reveal secrets because their hearts have been taken away by the spirit of alcohol. God cannot work with a talebearer; He only reveals His secret to His faithful servants who are not deceived by alcohol. Amos 3: 7 reads - Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. The word of God is life. Now I understand a lot what is going on in the churches and fellowships. Check out the life of believers who drink alcohol. The result is that they are talebearers. Such believers have every tendency to gossip. They are the people that see everything going on in the church, yet they do not correct them. Instead they carry people's names around, judging and denting the image of fellow brethren. Their foundations are faulty.

CHAPTER FOUR

FOR A PURPOSE

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Eccl 3:1

God did not destroy wine after its creation. Neither did God destroy it after giving the commandment not to drink wine nor strong drink. He allowed it to remain for the purposes mentioned in chapter one. It is unfortunate that the Hebrew word Yayin and Tirosh which clearly distinguished between fermented and non-fermented wine in Hebrew were not translated as such in English except on a few occasions when it was translated as 'new wine' Nevertheless, there is a clear Biblical distinction between grape juice and fermented wine. Everything God created was very good. Gen. 1:33 reads - And God saw every thing that He had made, and behold, it was very good. God's purpose for creating wine was for good and not for evil. Man's problem started with the downfall of Adam. Gen. 2: 15-17 reads - And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it, and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. The fall of the first man, Adam, made it possible for the devil to be roaring like a lion seeking, whom to devour. The devil has been walking since then and even now in order to steal, kill, and to destroy. The devil succeeded in making Adam know what God did not intend us to know. When they sinned, they knew they were naked. Since that time, the knowledge of good and evil existed. Whatever God created, which was very good and marvelous in His sight, the devil would try to turn to evil. From day to day God is showing us knowledge. The devil shows us deceit through philosophy. Col. 2:8 reads - Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. God's purpose for the creation of wine has been misunderstood or rather polluted just as every other thing the devil has corrupted. Look at the case of sex. Sex outside wedlock is evil but sex within wedlock is good.

THE CONTROVERSIAL BIBLE PASSAGES(FOR A PURPOSE) :

1. 1 Tim. 5:23 reads - Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities. Of course this is a statement from Paul to his friend, Timothy. Timothy became Paul's favorite disciple after Paul converted him. Timothy's strongest traits were his sensitivity, affection, and loyalty. One example of this was that Paul commended him to the Philippians as one of proven character and faithful to Paul "like a son to a father".

Apart from this good attribute, Timothy had several weaknesses. 2 Tim. 2:1 reads - Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Paul's warning suggests that Timothy suffered from fearfulness. 2 Tim. 1:7 reads - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. He had tendencies for youthful lust. 2 Tim. 2:22 reads - Flee also youthful lusts, but follow righteousness. And of course our main text tells us of Timothy's frequent illnesses. 1 Tim. 5:23 reads - Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

Wines extracted from grapes are medicinal. As of the time of the Old Testament, Bible references show that the Israelites use wine for medicinal purposes. 2 Sam. 16:2 reads - And the king said unto Ziba, what meanest thou by these? And Ziba said, the asses be for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as be faint in the wilderness may drink. The phrase, "use a little," shows that the wine mentioned is fermented. Paul asked Timothy to use a little wine for his indigestion. Apart from his zealotry for God, Timothy had several weaknesses which included frequent illness. Paul had no alternative other than to advise him to use a little wine for medicinal purpose. The wine mentioned can correspond to our modern day drugs and syrups. As of the time of saint Luke, a physician, wine was used for treatments. It also, served as a disinfectant. Luke 10:34 reads - And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine and set him on his beast. Wine mentioned here was fermented. Alcohol dries up fast and that was why it was used as a disinfectant. Nevertheless, there is no longer any justification today for use of wine for medicinal purposes. Modern knowledge has increased. Natural herb treatment of old has been replaced with modern drugs and syrups containing alcohol. When Christians become sick, they should see a doctor who can recommend the right medication.

Do not be deceived, our modern day liquor, called beer, is not wine extracted from the fruit of the vine. Beer is a strong drink and therefore is not medicinal; likewise brandy is a strong drink. There is no more justification for drinking fermented wines in our day since we have several kinds of medicines to be used for sickness. But I strongly pray that Christians should not fall sick in Jesus name, Amen. I always imagine how it could have been that Jesus fell sick. For those who know their God do exploits. When they have symptoms of sickness, they rebuke and cast out the spirit responsible for it. If we are healed by His stripes, why do we need any medication?

We should not allow the devil to show us the knowledge of evil. The devil is happy when his deceit captures Christians. It is high time we say enough of this deceit from the devil. While men are busy acquiring great wisdom from God, they are just as busy acquiring deceit from the devil. The devil's deceit affects everyone. As many who still remain ignorant and ready to be deceived by the devil will still be drinking alcohol on the grounds that Paul asked Timothy to use a little wine. I beseech Christians not to allow the devil to interpret scriptures for them. Instead they should abide in Him (Jesus) and his word, and then they will be able to use scriptures to defeat the devil. Cocaine is a product of coca leaf, which is used as a local anesthetic to deaden pain during surgery. Men now inhale cocaine to get high. Friends, we can summarize all these by saying that God created wine for a purpose but

the devil used it for evil in order to steal, kill, and to destroy. The devil is the father of all lies.

2. 1 Tim 3:8 reads - likewise must the deacons be grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre.

Also, Titus 2: 3 reads - the aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as cometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.

Notice the underlined phrase in the scriptures above NOT GIVEN TO MUCH WINE simply implies that the doctrine and conduct of a Christian shall not be filled with alcohol. A Christian shall not be a winebibber that means a wine drinker. As applied to Timothy, fermented wines are meant to be used for a purpose. "Being drunk makes a person a talebearer." Ps.69: 12 reads - They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards. To avoid gossipers and false accusers, Paul told the Deacons not to be given too much wine. .

3. John 2: 9-10 reads - When the ruler of the feast had tasted the wine, and knew not whence it was; (but the servants who drew the water knew) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse; but thou has kept the good wine until now.

Among the Israelites a wedding was a festive occasion in which the whole community participated. Jesus and His disciples were in attendance Of course wine accompanies every feast. Having known and understood the Hebrew words 'Yayin and Tirosh', we understand that the wine was not fermented. The wine was taken fresh. There was no process of fermentation. Fresh wines did not have alcohol because there was no time for fermentation. Also, take note of what the master of the feast said after tasting the wine in verse 10. And he said to him, 'Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now'. They were drunk with the old drink, which was inferior. After they drank the good wine without being intoxicated. There is no record showing that any of the guests became drunk. Jesus Christ, himself, is the Word of God. There is no way Jesus could have given them fermented wine for He is the Word of God and was with God from the beginning. So He knows the implication of fermented wine to his people. Like a parable, truth may be exposed but some will not believe it because, seeing they do not see and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. One thing is for sure, as long as winebibbers are concerned, their hearts have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing and their eyes have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn.

