

# Front, Back, Side to Side

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My name is Stefizz's, and I'm an alcoholic and drug addict. I grew up in a small suburban town with my parents and younger sister. I don't know if my dad was an alcoholic because every person must decide that for themselves. But my dad was a heavy drinker and came from a family of heavy drinkers. However, he and my mom were both good providing parents, even though my dad and I had a challenging relationship as I got older.

I am an alcoholic, and it's not my dad's nor anybody else's fault. It is my burden to bear, and I own and accept that.

I do not know when I became an alcoholic, but now looking back at my dark and drunk days through sober eyes, it may have been one from the time I took my first sip of beer. I should add that I am 38 years old, drank uncontrollably, and abused prescription drugs for a good 15 plus years. I got in trouble for the first time with alcohol when I was 16 years old. I was in high school and at a party. When I was arrested for minor alcohol consumption one Saturday night, that was a warning sign of things to come that I was too young to see.

I do believe it was around 19 that I started to drink hard. I was a full-blown alcoholic by 21. On my 21st birthday, my friends took me barhopping. The only thing I remember was my dad nudging me with his foot early in the morning, telling me to get up and go to bed. I came home so drunk that I passed out on the bathroom floor after getting sick in the toilet.

**Unfortunately, this kind of behavior became a repetitive occurrence for me for many years to come. In AA, they say, "We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it."**



I have hurt my family time and time again with my drinking. I've been convicted of drunk driving three times and now a felon for life because of those decisions.



My first and third offenses were major accidents, and I almost did not survive the last one. I was rushed to emergency surgery that lasted 13 hours and was not given a good survival rating.

Parts of the left side of my body are now made of metal and screwed together because of it. I also had to spend two weeks in the hospital and see the grief and pain I was putting my family and my loved ones through; especially my mom and, at the time, my young son. I'll never forget in 2014, when my mom brought my son to see me in the hospital for the first time, he was crying hysterically.



I later asked my mom why she brought him to see me in that condition. She replied, because your doctors told me you might not survive, and your family may need to say goodbye, and we should get them there soon.

Over time my drinking spiraled entirely out of control and had total control over me. I started to abuse prescription pills as well.

So, as I mentioned, I have a son. He was born when I was 23. His mother and I met at a party over the bottle. We had a very rocky on and off relationship for three years, including a lot of drinking and drug use.

To sum up a long story, we broke up for the last time when my son was two months old. She moved to the other side of the state where she was from, and her drug use spiraled out of control. One day, when my son was two years old, she dropped him off to me and drove away.

Even though my drinking and drugging, I'm proud to say I have maintained full custody of my son for the last 13 years now. It's not easy being an only parent while staying drunk and high. My son is the greatest gift my Lord and Savior Jesus has ever given me. I prayed for His and my son's forgiveness for the hurt and hardship that I have caused; all the pain, damage, and heartache I forced my son. My son always loved me unconditionally. Even when he saw me arrested and taken to jail for firing and carrying a pistol while intoxicated.

I have had a host of problems and legal troubles because of alcohol. Even after almost dying, going through three extensive surgeries, and spending two weeks in the hospital, I continued to go downhill. I am wrapping up 15 plus years of hard drinking and drug use in a few paragraphs here.

I still drank for a year and a half after being released from the hospital. The hospital sent me home with just about all the prescription pain medication that I could take, which added to my problems. Now I have to say I was hopeless. My sister, friends, and even son, I'm sure, had given up on me, in ever being more than what I was. I spent every second of my life inside a bottle looking out. I only lived and worked to make sure my son and I had enough to get by and I'd drink the rest.



## *But there's one who did not give up on me.*

But there's one who did not give up on me. One who did not look upon me with shame and pity, but only with love and compassion. That one is the only true King, my Lord, and Savior Jesus Christ.

I had fallen for a long time into a very dark hole, and Satan had his hands gripped tight on my soul, and he almost got it. He and I were both sure he had me for sure. But Jesus had other plans, and He never gave up on me or doubted me.

He saw past the alcohol and the drugs and the life of sin I was in for so long. I do not have any specific scripture to quote that helped me out of the darkness and into the light, but I'd like to call this piece I'm writing '*Front, Back, and Side to Side*.

I call it that because I was sitting in my hell of whiskey, pills, and darkness, with no possible way out. Jesus came for me. I was weak, broken, and felt alone, but I wasn't. Jesus was with me, and I later realized He always had been, and Jesus gave me the strength to get up and start getting out of the abyss I was buried in.

And I would like to add that it is a long hard road to hell. But Jesus was there in **front of me guiding me**, and He was **behind me pushing me forward**, and He was on **both sides of me blocking any danger**, or I wouldn't be able to handle it.

**I took my last drink of alcohol on October 23, 2016. I have been sober for over four years. I went to my first AA meeting voluntarily on October 25, 2016, and they gave me the tools and support I needed to start my new happy, drug and alcohol-free life.**



## I Pray For Those Suffering Every Day.

I genuinely hope that this summary of my tale can help somebody. For me, it was drugs and alcohol. Still, I believe that nothing is impossible to achieve or overcome when you allow Jesus into your heart and turn your will over to him.

He does not judge. He does not expect perfection and His love and compassion and understanding. All He asked for, which, even to this day for me is sometimes hard to give, is your complete faith, trust, and submission to Him. Even in your times of darkness and doubt, He will never leave you.

He will never turn His back on you, and He will always love you. Trust in Him. Humility has been one of the most vital tools I've had to learn and use in my sobriety journey and develop my relationship with Jesus. So, here's the scripture I heard and immediately identified with.

**John 13:34: 'A new commandment I give you, love each other as I have loved you, so you must love one another.'**

It has now been almost six years since the car accident that changed my life forever and over four years since I've had a drink. I owe it all and everything else to Jesus. I'm still on probation. I have a breathalyzer in my truck after those four years, but I'm so grateful. I'm thankful because I never knew I could be so happy or experience such joy in this life. I never knew how fun and great life could be without drugs and alcohol.

I'm grateful because even though I had given up and turned my back on Jesus, He never turned his back on me. Nowadays, I'm focused on bettering myself and helping who I can when I can. Most days are happy and joyful, and I still have many obstacles and hardships to overcome, but I do not fear these tasks because I have Jesus and His love by my side. **I trust in Him entirely and try to be a tool, He can use to channel His passion out to all the people of the world.**

### WHY ME by Kris Kristofferson

Why me, Lord, what have  
I ever done  
To deserve even one  
Of the pleasures, I've  
known  
Tell me, Lord, what  
did I ever do  
That was worth loving you  
Or the kindness you've  
shown.

Tell me, Lord, if you  
think there's away  
I can try to repay  
All I've taken from you  
Maybe Lord, I can show  
someone else  
What I've been through  
myself  
On my way back to You.

Lord help me,  
Jesus, I've wasted it  
so  
Help me, Jesus. I  
know what I am  
Now that I know that  
I've need you so  
Help me Jesus, my  
soul's in your hand.