

Alcohol

We as believers are called to be in the world, but not of it (John 17:15). We are called by God to lay down our life and live for Christ (2 Cor 5:15) and this makes our life look different from the rest of the world. For me, Christ was a huge part of my life, but not the main part and certainly did not have an impact on how I lived. I thought He was cool and loved His love, but did not understand or love Him enough to live a life different from the world. Since I was not putting my satisfaction in Christ, I was searching for material things to fulfill me, this led to me drinking alcohol underage and doing it excessively. The main reasons I drank alcohol were either to be more confident, to get attention, to fit in, to feel cool, or just to have fun and forget about other things or all of these. (Now would be a good time for you to pause while reading this and ask yourself why you drink, or at least why you feel the need/longing to drink. Different people have different reasons but we must ask what's behind our reasoning.) All of these reasons of mine are basically me saying that Christ is not enough. My actions and my life was saying that, His love for me that led the Father to send His son to earth to die for us and He defeated death and ROSE from the grave, was not enough for me. Praise the Lord that He showed me that only He will satisfy and that only He gives me my identity and that He is enough. During that time of me not listening to the Lord and living in sin, I was still going to church and praying to God, but I wasn't allowing the Father to change my life and have full control. When the Lord has full control of your life, it is not your own, so you will have to give up things that feel good to the flesh and step out of your comfort zone. Christ is worth it. No amount of alcohol or all the things that surround it, attention, fake confidence, and social easiness will ever be worth giving up Christ. Christ always wins. He shows us our sin in the most kind and necessary way, but He does not leave us there. He takes what He shows us and gives us strength to fight that sin, we just have to rely on Him for it, we can't do it on our own. Every time we try to have our "last" it's never going to work because on our own we are not strong enough and will fail. With drinking underage and drinking alcohol excessively, like most other sins, it is from a deeper issue, mine was not trusting that Christ is enough. Through laying that sin at the Father's feet and fighting the temptation of drinking with His Spirit and with the help of Christ-centered community around me, the Lord leads us to freedom. Freedom that He bought with the blood of His son. How sweet knowing that the Lord still wants us no matter what we have done. You are never too far, Christ is always chasing after you. The experiences I went through were ugly but God took the ugliness and made it beautiful and made it glorify Him by giving me the freedom and confidence to share what He has done in my life and let me be used as a broken vessel for others to see Him. Isaiah 55:2 says "Why do you spend your money on what is not bread and your wages on what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me and eat what is good and delight yourself in abundance." I can assure you from experience that a life looking to alcohol for either status or security or relief will always lead to disappointment. But laying that aside to drink in the grace of God poured out on us in Christ leads to delight and abundance. Letting alcohol have control over your life or ruin your witness or pull you farther from Christ is never worth it. Christ is worth everything.

If you would like to reach out to talk with someone, please send a message to strugglewell@allthingsministries.com

This account is only accessed by our full time staff at All Things Ministries. Our staff has a combined experience of walking with college students through issues like this for well over 20 years. They look forward to either walking through this with you to help you "struggle well" in it or

connecting you to someone with greater experience than themselves in the specific area you are struggling with. They will not connect you to anyone else or share any of your information without your direct consent.