4. Luke 7: 34-35 reads - The son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners, but wisdom is justified of all her children.

The statement spoken by Jesus simply identified that the scribes and Pharisees were accusing Him. Today we still have the scribes and Pharisees among Christians who simply accuse Jesus out of ignorance of being a winebibber. This ignorance has led many Christians to drink alcohol. Jesus is a High priest Heb 9: 11 reads - But Christ being come an High priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of His building. This verse indicates that He (Jesus) did not drink a fermented wine. The wine Jesus drank was simply juice. Mark 14: 25 reads - Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine. Jesus also said in Lk. 7:35 which reads - But wisdom is justified of all her children. This is another indication that Jesus is a man full of wisdom which reveals Him as the Word of God. And the Word of God says, "Do not drink wine nor strong wine" However Jesus answered the accusation of the scribes and Pharisees. Lk. 5: 30 reads - but their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? And Jesus answering said unto them, they that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Verse 32 shows the wisdom of God. That was why Jesus ate and drank fruit of the vine with publicans and sinners. Jesus never drank alcohol with them.

5. 1 Corinth 11: 20-22 reads - when ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's Supper. For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper; and one is hungry and another is drunken what? Have ye not houses to eat and drink in? Or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

The term 'Lord's supper' is used only in the above stated scripture. The practice is also known as communion. Paul rebuked the Corinthians for their involvement in adultery and for their pride and greed during their love feast that accompanied the communion. Love feast was a meal shared by the early Christians when they met together for fellowship. This love feast normally accompanies communion. Please note, that in this context, there is evidence that the Corinthians were abusing the love feast that accompanied the communion. Why does Paul use such strong language when speaking of the abuse of the Lord's Supper? The Corinthians were not properly discerning the Lord's body. The wealthy Corinthians who shamed their poorer Christian brothers and sisters by their selfish eating and drinking intoxicating wine were not discerning the true nature of the Church as Christ's body which should eliminate all distinctions of social class and race. The Corinthians at this point did not partake in a worthy manner. Those who did not partake in a worthy manner became weak and sick, and many had even died as a result of God's judgment. 1 Cor. 11: 27 reads - Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. Because of these abuses described, and probably for reasons of convenience, the love feast and the communion became separated even at the present time.

What happened here was not a proper communion; instead it was a love feast that accompanied communion. And from all we read, it was a clear case of abuse of wine especially by the rich. Paul rebuked them and of course God's wrath fell on them. I do not

actually feel comfortable when Christians quote this verse to justify their reason for drinking alcohol. Churches also fell victim to this. They gave Holy Communion with fermented wine. Although they gave reasons such as the use of alcohol to prevent mouth disease. That is not acceptable.

I personally do not know where some churches got this doctrine, but from clear indications, it shows that the communion given by Christ was juice. Mark 14: 24-25 reads - and He said unto them, this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many. Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the Kingdom of God. Christians should emulate communion given by Jesus. Using juice instead of fermented wine, distributed in individual cups seems to be wise.

CHAPTER FIVE

WISDOM OF MEN

God forbid: yea let God be true, but every man a liar: Rom. 3:4

Let's look into what the wisdom of men has to say about alcohol. There have been wise sayings regarding alcohol. Many researchers, especially those that are in the medical field, have come up with ideas about alcohol consumption. They have the ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding acquired. But most often, medical reports have been proven wrong, not because they lack wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, but because the supernatural wisdom is greater than that of the natural. God has been the author and finisher of our faith. His miraculous signs and wonders have always proven medical reports wrong.

I heard a testimony recently of a young boy who was born with genotype S.S. The Lord turned that negative report to a positive one. Let every man be found to be a liar but God be true, for He alone is omniscient. The change in that boy's blood is humanly impossible. The apostle Paul declared that the message of the cross is foolishness to the Greeks and a stumbling block to the Jews. But to those who believe, said Paul, this "foolishness of men" is "the wisdom of God" 1 Cor. 1:18-21 reads - For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the dispute of this world? Hath not God Made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Against the wisdom of God, Paul contrasted "the wisdom of this world. Here are some the contrasts. 1 Cor. 3:19 reads - For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. "Human wisdom" 1 Cor. 2:4 reads - And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of men's wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit and of power. "The wisdom of this age" 1 Cor. 2:6 reads - Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect; yet not the wisdom of this world, that come to naught. "Man's wisdom" 1 Cor. 2:13 reads - Which things also we speak not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth. Comparing spiritual things with spiritual. The Biblical concept of wisdom, therefore, is quite different from man's view of wisdom. Man's wisdom, which is sought through philosophy and human rationale, is thought to determine the mysteries of existence and the universe.

MEDICAL REPORT ON ALCOHOL

Alcohol is a psychoactive substance, which means that it affects the brain and produces behavioral, emotional, and mood changes. Alcohol is the most widely used psychoactive substance there is because unlike the others (Cannabis Heroin. Cocaine, Amphetamine etc), alcohol consumption is legal and it is skillfully marketed and promoted and it is also widely available.

ALCOHOL METABOLISM

Alcoholic beverages contain some complex carbohydrates (form of sugar) plus other substances like ethers and aldehyde which influence the body's responses.

When alcohol is consumed, it is rapidly absorbed within a short time (5-10 minutes in an empty stomach) into the blood stream where it reaches the various organs of the body. Peak blood level occurs within half an hour to two hours after a single dose. Alcohol is distributed through the body fluids in proportion to the water content of the body. Small amounts pass unchanged into the urine and lungs. This forms the basis for some medico-legal tests used to detect the presence of alcohol in the system of an individual who has been under the influence of alcohol in legal cases. Some 90-95% of absorbed alcohol is metabolized (broken down) in the liver. It passes through various biochemical processes in the liver until it is excreted as carbon dioxide and water.

The effect that alcohol produces in an individual will depend on their body weight. For a heavier person, a given amount of alcohol is likely to have less effect than it will have on a lighter person. It is for this reason that women tend to be generally affected more by the same dose of alcohol than men. This is because women have more fat and less body water than men (who have more water and less fat) and so their body water tends to be more saturated with alcohol when it is consumed.

ALCOHOL CONTENT OF VARIOUS ALCOHOL BEVERAGES

Alcohol comes in multiple forms and contains differing amount of pure alcohol (ethanol). Beer: contains 3-15%, Wine: contain 8-15%, Fortified wines like sherry contain up to 20% and Spirit: contain 40-45% of alcohol.

