

**If you need**

**Deliverance from Alcohol**

**do these things**



**by Oral Roberts**

## ***If You Need Deliverance from Alcohol Do These Things***

I receive mail every day from people who want to give up drinking, yet they have never been able to do so. They honestly want to, but they don't know how. Many have even come to believe that their situation is hopeless and that nobody really cares about their life.

Maybe you are one of those people. You may never have written to me about your struggle with alcohol, but just the same you may have been trying for years to free yourself from its death-dealing power over your life.

Let me assure you from the beginning how deeply concerned I am about you and about the struggles and heartaches you are facing. I care about you. And I want more than anything else for God's good to start entering your life *today*.

That's why I have written this message of hope for you. Even though you may be telling yourself that no hope exists, I know that it does. And I want to help you.

If you need deliverance from alcohol, there IS hope for you ... because God *wants* to set you free.

Jesus said, "**I am come that [you] might have life, and that [you] might have it more abundantly**" (John 10:10). This is God's highest wish for you: to save you, to deliver you, and to give you abundant life (see 3 John 2).

So let me begin by sharing with you a story filled with hope, and with the goodness of God. It is the story of Vantrice Burkes from Texas—a woman who for many years was bound by the chains of alcohol and who felt there was no hope for her either ... *until God turned her life around!*

Here, in her own words, is that story: I had been trying to sober up for eight years without any success. I was leaving suicide notes. I thought there was nothing to live for.

I had been in and out of Alcoholics Anonymous until they got sick of fooling with me. I'd been on a three-month drunk when one of the AA members came in

and threw down Oral Roberts' book, *Miracle of Seed-Faith*, and said, "Read this. I don't think there's any hope for you, but read it anyway."

Then she walked out. That is not the way AA people usually handle alcoholics, but I think I had tested their patience.

The first time I wrote to Oral Roberts I was drunk, and I told him so. What was so beautiful to me was that he accepted me the way I was. All the other people I knew wanted me to straighten up and be good, and then they would accept me. I couldn't do that.

Oral wrote me the most compassionate letters. He told me to start reading my Bible. I was scared to read the Bible. People had told me the only things that were in there were *don't*, *stop*, *quit*, and *can't*. Nobody had ever told me about the *love*, *joy*, and *peace*, and that Jesus loves me and that He came and died for people like me.

So I didn't make it right away. I'd call the Prayer Tower at Oral Roberts University in the middle of the night and say, "I can't hack it! I can't stand it! I've got to have a drink!"

And they would say, "Well, now, let's pray first."

One night I got hold of a prayer partner who said, "You stop that right now. Yes, you *can* make it. We're going to talk about this."

Those prayer partners accepted me as I was.

And so did Jesus. I turned to Him and asked Him to forgive my sins and come into my life as my Lord and Savior. He did. He saved me ... He healed me . . . He delivered me from alcohol.

Then He gave me a ministry of my own.

He called me to work with alcoholics in prisons and jails. And it's also my privilege to serve on our state alcoholism council.

I know Jesus is my Savior. The only weapons the devil has are doubt and fear. He sometimes says to me, "Just who do you think you are!"

And I say, "Devil, I'll tell you who I am.

I'm that lost lamb the Shepherd left the flock for. I'm found and I'm free. So don't you be bad-mouthing me!"

What a testimony of God's goodness and His healing power of deliverance! Not only was Vantrice saved and delivered from alcoholism herself, but today she is helping hundreds of other confirmed alcoholics break loose from their chains as well.

I pray that as you continue reading, you will begin to see that God wants to do the same things in your life that He has done for Vantrice Burkes.

For God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

He is interested in YOU and cares for YOU. *God never turns anyone away who comes to Him for help.*

You see, the kind of problem you have makes no difference with God. He can deliver you from alcoholism as easily as He healed me of tuberculosis and stuttering as a teenager. God is all-powerful. He is able to do anything. And He will do for you all that He says He will do.

Moreover, He puts supreme value upon your *whole being*. The power of God is not only for the spirit but also for the mind and body as well.

Give God a chance in your life. Thrust yourself and your problem upon Him. Go all the way! Let Him get at the root of your problem.

Cooperate with Him. Hold back nothing. Put your will, your whole being, on the side of faith in Jesus Christ, and you can receive your miracle.

### **Five Steps to Deliverance From Alcoholism**

There are, as I see it, five steps to deliverance from alcoholism. They are:

1. Admit that you need help.

2. Turn toward God.
3. Accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.
4. Live by your faith.
5. Take one day at a time.

If you have come to the end of yourself and realize that you need help, you have already taken step one in your journey to deliverance.

### **1. Admit that you need help**

No person receives healing of any illness until he admits that he is sick and needs help. God provides deliverance for us but we must ask Him in faith for it. We must realize that the answer to our problem is not within ourselves... and then in humility turn toward God.

