



Stoner Saints?

By Kurt von Schleicher

"For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry" —1 Peter 4:3, niv

Are you a believer who likes to get *baked* ...ya know, do illegal or legal drugs for the effect, but you are trying to control this habit to a degree so that you won't suffer any loss of reputation or something even more dear to you? Did you know that an estimated 12.8 million Americans; about 6 percent of the household population aged twelve and older, use illegal drugs on a regular basis (meaning within the past thirty days)?

And too many so called Christians are also caught up in this experimenting with drugs today. I've met some of them downtown. Hey, Christians have the Answer for this broken world, but too many are too busy getting loaded to even care. It ain't about you ...or about me, It's about knowing and serving Jesus Christ unencumbered. God designed you to serve a Cause that's bigger ...other than that of your own self-interests. This *drug thing* with so called Christians deeply pains God as He sees you damage your destiny. It's severely crippling of His great fishing endeavor—world evangelism—which every addict could be involved in, if they would just get right with Him. It destroys their testimony, their effectiveness, their brain cells and their bodies. Their non-selfish ambition and motivation inside just evaporates away.

I'm thankful for skilled doctors and how they've helped me in the past, but the number of Americans treated for abuse of legal painkillers has surged 321 percent from 1995 to 2005 and federal statistics show a trend here. According to federal data, nearly 7 million Americans abused prescription drugs in 2007—more than cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, ecstasy and inhalants such as paint ...combined. That figure is up 80 percent since 2000.

People abuse drugs for recreation and for psychic effects—to get high, to party hardy, and to have fun... to escape reality, to get a lift, or just to calm down and get through the day. Some college students do it to cram all night for a test.

Did you know that the number of TV drug ads have increased forty-fold from 1994 to 2000? Don't you just hate listening to all their gross verbal disclaimers too—all that fine print read at lightening speed. Did you know that since 1999, the average American sees at least nine prescription drug advertisements on television every day? According to statistics from AARP the average American over the age of 75 has more than 11 drugs prescribed yearly.

Ruth Sanchez-Way, the director of the federal *Center for Substance Abuse Prevention* says many older people are ashamed to admit that they have a drug problem today. Her agency estimates that 17% of Americans age 60 and older abuse prescription drugs or alcohol now. She also says that prescription drug abuse often goes hand in hand with a drinking problem.¹

Although I'm grateful to God that people are getting prescriptions that really help them like never before in history, and that most patients use their medications properly as directed, abuse of, and addiction to prescription drugs are becoming more and more a public health problem for Americans and so called Christians.

Let me ask you... do you unnecessarily have a drug of choice (or more than one) from the doctor(s) or some druggie-friend like: oxicondon, cannabis, hashish, crack cocaine, paint fumes, meth, or H (heroin)? Do you have a mind altering substance someone you really trusted turned you on to? Have you dropped acid before? Are you one who enjoys wrongly using prescription drugs so that you can at least appear somewhat upright in the community and keep your job?

James warned, ***"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death"*** (Jam. 1:14-15).

A drug of course, is any substance that produces physical, mental, or psychological changes in the body of the user. History is replete with people who have both experimented with drugs to find ways to help other hurting people needing attention medicinally, but also with those trying to escape from problems and the harsh realities of life through their misuse.

Hundreds of millions of young and old people around the globe today are doing drugs regularly; drugs which range all the way from gateway weed to drugs that are deeply addictive such as heroin and cocaine. I used to use these to party with, but the pleasures of sin are only fun for a short season. The wages of sin is death and I tasted from that hideous chalice until I called out for help...until Jesus Christ came and rescued me out of that sticking pit.

Hey, I'm not here to look down on anyone ...or talk down to you. Anyone of us could become physically and psychologically hooked on drugs if we don't take proper precautions. If you are exposed to high dosages for a sufficient amount of time you will get trapped like a dog in a rusty cage at the humane society that is placed near the incinerators... but there won't be anything humane about your experience!

Drug abusers are found in all walks of life and backgrounds too. Some are up-and-outers, and some are down-and-outers, some are blue-collar workers, some are white-collar workers, some refuse to work and some can't find work. My heart goes out to them. God's heart really goes out to them wanting to quickly bring His salvation and deliverance. They are from relatively affluent high schools, communities, popular churches... as well as from the gutter or rescue mission downtown.

Many of the roots of dependency can be found in a person's feelings of insecurity, or inadequacy, or in guilt feelings, or in disappointments, or in their thoughts of disillusionment, in their fears, in immorality and in deviant sexual promiscuity. Homosexual, lesbian, and other forms of perversion seem to be on the upswing in our culture—the sin-weirdness is so in-style like never before.