SYSTEMIC EFFECT OF ALCOHOL

Alcohol has been used medicinally throughout recorded history. Its medicinal properties are mentioned 191 times in both the old and the new testaments (Straus, 1979; 1988). As early as the turn of the century, there was evidence that moderate consumption of alcohol is associated with a decrease in the risk of heart attacks (Mendelson, 1988), and the evidence of the health benefits of moderate alcohol consumption has continued to grow over time. A

review of research evidence from 1900-1986 found a strong consistent relationship between moderate alcohol consumption and cardiovascular (heart and blood vessels) disease in general and coronary artery disease in particular (Moore and Pearson, 1986). The director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism recently wrote, "Numerous well designed studies have concluded that moderate drinking is associated with improved cardiovascular health" and the Nutrition committee of the American Heart Association recently reported that the lowest mortality occurred in those who consume one or two drinks per day (i.e. half to one bottle/can of beer, or half of a 5-oz glass of wine or ½-1 shot of spirit) (www.wineinstitute.org, 1997).

Several years ago a World Health Organization (WHO) technical committee on cardiovascular disease asserted that the relationship between moderate alcohol consumption and reduced death from heart disease could no longer be doubted (Wilkie, 1997). Also, at a recent conference, researchers from Korea, Italy, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, and United States reported striking reductions in death rate among moderate drinkers with heart disease and total mortality rate was also said to be reduced in this group compared to non-drinkers (Trevisan et al, 1997).

OTHER BENEFITS:

Moderate consumption of alcohol is also apparently effective in reducing the incidence of a broad range of diseases and other health problems. The American Heart Association has also reported moderate consumption of alcohol to be associated with dramatically decreased risk of stroke among men and women regardless of their ethnicity (American Heart Association, 1997), while a recent Harvard University study found the lowest level of hypertension among young adults who consume one or two drinks per day (Gillman et al, 1996). Harvard researchers also found moderate drinkers to be almost one-third less likely to suffer peripheral artery disease (a significant cause of death among the elderly) than those consuming less than one drink per week (Carmago, 1997) A recent French study found that moderate drinkers have a 75% lower risk for Alzheimer's disease and 80% lower for dementia (forgetfulness in elderly people, Rogozo et al, 1997). Many other studies also documented better cognitive or thinking ability among moderate drinkers compared to those who abstain (Launer et al, 1996). Age-related macular degeneration is a major cause of blindness in the elderly. Some medical research has found that moderate consumption of alcohol may protect against macular degeneration and has also been associated with lower prevalence of cortical cataracts.

In the gastrointestinal system, moderate alcohol consumption is said to promote the flow of saliva for better digestion. It also induces better absorption of nutrients and it calms the stomach. Moderate alcohol consumption has been found to produce protection against (H-pylori), the organism implicated in most cases of gastric/duodenal ulcers. Moderate alcohol consumption has been shown to lower the risk of gall stones. However, drinking that is heavy, that is, more than one bottle per day for a woman and more than two bottles per day for a man, may reserve this benefit and cause liver disease.

Pancreatitis: Heavy drinking increases the risk of both acute and chronic pancreatitis but moderate consumption is said to have some protective benefits.

OSTEOPOROSIS

This is the erosion of bone density (making the bones fragile and easily fractured). Heavy alcohol consumption increases the risk of hip fracture by causing osteoporosis and falls. While many studies noted that moderate consumption of alcohol increases bone density, some other studies of achial fractures have shown that there are more fractures after falls which were caused by alcohol consumption.

ADVERSE EFFECT OF MODERATE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Alcohol consumption, even in moderation, can still increase the risk of certain conditions. For example, alcohol has been linked with several types of cancer of the head, neck, breast, and digestive (gastrointestinal), tract, even at low levels of consumption. Cancers arising in the liver cells (hepato cellular carcinoma) has been linked to even low alcohol use. Although moderate alcohol consumption may be considered safe for certain conditions. This amount of consumption is enough to increase the risk of cancer of the liver in people with inflammation of the liver (hepatitis) due to infection with certain viruses (hepatitis C. virus)

Breast Cancer: Moderate alcohol use is associated with increased risk for breast cancer. For example, one study found that the risk of breast cancer was increased by 41% in a woman who consumed 2-5 drinks daily. Taking vitamins (Folic acid) may reduce the alcohol - induced risk of breast cancer in women but does not remove it completely.

Pregnancy: Alcohol consumption of any degree in pregnancy is associated with birth defects. Heavy consumption causes fetal alcohol syndrome, which is characterized by growth failure, mental retardation, malformation of the skull and facial region (crania facial). No evidence or study supported any benefit of alcohol consumption during pregnancy for the mother or the baby.

Accident and Trauma: Alcohol use increases the risk of accidents and traumas and it is also associated with greater severity of injuries from motor vehicle accidents. Alcohol also increases the risk of injuries from other sources, and has been shown to cause impaired performances with various machinery obvention. Injuries are more prevalent, particularly with heavy drinkers. And alcohol is involved in more than a quarter of all rape cases, at least half of all cases of serious assaults and half to two-thirds of all homicide cases.

ALCOHOL ADDICTION AND DEPENDENCE

Like everything else in life, alcohol, which is said to have some beneficial effects, can be abused, and like most psychoactive substances, a dependence to alcohol may develop.

Alcohol Addiction: It involves a pattern of drinking that results in one or more of the following results within a 12 months period.

- Failure to fulfill major work, school or home responsibilities.
- Drinking in situations that are physically hazardous, such as while driving a car or operating machinery.
- Having recurrent alcohol related legal problems such as being arrested for drunk driving or physically assaulting someone while drunk.
- Continued drinking despite on - going relationship problems caused or worsened by the drinking.
- Missing a day of work due to a hangover is also an alcohol problem.

A substance that gives pleasure to most people also kills 100 thousand Americans annually, (there is a dearth of accurate statistics in Nigeria), cause serious injuries, harm youth, destroy families, and play a significant role in various crimes. Some 20-40% of patients in large urban hospitals are there because their alcohol drinking caused problems and contributed to the illness for which they were admitted. The estimated economic cost of alcohol problems in the USA was 185 billion dollars in 1998, and 683 billion dollars each year for every man, and woman or child that drinks. Also, one in five men and one in ten woman who visit a primary care provider have alcohol problem. According to a recent government survey, 6% of the adult population drink alcohol heavily, meaning that they consume five or more drinks on the same occasion, at least five different days in a period of 30 days. By this definition of heavy drinking it is obvious that most drinkers in our society can be classified as heavy drinkers. Though there are no reliable statistics at present in Nigeria, with the level of Westernization in that society, they may soon be having more serious problems with alcohol.

ALCOHOLISM (ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE)

Alcoholism is a form of alcohol dependence. It is chronic in nature meaning that it lasts a life time.

Alcoholism is characterized by:

(A) Craving: A strong desire or urge to drink (loss of control).One is not able to stop once drinking has begun.