Vantrice Burkes started toward deliverance when she faced herself. She realized that she was a hopeless alcoholic, that she needed help. She admitted that she could not free herself. Genuine inner strength is found by coming to the end of ourselves and making Jesus Christ master of our total lives. Only as we live in the power of One greater than ourselves can we be strong.

### **2. Turn toward God**

When you turn toward God, you are turning toward the One who is able to deliver you.

God has all power... "**With God nothing shall be impossible**" (Luke 1:37). The same God who created the human body can restore that body, mind, and spirit to wholeness.

**God Loves You and Believes in You** Do you feel that no one really cares, that no one really understands? *God loves you ... and He is ALWAYS going to love you!* Even when you don't like yourself, God loves you. When you are hurting and afraid, God loves you. When you fail, God loves you. When you hit bottom, God loves you.

*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10).*

*God believes in you.* Your family and friends, knowing your condition and past failures, may not have faith in you, but Christ does. He sees beyond your weaknesses and into the depths of your soul.

He knows what you can become in Him.

The Bible says, "**Ye are bought with a price**" (1 Corinthians 6:20). You have been purchased "**with the precious lifeblood of Christ**" (1 Peter 1:19, *TLB*)—a cost paid by God himself. How great is your value to our Lord for Him to have paid such a price! So before you start putting yourself down or giving up on yourself, think of how meaningful your life is to God and the tremendous price that He paid for you.

You are God-bought ... God-owned ... unique and irreplaceable!

### **Christ Can Change You**

Christ is the answer to your problem because He can change your nature. He knows the way you are built, how you think, the habits of your life, and the struggles you are having. He sees beyond the bottle of alcohol that has enslaved you. He knows what you can become when this habit is broken.

If you will let Him, He will shatter the bonds of that bottle and set your feet on a brand-new road—the road to a new life. The Bible teaches that **YOU** can be a changed person. "**If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new**" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

God longs to free you to become the person He wants you to be. All you have to do is ask Him.

**3. Accept Christ as Savior and Lord** When we fully yield our lives to Christ, when we make Him our Lord, then everything else loses its power over us. The power of alcohol cannot stand against the power of God.

There is only one cure for alcoholism and that's the cure that comes from God

—the Calvary cure. God sent His Son Jesus Christ to Calvary to break the power of sin over us and set us free.

Jesus not only forgives us of our wrongs and blots out our sins but He also delivers us from sin's control so that we can live a new kind of life, with a new direction where we don't have the old desires we once had.

If you want the very longing for alcohol taken away, if you want the appetite destroyed, turn to God. Try the Calvary cure. It works.

A new life will begin for you when you ask Christ to come into your life. This is not complicated; you do not have to understand theology or go through a long ritual. Just pray this simple prayer asking Jesus to come into your heart.

And as you pray, mean what you say with all your heart and believe that God hears you: Jesus, I come to You just as I am—a sinner and an alcoholic. I invite You into my heart. I believe that You died for me and that Your blood cleanses me from every sin.

Forgive my sins and make me Your child.

Deliver me from the bondage of alcohol and make me whole. Lord, I give my life to You.

Guide me and teach me how to live for You. I believe that You save and deliver me now.

Thank You, Jesus. Amen.

When you accept Christ, you belong to Him; you are a child of God. His Word says so. **"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"** (John 1:12).

Sin no longer has dominion over you, for Christ has conquered sin. And, as you commit your life and your problem to Him, Christ will give you power to overcome.

#### **4. Live by Your Faith**

Romans 12:3 assures us that **"God hath dealt to EVERY man the measure of faith."** That means that God has given YOU a measure of faith, and that faith is your fighting power, your conquering power. It is the tremendous force God has given you to battle with life. It is His power to stop the devil's power against you.

Your faith is the power God has given you to fight alcoholism, to fight conflicts, to fight frustrations, to fight defeats, to fight failure, to fight anger, to fight compromise, to fight weakness, to fight anything that would diminish you or destroy any portion of your life.

But to be effective, this faith must be used—it must be released to God by an act.

One of the greatest aids for releasing your faith is the point of contact. A point of contact is your believing crystallized into a single act. It is something you do, and the moment you do it you let your faith go to God for your need to be met.

There are many points of contact honored by God.

Jairus, a man in the Bible whose little daughter was dying, used the laying on of hands as his point of contact for the healing of his daughter.

He said to Jesus, **"Come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed"** (Mark 5:23). The instant Jairus saw the laying on of hands, he released his faith and his child was raised up.

There are other wonderful points of contact with God's power that you can use to receive your healing. These include searching the Scriptures ...receiving Holy Communion ... praying for someone else ... giving to God.