People feel acute frustration inside too; high stress, gobs of worry and intense anxiety ...about the economy, a family member in the hospital, the polluted environment, fuel sources, and the war overseas. Young people have an inner longing just be included in the group. Some have mega peer pressures to deal with so they won't be rejected like some sub-dweeb. Countless people live with nagging loneliness and pain from broken relationships or crushed dreams. It's like their hand are filled with ashes from a life that once was... or almost was. Some deal with extreme competition to produce up to expected levels in the workplace or in their schools, as exemplified in high school, college and even in professional sports. Lots of business people have incredible quotas and deadlines to meet that strain their marriages. We are seeing a lot of pro athletes—our heroes—turn to steroids.

There is such a great spiritual vacuum today which has resulted in an accelerated disintegration of the home; the breakdown of the family and the institution of marriage along with the basic moral standards of society eroding. Let's face it, we're living in perilous times with perplexity and people on the edge are looking for some form relief, so with the availability of many types of drugs for all ages, even kids are getting that monkey on their back. Some counselors and educators go beyond their role and wrongly play doctor to persuade mothers of a need that often could be addressed in a safer and better way. When I was the principal of a small private school in Plano, Texas I heard that some schools were receiving remuneration when they got students labeled as ADD or ADHD. Yes, workers (not ours fortunately) *sometimes* overstepped their bounds and misdiagnose pupils when they should have only referred them to more than one

doctor for multiple professional opinions. Listen, you don't want to be on any drugs if you don't need to be!²

But the wrong kind of dependency I'm talking about is more than an issue of the whole person. Hey, I'm no physician, but drug abuse negatively affects the person spiritually, physiologically, socially and emotionally. There is no peace and no rest. Once addicted, the abuser lives in a unstable world of illusions and fantasies with lots of denial, deception and weird feelings of paranoia. Some can hold down a job for a while, but they soon have bazaar responses relationally, with delusions, too much cloistered secrecy, police and authority-hate, and unhealthy social isolation just like a sick rat in a dark hole. For many it becomes like a helpless hopeless state—a vortex sucking them down the drain as the addict becomes a fatalist in mire of putrid thinking. Bad circumstances happen to everyone, but it's the skewed responses and choices of the addict that got them stuck in the mud. They often feel like they are in a life gone south due to others ...with no return to any semblance of what's normal, and it could be that way if they refuse the help that God offers them in Christ. If they refuse God's only provision for their sin—Jesus Christ—they're toast. Have I halfway described what your life is like? It's easy to tell on yourself to God. Unless you repent... ***“if you don't turn to God and change the way you think and act, then you too, will all die”*** (Lk. 13:3, God's Word).

The Bible teaches inquirers who make a profession of faith, to bring forth fruit meet for (that's good works that verify) true repentance. And addicts know that this effort to withdraw from a life of drug addiction can be very painful, both physically and psychologically, but you must start somewhere. Seek out proper medical assistance and trust God to give you His grace through this time... because unmonitored, you know that withdrawals can even be dangerous. Getting liberated from this ugly dependency, along with a time of rehabilitation in the Word, is usually a long process. The addict will indeed need a Christ-centered support system for their rehabilitation time.

If you are a backslidden Christian or a juicy heathen sinner like I was, take action today before you can talk yourself out of it, before your supplier, pusher, or pimp can find you! In order to be helped, you must first desire to be helped. God can give you “a readiness” and true repentance. You need to confess your sins specifically, and expect God to forgive you regardless of what you feel like when you give your life to Christ ...when you forsake the sin and those who come around to try and feed that old habit. Again, you must get away. Abandon all the pushers and surroundings that have helped you get tied up in this drug addiction. You must permanently stop all illicit drug use. Drive far away from—yes, circumnavigate your way far around the places of temptation, change your phone number, relocate, move! Call out to God daily. Call a real church, ask for help today before you eat it and reach room temperature! It's foolish for others to enable the addict by supplying anything to help them sin, and it's also foolish for any Christian to try and give them “a readiness” that a human simply can not

provide to another human in need. Make the initial step towards God and trust Him to get involved. If you draw near to Him, He will draw near to you. It's your responsibility to become good soil for the seed of the Word. Meditate upon what Christ said, **"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold"** ([Lk. 8:5-8](#))? Many get distracted away, but time will tell with you and with me. We need to go the distance clean ...with Jesus. Good soil means there is a humble openness to the working of the Spirit in your life. Retain that always!