(B) Physical dependence: The individual develops withdrawal symptoms such as nausea, an urge to vomit, sweating, shakiness and anxiety when one stops drinking.

(C) Tolerance: The individual feels a need to drink greater amounts of alcohol to get high or even normal in each occasion.

Alcoholism results in chemical and biological changes in the brain. People with alcoholism have a strong urge to drink, an inability to stop drinking even if there are serious family, health or legal problems. It influences both a person's genes and his/her life as well as the kind of friends he/she hangs out with. Relatively, the amount of stress in one's life and the availability of alcohol increase the risk factors for alcoholism. Some people develop alcoholism even though no one in their family has a drinking problem. In effect, anyone who drinks runs a risk of developing the disease.

Like many other diseases, individuals may require treatment a few times before they can successfully stop drinking. They may need continual help to maintain recovery and treatment often needs to be extensive and sustained in order to be effective. With all these problems why drink at all !!!!!

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Drinking patterns appear to be dependant upon the amount of alcohol consumed. The key to healthy, moderate consumption is a limit of one or two drinks per day.

However, drinking a "weeks worth" of alcohol over a period of a few hours would be unhealthy, even dangerous and is clearly to be avoided.

It is prudent to note that all of the many health benefits of drinking apply only to moderate consumption. Heavy alcohol drinking is associated with reduced longevity and an increased risk of diseases. Initiating alcohol use may be inappropriate for people who have been life-long abstainers from drinking. There is no evidence that abstainers who commence drinking will lower their risk of any disease. And the diseases that moderate drinking actually prevent (e.g coronary heart disease C.H.D and isenaemic stroke) are mostly prevalent in elderly men and people with C.H.D risk factors e.g hypertension, hyperchlesterolera smoking, diabetes mellitus). For these people, moderate alcohol use is associated with substantial mortality benefits relative to abstention or rare drinking.

For young to middle - aged adults, particularly women, moderate alcohol use increases the risk of the most common cause of death such as cancer and trauma. Men under 45 years may experience more harm than benefit from drinking. In this younger age group, moderate alcohol use is unlikely to provide any mortality benefit. Consuming less than one drink daily appears to be safe (provided it's not done shortly before operating dangerous equipment). Even at that, this level of drinking can be dangerous for a person with established contra indication to alcohol use (see section on contraindication to alcohol use).

Person with established contraindication to alcohol use. For some categories of people, no amount of alcohol consumption can be considered safe at all. These include:

- Adolescents who are less than 21 years.
- Pregnant women
- People with personal or strong family history of alcoholism, people with strong family history of breast cancer, previous history of hemorrhagic stroke
- History of liver or pancreatic disease
- Precancerous condition of the gastrointestinal tract
- Those that operate potentially dangerous machines or equipment.

Experts note that cardiovascular disease remains the most common cause of death in all the above categories of people, suggesting that the absolute mortality benefits from moderate alcohol consumption could potentially equal its associated risk. In the absence of further studies, the current recommendation remains that those individuals who drink should abstain from alcohol completely.

BY
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Friends, I thank God you took time to digest the medical report. I personally carried out a survey to actually find out whether there is anything at all as moderate drinkers. The three questions carried out as a questionnaire to find out whether there are moderate drinkers or not are as follows:

- A. If you were to buy alcohol with your own money, do you exceed two bottles a day?
Yes () No ()
- B. When you find alcohol for free, do you exceed two bottles a day?
Yes () No ()
- C. Is there any serious urge to drink when there is no money or free alcohol?

Yes () No ()

RESULTS OF FINDINGS:

Almost 95% of the total number of alcohol drinkers answered “Yes” to question (1) and (2) showing that there is actually nothing like moderate drinking to start with, while 45% of the total numbers of alcohol drinkers answered “No” to question (3) showing that they are occasional drinkers. My research shows that these 45% of drinkers drink occasionally but even then, when they drink, they drink more than two bottles. My research was based strictly on males and was carried out in Nigeria. In as much as the benefits of moderate drinking have been recorded, it has as well been proven that it has its side effects. And like we read from the medical report, those benefits from moderate drinking are most prevalent in elderly men. So the question I now throw open is, what business does a Spirit-led Christian have drinking alcohol? The research also shows that there are some people listed on the medical report who established contraindications to alcohol use.

Personally, I still maintain that if ever there are those established contraindications to alcohol use, BORN AGAIN CHRISTAINS SHOULD ABSTAIN FROM ALCOHOL. My personal research shows the result that either you are an occasional drinker or you are a heavy drinker. Obviously, from the medical report, we have seen that there is no benefit to heavy drinking. The devil will gradually take you from the level of moderate drinking to a level of heavy drinking. Medical Doctors acquired their knowledge and many came out with results sited on the medical report, but one will believe with me that the greatest truth a person can possess with the mind or learn through experience is truth about God. Ps. 46:10 reads - Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted in the earth. God is Omniscient. So no matter how many research works on alcohol by medical doctors there are, God will be exalted among them. Very soon a set of research work on alcohol will be out advising on complete abstinence from alcohol. As long as God remains ever-living, the One who never sleeps nor slumbers, all research on alcohol will continue to contradict until the time when all will come to agree on complete abstinence from alcohol. If one study proves two drinks a day is moderate for men, further research will show that exceeding two bottles a day is moderate. Therefore, the concept of moderation is not consistent. Mental knowledge by itself, as good as it may be, is inadequate. The Biblical concept and wisdom, therefore is quite different from the human view of wisdom, which is sought through philosophy and human rationale to determine the mysteries of existence and the universe. The first principle of Biblical wisdom is that people should humble themselves before God in reverence and worship and obey His commands. In the course of this book, it has been said time without number that the earth and its fullness belongs to God. In other words, the devil did not create anything. The devil's duty is simply to abuse what good God created. From the point of view of chapter one in Genesis, God's intention for wine is good but because of its abuse, the Lord spake unto Aaron saying, do not drink wine nor strong drink as recorded in Lev. 10:8.

LET GOD BE TRUE, BUT EVERY MAN A LIAR

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CHAPTER SIX

WHO IS WISE? WHO IS FOOLISH?

And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Matt 25:2

We will take this chapter gradually as if we are in a classroom. The New Webster Dictionary described wise as having the ability to make a right decision or judgment by applying intelligent thought to a wide range of experience and knowledge with prudence; while foolish simply means lacking good sense or common sense, prudence or judgment. If wise could be regarded as the ability to make a right decision, you will agree with me that, foolish is the ability to make a wrong, ridiculous, silly decision. We will use the scripture above to illuminate our point in this chapter: five of them were wise and five were foolish.

