

Testimonial

Addicted to alcohol, addiction

I don't know when I became **addicted to alcohol**. What began 28 years earlier as an enjoyment of drinking alcoholic beverages over time became an **addiction**. One day I woke up and realized that, as Henry Wright put it, "Anything you cannot put down by a will of your own is an addiction." That was me. I craved that daily drink—or four. The desire to drink became stronger than my will to say no. Henry Wright also said addictions are caused by the "need to be loved." There was a lot of truth to that statement as well.

I came to my first Restoring Lives Conference seeking a deeper relationship with God (and because a friend kept bugging me to go). Although I was a Christian I didn't believe healings could happen. I thought that was something that happened to people in the Bible, not to me. So I came seeking God, not healing. Within the first three days of the Restoring Lives conference a friend of mine who had MS(Multiple Sclerosis) was unexpectedly healed of walking with her cane. Praise God! Had I not seen it with my own eyes I would have never believed it! It was truly a miracle. I said "Wow! She got her healing. Maybe I can get mine too."

During that first conference, the night on Addictions rolled around and I thought, "You know what. Maybe I will get my mine. God healed her. Why can't he do the same thing for me?" When it came time to address addictions, I got ready. I put my feet flat on the floor, put my hands up in the air and turned my palms toward the ceiling--all the stuff a conservative Episcopalian would normally never do. I wanted to make sure the Holy Spirit found me in that room. Bryn started praying against the spirit of addiction and all the spiritual roots that cause it (that "need to be loved" thing), and I recognized and repented each one of them. And I waited and I waited and I waited. But nothing happened. Absolutely nothing. I was devastated. I cried and I cried and I cried. I think everybody probably thought I was healed because I was crying so hard. I was totally disappointed. I probably would have been pretty skeptical about the whole thing but I had seen my friend healed earlier in the week. And then the worship music started. I began to listen—kind of. I put my hands up--halfway. I started praising the Lord--a little bit. Half-heartedly. During that song God spoke to me. He said, "You will be healed. I will heal you of your addiction. But it's going to be on my time, not yours."

I came back to the next conference. I attended my second Restoring Lives conference again not seeking healing, but I wanted to find that love and that peace and that acceptance and that joy that you walk out of these conferences with. Just the intimate relationship that you have with God when you walk away from these conferences--healing physically or not—is worth going for. My relationship with Christ was so



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strengthened during my first conference and I wanted to nurture that. I had no expectations of being healed. The night to address addictions arrived and I prepared once again. Except this time, when I put my hands up I didn't put them up to receive. I put my hands up to give. I put my hands up to praise God and to give Him thanks. To praise the God who would heal me, who would heal me in His time. And I knew he would. And that night was His time. I was healed from my addiction to alcohol! At the snap of a finger my addiction to alcohol was completely gone! No AA, No One-Day-at-a-Time, No daily struggle to "just say no". No more cravings! It was just gone! I was able to pour drinks for friends the very next night and I had no desire to join them, something I could never have done before God healed me. Without God I could not go one single day without a drink. With God, I have gone more than one year without drinking. I praise God, and I thank Him! Thank you guys at Restoring Lives. This stuff works! Because of you I am free from the bondage of alcohol addiction! Praise God!

Note: I keep attending conferences and I keep getting healed. Using the tools I receive at Restoring Lives conferences I have been healed spiritually, emotionally and financially as well as physically. God really does love us and wants to give us all our hearts desire! "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil 4:19



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