Christians are to resist all temptations to pressure, to moralize or to reform the person who isn't ready or open to repent and turn their life over to Jesus as Lord. Give grace and Scriptures to the humble, and use the Ten Commandments with the proud, as the Lord leads you. Help the individual by putting them in touch with a local drug rehabilitation center, where he or she can begin the process of withdrawal and recovery. Certainly a Christian should seek to have the person make a commitment to Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord when the readiness arrives. Lead them out loud in a prayer of repentance and faith if they are willing. Drive them to fellowship.

Even after they are born again, the Christian will need tough love and wisdom. There will be a time to work on the personal character and other issues that led to the drug users addiction in the first place... such as a poor self-image, zero personal worth, insecurity, incest, homosexuality, immorality, disappointment, drunkenness, idolatry, fear, or guilt. Recognize that he or she is not a mere project for you to fix. They are a brokenhearted person the Lord wants to heal.

Jesus declared: **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives.... And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.' ...So they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, 'what a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out'"** (Lk. 4:18, 21, 36).

Be compassionate, respectful and willing to listen without allowing yourself to be pulled down spiritually (please don't neglect time in the Word, in church and in prayer to constantly be doing good works that eventually will wear you down). You must not backslide yourself! Stay friends with the person as they become an overcomer, in order to offer prayer support and encouragement until they have an understanding of what it means to be a real Christian. Remind them of how strong God's love (with no tricks or strings attached) really is for them. Remind them of how God's grace is totally sufficient to meet any and all needs they

will have in this life and how they never need to look to the world to meet their needs.

Life isn't to be about seeking pleasure. It's about obeying God regardless... even if there is suffering involved. Paul said this, ***"In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness"*** (Rom. 6:11-13, niv).

There will be a time for them to face the responsibility for the damage they have done to other individuals or organizations. They made the choice to give in to temptation and start taking drugs and they will also need to make the choice to make restitution and learn to say not to all the devil's wiles for, ***"each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed"*** (Jam. 1:14, niv). Refuse to hang with so called Christians that mess around—I call them baked believers. Some want to live as close to the world as they can, but you be done with this world's system. Be done with carnal and lost best friends! Sow to the Spirit instead of to the flesh.

John spoke about those who repented not ***"of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts"*** (Rev. 9:21). The Greek word translated as "sorceries" in this verse is actually "pharmakia." It literally means "drugs", and it appears five times in the New Testament (Gal. 5:20, Rev 9:21, 18:23, 21:8, and 22:15). "Pharmakia" is translated into our English Bible as either "witchcraft" (in the King James) or "sorceries" (because almost no one but witches and sorcerers used drugs some 400 years ago. Drugs were most commonly used in pagan worship to hallucinate and to try to get in touch with evil spirits.). We also get our English word "pharmacy" from this Greek term "pharmakia". In each of the above five passages, "pharmakia", or "drugs" is listed as a work of the flesh of man as opposed to the Spirit of God working in the Christian.

For example, Paul said, ***"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh"*** (Gal. 5:16-23, kjv).

Why? ***"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would"*** (v. 17)... ***"But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law"*** (v. 18)... ***"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,"*** (v. 19).. ***"Idolatry, witchcraft*** ("pharmakia" or drug use).. ***"hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,"*** (20).. ***"Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told***

you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God" (v. 21)... Do you really want to inherit the Kingdom? [Come to Christ now](#) and cooperate with Him so that He can change you. Choose to permanently turn from your old life to live free all your remaining days. Make the decision to then help other open-hearted-addicts get liberated by boldly leading them to righteousness.

Paul said, ***"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed"*** (Jn. 8:36). What you need is the peace of God, rather than the peace of the world so take action right now as you call Someone!

The Bible says in Luke 15:10, ***"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents"*** (nkjv).

I can't begin to describe the feeling you experience when you hook a soul, leading a friend to Christ or when you see a buddy of yours reel one in ...right there in front of you! Ex-addicts for Jesus often weep long and hard when the Spirit grabs them. It literally brings me to tears as well ..every time, because I remember what it's like to get off the devil's hook and onto the Lord's (no more heartache, no more bad trips or hangovers, no more destruction, no eternal death—just lots of love, order, peace and joy instead).

Heaven and earth join together in the celebration. It's like a clean party with the children of the day, not like those of the night... and that is exactly how it ought to be every time one turns to the Lord. The devil gets so bummed to lose another client, and he won't give up trying to neutralize you by getting you to compromise. Don't listen to his lies. Trust in Jesus and His promises. He said, ***"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*** Let's be involved and rejoice with all heaven!

¹ See [online article](#).

² **We do serve a God who still heals people on multiple levels. I don't know why He doesn't heal everyone, but if some Christian minister prays over you when you are sick and then tells you that you are healed by God... please do not go off your prescribed meds until a doctor tells you to go off of them ...no mater what that minister tells you to do. Let your doctor confirm that you are healed.**