1. Prov. 20: 1 reads – wine is a mocker; strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. The literal meaning of a mocker is a subject of ridicule. In other words wine is a thing of mockery. Raging means madness, overmastering passion of any kind, such as desire, anger, and violence, stormy or furious activity. So strong drink causes madness. Who will want to be reckoned with mockery or madness? I feel it is only a fool. No wonder the Bible says that whosoever is deceived by alcohol is not wise, and if you are not wise, then you are foolish! Who is wise? Who is foolish? A wise man will hear and increase learning. And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel. When a wise man comes across alcohol, he abstains from drinking because he fears God and that is the beginning of wisdom. God has commanded every priest not to drink. So the thing that a wise man had to do is to obey the commandment because he fears God. When you do not fear God, you do not obey His commandment and you do not have wisdom because you despise wisdom and instruction and that qualifies you as a fool. A wise man does not consent when sinners entice him. Being enticed by alcoholic drinks is not sin at all. What makes one a fool is consenting to drink. A wise man never walks in the way with those that drink alcoholic drinks; he always keeps his foot away from their path.

If the Bible says wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging, it therefore means that as many as are not deceived will inherit the glory of God. That makes them wise because everyone sees this glory revealed on them. But shame shall be the legacy of fools. Friends, get wisdom and understanding !. Is there anything worthy with alcohol when our Lord keeps warning us against it? Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore, get wisdom and in all your getting, get understanding.

2. Prov. 23 29 – 32: reads (Amplified)Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness and dimness of eyes? Those who tarry long at the wine, those who go to seek and try mixed wine. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the wine glass, when it goes down smoothly, at last it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder.

Of course, the wise has no woe, no sorrow, and no strife, does not complain, and has no wounds, no redness of eyes. why? Because they hear instructions and become wise and they never refuse or neglect it. Many Christians who drink say these scriptures are for drunkards. How many drinks does it take to make one drunk? How little is the little? I thank God for the previous chapter about the wisdom of men. It really shows the truth, which explains these facts. Sipping Christians often stay out late at night while non-sipping Christians have no need for it. The former can be compared to the five foolish men while the later resemble the five wise men. If a sipping Christian goes to visit his/her friends, he/she enjoys their company by drinking as much as he/she could. So how much is too much? Some say four bottles or less, others say six or more. Some might say as long as you mix it with mineral water, you can drink all you can! So as long as they drink, they love their alcohol and their friends more than their wives and families. Therefore, they keep late hours, but the non-sipping Christians cannot stay out why? The more non-alcoholic drink they consume, the more uncomfortable they become. These are the five wise men whose wives are better to them than alcohol. They always remember their wives more than alcohol. In other words, while the five foolish men hang out with their friends, the five wise men fellowship with their wives and families. Give instruction to a wise man and he will still be wiser. Teach a just man and he will increase in learning, because he likes storing up knowledge. But the mouth of the foolish is near destruction because he has woe! He has sorrow, he strives, he complains, he has wounds without cause; he has redness and dimness of eyes. A fool is the one who is deceived by alcohol. A wise man keeps instruction and abstains from alcohol, which is the way of life, but he who refuses to abstain from alcohol goes astray. The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, because whenever you want to correct them, they will not listen. They will instead, cause strife, but the wise will always want to heed instruction. The five wise men always guard their mouth, they preserve their life. But the five foolish men open wide their lips which lead them to destruction. Those that drink alcohol are talebearers who reveal secrets, but the wise is of a faithful spirit who conceals the matter. Friends, I beseech as many as have given their lives to Christ; you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and Christ's own special people. So walk along with the five wise men. The companion of the five foolish men will be destroyed. The five foolish men sought wisdom but did not find it because their companions deceived them with alcohol. But knowledge is easy to him who understands. Who is he who understands? He who is not deceived by alcohol. The fool's wrath is known immediately but the wise is slow to wrath. The wise has a merry heart and a cheerful countenance but the fool has a sorrow of the heart because the spirit is broken. Remember, fools are those who have sorrow; those who tarry long at the wine, those who go to seek and try mixed wine. Fools have no good counselors, because those that counsel them are not wise but the wise have great and mighty counselors.

Fools always reward evil for good. That is why evil do not depart from a fool's house. Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth. Watch out! Who has strife? Who has complaining, those who tarry long at the wine, those who go to seek and try mixed wine. Whenever you are around those that are deceived by alcohol, they cause strife at little issues, they embark on long unnecessary arguments which many at times leads to quarreling. That is why sipping Christians bring in unnecessary arguments in Churches or fellowships. God have mercy. I know that as many of them that are reading this book, have strife already. The Bible says, stop contention before quarrel starts. The fool does not stop contentions, which have even led to fighting in Churches, but the wise are self-contented. The five foolish men love pleasure, and alcohol. This makes them poor and the only way a poor man forgets his poverty is by drinking. Who has redness and dimness of eyes, him who is ready to perish and them that have bitter distress of heart? Indeed they are foolish. The wise foresees evil in alcohol and hides himself, thereby ruling over the poor because the wise are rich. If alcohol deceives you, you are foolish otherwise you are wise. If after your salvation you are still being deceived by alcohol, know it now that I have not said, but the Bible made it clear, that whosoever is deceived by wine and strong drink is not wise. If you are not wise then you are foolish. It is not possible to be wise and foolish at the same time. No wonder the Bible says that a fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart as recorded in Prov.18:2 (NKJV).

3. Daniel 1:4-8 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the King's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. And the King appointed them a daily provision of the King's meat, and of the wine which he drank; so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the King. Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names; for He gave unto the name of Belteshazaar; and to Hananiah of Shedrack; and to Mishael of Meshack and to Azariah of Abednego. 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.

Daniel proved to be a wise man. He purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the portion of the king's meat or with the wine (alcohol). This qualifies him as a wise man. The fool will always compromise in such instances. Daniel saw himself. Many times sipping Christians have compromised. When the wise is in the gathering of unbelievers he will always distinguish himself from them. During the reign of king Nebuchadnezzar and the reign of King Belshazzar no wisdom superseded Daniel's wisdom. Daniel's wisdom came from above and He never defiled himself with alcohol because he kept the covenant of the Nazarites. Philosophers could not

display the level of understanding Daniel displayed. Where are the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world; Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? Daniel's decision not to defile himself with alcohol gave him a lot of knowledge that gave him fame throughout the Kings tenure. Hear this: Daniel's decision not to defile himself is indeed foolishness to the five foolish men. They could have compromised. The five wise men would refuse to drink alcohol while the five foolish men would succumb and be deceived by alcohol. The wise will always have fame but shame will always follow the fool.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SPIRITUAL ANCHOR

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the father in spirit and in truth, for the father seeketh such to worship Him. God is spirit and they that worship him must worship Him in spirit and in truth—John 4: 23-24.