But whatever your point of contact is, it sets the time for the releasing of your faith—not necessarily the performing of the miracle. At that moment you release your faith for your miracle to begin.

It sounds simple, but the most wonderful things are simple.

## 5. Take One Day at a Time

Each morning God hands us a package of hours. We have no promise of tomorrow nor can we reclaim the lost hours of yesterday. We have today—with its challenges, its problems, and its opportunities.

**Learn to take one day at a time.** Believe God to give you deliverance TODAY ... daily.

After all, you can't go back and refuse that first drink which started you on this road, and there is no use worrying about tomorrow. Today is all you need to focus on. Right now is your challenge.

**Strengthen yourself for each day by being faithful to read your Bible and pray.** When the devil tempts you throughout the day, don't rely on your willpower; instead, lean on God's Word.

Fight Satan with the only weapon that defeats him—the Word of God.

This is how Jesus dealt with temptation. After He had started his public ministry, He went into the desert wilderness and there fasted and prayed for 40 days. The devil came at Him with a temptation. **"If you really are the Son of God,"** said the tempter to Jesus, **"command that these stones become loaves of bread"** (Matthew 4:3).

Notice that the devil did not come to Jesus at the beginning of His fast. He waited until Jesus was weak from hunger, he waited until Jesus was at His lowest ebb. Then Satan approached Jesus and tried to tempt Him into turning stones into food.

In the hour of temptation, Jesus turned to the Scripture. He refused to dwell on His physical weakness and hunger. He did not meditate on how good a loaf of bread would taste; He turned immediately to God's Word.

He answered the devil by saying:

*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God* (Matthew 4:4).

Whenever a man takes a stand for God, Satan will be there to buffet him. When you accept Christ, when you determine to allow Christ in you to conquer alcoholism, there will be a battle.

But you don't face this battle alone. Jesus Christ is there to give you His strength and power.

You have the Word of God—the weapon which Jesus used to conquer Satan.

**Determine in your heart to follow Jesus completely.** Each one of us has to learn for himself the meaning of Christ's words: "**If any man will come after me [be My disciple], let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me**" (Luke 9:23). FOLLOW ME. The only way to live an overcoming Christian life is to come under the authority of God ... to be in obedience to Him. It means you take on Jesus' own life and life-style and discover *daily* His way of doing things and do them joyfully, continuously.

Every day is a new day. Every day you try to give God your best then ask Him for His best.

Following Christ is a continuous daily act of becoming more than what you have been.

**Make new associations.** Spend your time with those who love the Lord and not with your old drinking buddies. Find a spiritual church—one that believes in the real Jesus, in His power to save, to heal, to bless, and to keep you every day.

Get busy working for God and stay away from those old drinking haunts.

**Trust in the Lord.** Remember His Word, and the promise He makes you. "**Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world**" (1 John 4:4). *God, who lives in you, is greater than the devil who is in the world!*

Christ can set you free. You can know the joy of sins forgiven; you can know deliverance from alcoholism. You can have a new life in Christ.

Follow through on the five steps:

1. Admit that you need help.
2. Turn toward God.
3. Accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.
4. Live by your faith.
5. Take one day at a time.

I urge you to open your mind and your heart to Jesus. Let Him have His way in your life. Believe simply as a child. Don't be full of questions or doubts. Just humble yourself and believe. That is the way Vantrice Burkes was delivered. That is the way God will bring deliverance to your life.

You don't have to wait to be delivered until you have a more convenient time or until your circumstances change. Jesus is waiting now for you to reach out for the miracle you need.

You know, the devil is pretty smart. He knows that if he offered you a family torn apart by alcoholism, or offered you cirrhosis of the liver, you wouldn't take it. So instead he whispers in your ear, "Have another drink."

But I'll tell you how to handle the devil. You handle him just like I handle him. You say, "Devil, take your hands off God's property—me!" And mean it!

He'll try to sell you a bill of goods. He'll try to tell you that nothing will happen as we pray. But don't buy it. Don't sign for the package. Because when you use the Name of Jesus on him, the devil cannot win in your life. You *can* be totally delivered from alcoholism and come out the victor, in Jesus' name!

### **Let's pray**

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I pray that He will come to you today to deliver you from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. May you look up, see Him, and recognize Him as the One who can save you and deliver you as you reach out to Him. I pray that you will never again feel that desperate need to drink, because God will fill you up with His very Self. I pray that you

will realize that you are loved and you are important to God, that He has a plan for your life and that He wants to give you His best.

Yes, Lord, thank You that this dear friend is never going to take another drink. They've tried for so long, they thought they would never be able to give it up, because it has such a hold on them. But, Lord, we break that bondage of alcoholism today by the power and authority of Jesus' name.

Now, friend, I join my believing with yours, and I expect that miracle of deliverance in your life. Amen and amen.

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