

Hello! This is Dorothy —

I remember going into the last day in the year several years ago. New Year's Eve! Oh, all the excitement! Oh, to be thinking of going off to some fancy dress ball or to do something. Always, it was, Oh it is going to be better tomorrow and oh, with that revelry, with all that went on with it – and oh, the drink; oh, the confusion; the difficulty! I really don't know what you are doing on that day, but I know what I am going to do: I am just going to praise the Lord, make myself available to Him and let it be a day to bring glory to His Name.

I want to tell you one thing I have observed over the years. Over and over again, wherever I am, there is a little problem that becomes frightening behavior. That problem is probably known to you. It all has to do with wine, strong drink, and drinking. I took the time to go through Scriptures and I was totally amazed at the number of situations where God gives warning about wine, strong drink and drinking. Because, you see, when we are full of the Spirit of the Lord, we do not need alcohol. We are so filled with His joy and His life and His fullness, what are we trying to do to bring about something that will effect our whole system?

It was a sad day, as you might remember as we discussed in the past, for *Noah* in **Genesis 9:20-24**. Having having been delivered with his household from the earth on which God sent this judgment and all the waters came and the flood came, eventually Noah came out on dry land. The Lord delivered him. Then we read that Noah was drunk and uncovered in his tent. Then we read in **Genesis 19:30-38**, *Lot* was made to drink wine and had sex with his daughters, which produced the Amorites and the Moabites, two of the most rebellious people who did much harm to God's people.

And you see, it is amazing! "Oh," you say, "it is only this little situation." But how many people have fallen into a habit that they cannot control? I have seen in the medical profession excellent doctors, very capable of surgery, but in the end of their day, having been dismissed from their position because not only could they not control the drink, but it was effecting their very bodies in their capability to operate and to work on those they were to help. I see this pattern over and over and over again.

In **Genesis 27:25**, we read *Isaac* drank wine and then was open to deception. As a result, He gave away his firstborn's blessing. In other words, we take the wrong path. **Exodus 32:6** speaks about drinking leads to partying and and leads to idolatry. We go down

through the Scriptures and we are shown this over and over. In **Deuteronomy 32:14** - . . . **drink the pure blood of the grape.** - *that is grape juice.* **Judges 13** - **drink no wine or similar drink.** And then in **1 Samuel 1**, *Hannah*, you remember, was mistaken for being drunk when she was praying. She did not drink wine nor strong drink. In other words, there were those who did foolish things. *Nabal.* You remember that lovely story about Abigail and Nabal in **1 Samuel 25**. Nabal was drunk. One of the saddest stories is when *David*, having already had a illicit affair with Bathsheba, had the husband sent back. He took the husband and tried every way to get this man so that he would somehow or other fall prey to cover up this sin of David. He got *Uriah* drunk in an effort to cover his sin (David's) with Uriah's wife. You see, these methods have happened over and over. For example, we read Job prayed for his children every day and gave sacrifices for them, for we read *Job's children* were drinking wine prior to being killed. So it goes on. We read also in **Matthew 26:29**, Jesus drank of the **fruit of the vine**, *which was grape juice.* In **Mark 15:23**, Jesus did not drink wine. In **Luke 1:15**, wine again is associated with violence. And in **Luke 21:34**, we find a warning of those who drink being out of control under the influence of wine. How many people we are aware of who have been killed or injured because of the person on the road trying to drive under the influence of drink? How many people that you know - and perhaps yourself - who have said, "I do not

want this anymore; I want to be delivered?”

There is a verse which tells us **Ephesians 5:18** to **be filled with the Spirit** rather than being drunk with wine. Are you willing to say, *Lord, deliver me from this curse, this evil habit — this thing that will cause damage to my household, to my children? Monies that should be invested in caring for others are being invested in my selfish indulgence. I am out of control. Lord, I need deliverance! This is an important day for me. Meet me right now, dear Lord. For You are my only Deliverer. I call on You, Jesus, and I love You with all my heart. I thank You by faith that that is exactly what You are going to do right now!*

For Your glory. Amen.