Brethren, believers are expected to worship God in spirit and in truth. Therefore; we connect to God through our invisible nature. At this level, the Lord protects and guards us. He found it suitable to use us to preach the good news (Gospel) to the nations, and for signs to follow us. All eyes look to us as the spiritual anchor. What we do matters a lot to the world. A friend told me recently, that ever since I gave my life to Christ, all eyes follow me wherever I go. These are yes of wine bibbers. They actually wished to see me drink alcohol in order to condemn the gospel that I preach. I thank God that by his Grace, until this date, I have not gone back to drinking alcohol. This alone should make us know that we should abstain from drinking alcohol in order that we can win souls for Christ. For we are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. But how can we operate on this modus operandi as a wine bibber? Sipping Christians make a mockery of the gospel because although they knew God they did not glorify him as God, nor were they thankful. But they became futile in their thoughts and their foolish hearts were darkened, professing to be wise they became fools. I personally have not come to judge anybody but decided to write this book to bring out the light. Sipping alcohol jeopardizes the gospel we preach. We put a stumbling block in our brother's way. Many unbelievers have rejected the gospel because of this act of wine bibbing. As we discussed in the previous chapter, God created wine. Therefore, we cannot say that it is unclean. From the information I shared previously, I have shown how the devil turns clean things into unclean.

I have only answered the call by writing out the truth and I pray that the truth I have shared with you in this book would not be spoken of as evil. Yes, indeed the Bible says the kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. We are warned not to destroy the work of God. We know that the kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, the right thing is to abstain from alcohol so that we do not lead those that are watching us astray. [Rom 14: 21 reads (Amplified)] the right thing is to eat no meat or drink no wine (at all) or (do anything else), If it makes our brothers stumble or hurts their conscience or offends or weakens them. God created everything but for the reason of not offending our beloved brothers, we will abstain. We want to win their souls. I beseech you, that no matter the controversial issues surrounding wine bibbing, let all those that worship God in truth and in spirit say 'NO' to alcoholic drinks. The reason is that we hurt people's conscience. Since

we decided to worship God in spirit and in truth, let us realize that our bodies are the temple of God and that the spirit of God dwells in us. The Bible says that if anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. Alcohol defiles the temple of God because our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in us, whom we have from God, and once we give our lives to Christ, we are no longer our own.

Let me quickly correct one impression. Many have allowed the devil to quote scriptures to them.

1. Mark 7: 15 reads – there is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. This verse has deceived many because they allowed the devil to interpret the verse and they lacked spiritual understanding. Foods do not enter into the heart but into the belly. Mark 7: 19 reads– because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats. So the scripture quoted by sipping Christians, that is Mark 7:15, is about food eaten. Foods go into the belly and are passed away in the toilet after digestion. Alcohol does not go into the belly but it takes away the heart. Hosea 4: 11 reads – Harlotry and wine takes away the heart. Whoever has been deceived is not wise. For lack of knowledge people perish. Alcohol takes away the heart and from within, out of the heart, the spirit of alcohol takes control, manifesting evil thoughts that lead to sin. Mark 7: 21- 23 reads – For from within, out of the heart of man, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication ,murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness, all these evil things come from within, and defile the man. So brethren, the purpose of alcohol is to defile a man. Daniel avoided that and indeed he remained the greatest wise man of his times. The Spirit of God resides in the heart of man, so when we allow spirit of alcohol to take place we defile the Spirit of God. 1 Sam 25: 36-37 reads – And Abigail came to Nabal; and behold he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal’s heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken; wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light. But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal... Notice that Abigail could not tell him anything because alcohol has taken away his heart. She had to wait until morning. Every believer is bought at a price. John 3: 16 reads – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. So whoever wants everlasting life should avoid defilement of the temple because the Spirit of God resides in us. God will never share his temple (our body) with the spirit of alcohol. As believers, we are encouraged to be filled with the Holy Spirit instead of alcohol. Friends, today, instead of drinking alcohol to have a merry heart, get drunk in the Spirit. Intoxicate yourself by singing and making melody to the Lord. This gives us the peace of God we desire. Alcohol defiles our temple. Have this truth and it will set you free. A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out as recorded in Lev 6:13.

2. 1 Corinth 6: 12 reads - Everything is permissible (allowable and lawful) for me, but not all things are helpful (good for me to do, expedient and profitable when considered with other things). Everything is lawful for me, but I will not become slave of anything or be brought under its power.

As a spiritual anchorman, all eyes are on us. There are certain things, which are allowable and lawful but are not helpful or good for us to do. If every other person is drinking alcohol today, believers should not join them. We are always encouraged to stand out among the crowd. Exodus 23: 2 reads – Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil...Let us not join ourselves with the wine bibbers but be joined to the Lord and be in one spirit with him. After being bought at a price, how can we still be slaves to the spirit of alcohol, God forbid that we, after liberation, are still bound to the spirit of alcohol. The above quoted scriptures will help us to check our excessive liberty. If we go ahead sipping alcohol we become stumbling blocks to those who are weak. Therefore, I prefer not to drink alcohol so that I do not make my brother stumble. I beseech us to discipline our body and bring it into subjection. Today, we have assorted non-fermented wines which includes juice, malts and other soft drinks. After we preached the gospel, God forbid that we should become disqualified because of alcohol. Saint Paul, the great apostle I respect, wrote in the book of 1 Corinth 9: 24-26. Know ye not that they, which run in a race, run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain and every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things, now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown but we an incorruptible. Therefore run, not uncertainly. Fight not as one that beateth the air. I am addicted to this scripture; please mark the word temperate in all things. I pray that you understand this as I understand it even while writing. Why should I claim to be a Christian yet not disciplined in certain things? If, as Paul says, athletes discipline themselves for a perishable crown, how much more should Christian who race to win a crown that is imperishable? Brethren, I beseech you, just as Paul said, whatever we do, let's do all to the glory of God. I doubt that sipping Christians, drinking alcoholic drinks, are doing that to the glory of God. The fact remains that as believers, the veil that lies on our hearts has been taken away because we have turned our hearts to the Lord. And we know the Lord is spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. This liberty will not make us to indulge in drinking alcohol.

3. 1 Corinth 10: 29 reads– Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other; for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?

I always tell Christians to ask for the spirit of understanding in order to comprehend the scriptures. When God releases the spirit of understanding in your life, you begin to tell Satan "it is written" as well! The devil will definitely leave you once you do not allow him to quote scriptures to you. Many Christians, because of liberty, have

actually allowed themselves to be deceived by the devil and thereby abuse liberty they have. As a spiritual anchor, who is now a new creation in our Lord Jesus Christ, your old habit of drinking alcohol should be passed away. After giving your life to Christ, you cannot continue in the habit of drinking alcohol because people are watching you. Let's stop this hypocrisy and learn to be straightforward. We cannot be drinking non-fermented wine and soft drinks with fellow believers in gatherings and when we gather with unbelievers, we drink alcohol with them. This is a very clear case of a blind man leading a half-blinded man.

