

My name is Ian and this is my story

As a child, my family attended church almost every week. I learned about Jesus and I believed that he came to Earth to die for my sins. As a teenager, I was trying desperately to be popular, however, and I saw Christianity as a bunch of rules that hindered me from making friends. So, I would attend church on Sunday with my family, and spend the rest of my week doing things I knew were wrong, desperately trying to fit in.

This led to numerous poor decisions, including lots of drinking in high school. In college, when I was completely free to make my own decisions, I went to church less and drank more. Before I knew what had happened, by my senior year I was drunk almost all the time. It was clearly hurting my health and relationships, but I didn't want to stop.

Fast forward 3 years after graduation, and I was still drinking heavily and ended up getting me into some trouble with the law. This was a huge wake-up call and happened around the same time I had started attending a Bible study my manager had invited me to. We were studying Romans chapter 6 which teaches that we are either a slave to sin which leads to death, or slaves to obedience which leads to righteousness.

I was feeling pretty close to rock bottom and this passage showed me that I was trying to live in a middle ground that doesn't exist. Sin is powerful, and I wasn't just dabbling in it, I was a slave to it. Not only was sin destroying my life, but it was separating me from God both in this life and eternally. I remember praying to Jesus and telling him that I wanted him to be my Lord and Savior. I was always cool with the Savior part, but I was ready for him to be my Lord!

When I finally let go and gave Jesus control of my life, my life dramatically improved. It didn't magically make things better, but as I pursued Jesus and his teachings He taught me how to rely on him for the strength to make better decisions. I was "set free from sin" (from Romans 6), and have been free from alcohol for over 5 years.

What's more, he replaced all that junk I gave up with good things: Instead of trying to please others, my security is in my God who loves me unconditionally. My fears are gone and I sleep easy, knowing that I will spend an eternity in heaven with Jesus. My life of doubt is now a life of purpose as God uses me as a part of his plan, including sharing my story with you! I pray that you trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior too. If you relate to struggling with sin, please read the following pages and discover God's plan for you.

Ian