

**Jeff writes,** "I realized that I was headed down a path to destruction so I began a painful and very unsuccessful string of attempts to rid my life of alcohol. On one side I hated what I had become - out of control and defeated. On the other hand, I felt that I could not live without it. It hurt to be without it. So I kept coming back for more, always hoping that my life would take a turn for the better and the pain would go away. There were so many near misses with jail, injury, and even death. I woke up in places that I didn't remember going. Everything I held dear seemed to crumble in my hands and I felt like I was alone. I vividly remember one 'close call' as a friend and I, both very intoxicated, climbed to the top of a very tall water tower in a lightning storm. As I stood on top and thunder crashed around me, it was like I was daring God to end it all right then. He did not, of course, as He had other plans.



We are very glad that you are interested in joining the **New Wine** course. We are excited to help you enjoy the Lord and enjoy the abundance of life that we chose to forego in the past by choosing to be addicted to alcohol or drugs. It will be a challenge even after this course is finished, but rising to the challenge, and claiming victory will be indescribable in its rewards and benefits.

#### Resources:

Our newsletter entitled The Vine, primarily consists of short devotions, encouragement, and answers to questions pertaining to finding freedom in Christ from drunkenness and drugs.

<http://www.settingcaptivesfree.com/mailman/listinfo/thevine>



Setting Captives Free exists to offer Christ-centered Hope and Freedom to those in the grip of sin through accountability to Bible-based Truth resulting in the true enjoyment of Life in and for the Glory of God.



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"Drinking the living water of Jesus Christ will quench my thirst. I will begin to seek God through Bible study, prayer, and obedience to His Word until I learn how to drink the Living Water. I will know when I am truly drinking it because I will no longer be attempting to quench my soul thirst through drinking or drugs."

**Dear friend,** beware of any teaching, program, or method of finding freedom from alcohol that does not have Jesus Christ at the center, for there is no other way to solve the sin/problem than Jesus. There is no other way to be reconciled to God, to be changed from His enemy to His friend, to cease the evil behavior, than through Jesus.

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**My name is Mike Cleveland and, along with Jeff Perry,** I am the author of this course. We will be walking you through the next 60 days as you seek

to be free from alcohol addiction. Jeff has first hand experience dealing with and overcoming alcoholism and drugs through the power of Jesus Christ. Throughout the course Jeff is going to share his story with you, so before we explain how the course works, I've asked him to begin to tell us of his journey

**Jeff writes,** "My struggle with alcoholism began when I was 13. It began as a way of fitting in with others and I soon found that I could escape the problems I faced for a while when I would drink. It didn't take long to discover that this 'escape' was very short lived and the same problems were still there when I would sober up. The problems actually seemed to get worse and my life began a downward spiral that led a seemingly well - adjusted teenager to become an out of control young man.

I quit college soon after high school to follow the dream of being a rock musician. For the next 12 years I lived in a nightmarish world of bars and parties that destroyed my first marriage, my relationship with my family, and even led to severe, suicidal depression. I tried self-help groups, psychiatric counseling and treatment for the depression. Nothing helped or even made a dent in the pain I felt - I was totally out of control. I tried over and over to quit, but never had any success as alcohol and drugs had me tightly in a death grip. I remember standing at the graveside of a friend who had died in an alcohol related car

crash after drinking together in a local bar. I stood there knowing that I was heading for the same, horrible end and I knew that I could do nothing to stop it

I will share more of my story with you as we go through the course, but I would like to give you this bit of hope as we start - there is freedom from alcoholism. I say this because I have been set free by the power of Jesus Christ - since September 1999. That is what this course is about - freedom through Christ - and if you will apply the principles that are set forth here, there is freedom for you as you drink the New Wine of life with Jesus Christ! He has the power to set anyone free from bondage to alcoholism and drugs."



One of the most important questions to ask a person desiring freedom from alcoholism is many times a question that doesn't get asked at all. That question is, "Why do you want freedom from alcohol?" The motives behind our decision to seek help are very important. Unless our motives are the

right ones, chances are the healing we desire will elude us.

There is real hope for obtaining freedom from alcoholism and drugs when our motive is the glory of God. If we begin to focus on the glory of God we will inevitably change.

Alcohol, in its essential allurements, promises to quench our thirst. In other words, it promises satisfaction. And honestly, it does satisfy - but only for a time. Pretty soon we discover that we are "thirsty" again, and as the years go by we find that we are really never genuinely satisfied. Right? That is because sin never purely satisfies! It depletes us not fulfills us.

**A Course Member writes:** *"He has set me free! The last drink I had was 2 days before starting the course. I have been forgiven and am now free to say no to temptation. Through this course I have learned Biblical instruction for getting and staying free from sin...no matter how hard I tried to break the chains of sin, I couldn't do it. But as I proceed through the course I learned that Jesus set us free and I believe I will remain free."*

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