4. Colossians 2: 20 – 23 reads - (Amplified) If then you have died with Christ to material ways of looking at things and have escaped from the world's crude and elemental notions and teachings of externalism, why do you live as if you still belong to the world? (Why do you submit to rules and regulations? Such as) Do not handle (this), Do not taste (that), Do not even touch (them) referring to things all of which perish to being used. To do this is to follow human precepts and doctrines. Such (practices) have indeed the outward appearance (that popularly passes) for wisdom in promoting self-imposed rigor of devotion and delight in self-humiliation and severity of discipline of the body, but they are of no value in checking the indulgence of the flesh (the lower nature (instead, they do not honor God but serve only to indulge the flesh).

Friends, as believing Christians, we should no longer live according to the standard of those in the world. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we, also, are eagerly waiting for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. So we are supposed to live a Christ-like life in this world. Today, among the top of the advertisements on billboards, TV, and radio stations are also those of enticing alcoholic drinks. As I discussed earlier, things like this will entice us but the only thing that will make us fools is if we compromise. Beer shines, fermented wine sparkles. We are not meant to touch, taste or to handle. We are spiritual anchor persons. When we do not subject ourselves to such regulations others will definitely listen to us when we bring the good news to them (Gospel). If we were raised with Christ, we should focus on things that are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right side of God. We are encouraged to set our minds on things above, not on things on the earth. We should put to death the habit of drinking alcohol. Let us not sleep, as sipping Christians do but let us watch and be sober. Those who sleep, sleep at night and those who get drunk are drunk at night, but let them who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. Remember that the Bible says that while men slept, the devil came and sowed. We cannot join in the world's standard. Think about this, apart from festive periods or gatherings, people get drunk at night. How can believers join this wagon? How do we communicate with God in prayer? That is why the devil attacks most families because, while others are having their night devotion, the sipping Christians will be busy sleeping not because of the day's hectic activities but because of the hang-over at night.

Brethren, spiritual anchorpersons are role models. People look closely at our characters. An unbeliever cannot pray along with you when you still sip alcohol even if you are a Bishop. No wonder the Bible says if a man desires the position of a Bishop he must not be given to wine. Mark the difference here, not too much or little but must not be given to wine. A Bishop is a spiritual anchorman. He is not supposed to drink alcohol. So also, every one of us that has given his /her life to Jesus holds one office or the other. We are spiritual anchormen. Every person holds a position of ministry according to his/her individual gifts. We are meant to be examples to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Brethren, have it in mind that to the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure because their minds and consciences are defiled. That is why we are cautioned not to be yoked together with unbelievers. I mentioned earlier that when the unbelievers want to drink alcohol; their conscience will not disturb them because their consciences and minds are defiled. These men profess to know God but in works they deny him. But the sipping Christians always have this remorse condemning their actions or indulging in alcoholic drinks. Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God, for God cannot be tempted by evil nor does he, himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

CHAPTER EIGHT

REPENTANCE

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden: and the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him, where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked and I hid myself. And he said, who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, the woman who thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat. Gen 3: 8-12.

Friends, the main purpose of writing this book is not to condemn the sipping Christians, rather to bring out the truth that will set them free. I cannot end this book without this chapter. After reading and knowing the truth, all that remains is to repent. Before I embarked upon this writing, I knew how controversial it was going to be. As truth brings out controversy, change results in freedom. The above quoted scripture reveals how remorseful Adam and Eve were. If they had not been remorseful they wouldn't have hidden themselves when they realized that they were naked. But one thing they failed to do was to repent, instead it was only remorse and flimsy excuses to justify their disobedience. Verse two recorded two questions asked by God. (1) Who told thee that thou wast naked? (2) Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? The reply Adam gave to God in verse twelve read The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat. This reply is indeed part of us today. We normally feel remorseful over our sins but instead of repenting we give flimsy excuses to justify our sins. Adam did not repent from the sin but was remorseful. Many sipping Christians are remorseful over their sipping habit. They find it difficult to repent from such a sinful habit. I know that whosoever drinks alcohol is already naked because whosoever disobeys God's commandment is not clothed with God's glory. So, in this chapter, we really have to look at what sipping Christians must do to quit drinking alcohol. The fact is that with men, it will be impossible but with God all things are possible.

HOW CAN ONE BE SAVED FROM ALCOHOL?

1. BELIEVE – And brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house – Acts 16: 30 – 31

Brethren, the first thing you need to do is to be in our Lord Jesus. The Bible says in John 12: 47 – 48: And if any man hear my words and believe not; I judge him not; for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. In John 14: 15 – If ye love me, keep my commandments. So whoever claims to believe in Jesus and yet does not obey His commandments, rejects the one in whom they claim to believe. The first thing you have to do is to believe in Jesus and abstain from drinking alcohol. The power of the Holy Spirit you receive will help you to resist and overcome the alcohol drinking. Many of us have remained stagnant on the grounds of this particular disobedience. I led a friend to Christ and he confessed and repented. I became so happy of winning a soul to Christ. After several weeks he backslided, why? The reason is that he believed but rejected Jesus' word about drinking alcohol, which took him back to his former deeds. Today, he rarely attends Sunday services. Many are called but few are chosen. Whoever has been touched after reading up to this point, I beseech you to rededicate your life to Jesus. If you are already a 'Born-Again' Christian and still drink, begin to tell the Lord Jesus to forgive you of your sins of ignorance and open your understanding. If you have not, give your life to Jesus. It is your golden opportunity to do that now. Say this prayer, "Lord Jesus, thank you for saving me, I accept you as my Lord and personal savior, wash away my sins with the blood of Jesus and forgive me my past life. Thank you, Lord, for accepting me into the kingdom. Thank you, for I am now a Born-Again Christian in Jesus Name. Amen."

Please pray this prayer and be free. You then need to join a Bible-believing Church around you and begin the process of working out your salvation, which is called spiritual growth. Please do not just have remorse, I beseech you not to do like Adam, but repent now by confessing the above stated confessional prayer. With men it is impossible but with God all things are possible. You will receive the power of the Holy Ghost when you make this greatest decision in your life. Without the power of the Holy Ghost you can do nothing, for it is not by might and power but by the Spirit of God says the Lord of Hosts. A friend decided on his own to stop alcohol drinking, but after several years, he went back to drinking. He is drinking more than he did before. You need to surrender your life to Jesus and receive the power of the Holy Ghost which will enable you to refuse and reject the spirit of alcohol.

2 RESIST THE DEVIL: Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you... James 4: 7.

This is another vital decision you must make before you are able to overcome the spirit of alcohol. When you believe, the next level is to submit yourself totally to God. You allow the Word of God to dwell in you richly. When the Word of God dwells in you richly; you are abiding in His Word and He abides in you. You are now grounded

in Him. So, every time the spirit of alcohol comes, tempting you, you have a word for him. Remember that the only weapon Jesus had to defeat the devil was the Word. When you begin to speak the Word to the devil, he knows that you are indeed resisting him and he has no option but to withdraw. You can also, resist by not yoking yourself together with unbelievers and associating with bad company. Do not be deceived, evil company corrupts good habits. When you still hang out with friends that drink alcohol, there is the tendency that the spirit of alcohol on your drinking friends will have much weight on you and drag you along. When you hang around beer parlors, of course, you are on your own and the gravitational attraction or acceleration will surely force you to join the wine bibbers. When you give your life to Christ, do not yoke yourself again with unbelievers. Please note that it does not mean that you should name them your enemies. It implies that you do not walk in the counsel of the ungodly nor stand in the paths of sinners. The only way to avoid the temptation is to resist being tempted. Today, part of the sophisticated advertisements for alcohol includes newly designed bottles and the sparkles in the drink. As a former wine bibber, I was able to avoid not being tempted or falling back to drinking, by avoiding wine bibbers. If you resist the beer parlors, avoiding your friends who drink alcohol, avoiding looking at the new style of beer bottles, the spirit of alcohol will surely flee.

3. BECOME A CRUSADER – And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, he told me all that ever I did ... John 4: 39

After the encounter of Jesus Christ with the Samaritan woman, the woman, realizing the truth, not only became free, but also became a crusader for the gospel of Jesus. After hearing, reading, and believing the truth revealed on alcohol, the best way to quit completely is to become a crusader. Start to tell fellow sipping Christians to quit alcohol by sharing with them the truth, which will set them free. When you become a crusader, automatically you have become a teacher. When you teach the sipping Christians the truth you go from being free, at last, from alcohol, to the place where you would never again like to associate yourself with alcohol. Notice that once you start teaching against something, even if you are tempted to do it, you remember you have students (i.e. sipping Christians) watching your example, you will then resist the devil. Many believers backslide mainly because they were ashamed to preach the gospel. Being a crusader of good news is a big check on our lives. One cannot teach against drinking alcohol and continue to drink. As a little boy, my parents kept alcohol in the refrigerator and I was taught that kids do not drink alcohol. I grew up with a great expectation of the day I would taste alcohol for the first time but there was never patience to commit sin, I remember that I started drinking alcohol even as a teenager. Oftentimes the parents open the door of corruption for their children. If, in a Christian

home, parents do not drink alcohol and do not give alcohol to visitors, the tendency toward the spirit of alcoholism will be rare.

Brethren, get busy for Jesus who has saved and delivered you. Make your life more meaningful. Be filled with the Spirit and the lust of the flesh shall be crucified.

4. PRAYING AND FASTING – Howbeit, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting – Matt. 17: 21.

The Bible says we should pray without ceasing. It is not good enough to believe, resist, and become a crusader, we should also embark upon regular prayer and fasting without ceasing. The devil's ministry is to steal, kill, and destroy. He is a spirit, so he cannot die. As long as we are on this planet earth, we cannot afford to relax without praying and fasting. Commune with the Lord always. Remember that once you are free from alcohol, the spirit responsible for alcohol will not rest. The devil flees for a season; once you sleep he comes to sow tares. Lk 4: 13 reads – and when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season. The devil left Jesus after the Lord had won and the Bible records that he departed from him for a season. It is possible that when you have obeyed all the laws, by His Grace, the devils flees but always remember that the spirit of alcohol departs for a season. So without praying and fasting, there is always a possibility of being defeated again by having a severe urge for alcohol, In other words, there is no rest while on earth. He who has been delivered from the spirit of alcohol should embark upon regular prayer and fasting. The Lord Jesus told the disciples that they should watch and pray. If you become prayerless, you are opening a door for the serpent to bite. Another dangerous thing we need to understand when we become prayerless is the danger of the spirit that has left coming back with more forces. Matt. 12: 43-45 reads – when the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh dry places seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith I will return into my house from whence I came out, and when he is come he findeth it empty, swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself and they enter in and dwell there. And the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Many believers have fallen victim to this because they left their house empty. The house here means our hearts. Our prayer life determines how close we commune with God in order to protect us with His hedge. When our house is protected, the devil will see the hedge and will shiver. We must endeavor to pray without ceasing. Joel 1:5 reads - Awake ye drunkards and weep and howl, all ye drinkers of wine...

CHAPTER NINE

CONCLUSION

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandment, for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it is evil. Eccl. 12: 13-14

I did not write this book because I know it all, only a foolish man will say he knows everything. Wise men fear God and keep His commandments. Life is all about choice. We have the ability to choose what we want in life. Choosing between the blessings of God and His curses are in our ability. After reading so far, what do you decide to choose, to obey His commandments or not to obey His commandment? The time of ignorance has gone. Since you've decided to follow Jesus, crucify your flesh. Alcohol is not meant for believers, but given to those who do not know their God. Prov 31:6-7 reads - Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more. Let's stop these contentions amongst us about whether to drink alcohol or not. The truth is that we are priests and we are not allowed to drink alcohol. This is not an option but a command. God is not a man that He should lie. We read with reasonable evidence that we, believers today, are priests. We also, read what alcohol does to the heart. God is interested in our heart. He does not want us to defile ourselves with alcohol.

God's wrath for drinking alcohol is real. Isaiah 5:11-13 reads - Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night till wine inflame them, and the harp, and the viol, the target 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.

Hab. 2:15 reads – Woe unto Him that giveth his neighbour drink that putteth thy bottle to him ...

The word “Woe” is a strong word. The literal meaning of the word is a misery, a misfortune or calamity, a physical pain or curse. It is regarded in the Bible as a deep sorrow, grief or affliction. The word “Woe” is often used as an exclamation, expressing, dismay, or misfortune. God is always angry when we drink alcohol, woe unto us when we harden our hearts. If God decides to start crushing us, I wonder how many of us will be left. Let's all repent from our sins of alcohol consumption. It has been a little fox that spoils the fallow ground. I encourage everyone to live the life of Rechabites. Rechabites is a kenite tribe founded by Jonadab, the son of Rechab. They were convinced it was easier to live a godly life as nomads than in the settled life of the cities where they would be tempted with idolatry and immorality. Jeremiah 35:1-2 reads - The word which came unto Jeremiah from the Lord

in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying, go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink. They did not drink wine or other intoxicating drink. They chose to live in tents rather than houses and they refused to plant crops or own vineyards. At God's command, Jeremiah tested them to see if they would live up to their vows. He set wine before them and encouraged them to drink, but they refused.

I rest my case here, and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always and the sweet fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest upon you always. Amen.