

W A L D O N F E N S T E R

FREE BEER
TOMORROW

HOW I STOPPED DRINKING WITHOUT
TRYING TO STAY SOBER FOREVER

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INTRODUCTION

FOREVER WAS IMPOSSIBLE TODAY WAS ENOUGH

There used to be a vintage sign hanging in a bar in Wyoming. It said, "Free Beer Tomorrow." It was funny because tomorrow is always one day away. No matter how long you sit there, no matter how many times you return, the free beer never arrives. The promise keeps moving forward just fast enough to remain true and just far enough away to remain impossible.

I had no idea that an old bar joke would eventually become one of the most serious ideas of my life. When drinking had become part of every day, the thought of never drinking again felt too large to hold. Forever was not inspiring. Forever was crushing. It turned one decision into thousands of decisions and demanded that I win all of them before I had even survived the first day.

So I stopped trying to quit forever. I made myself a different promise: Do not drink today. There will be free beer tomorrow.

I was not declaring that beer had disappeared from the world. I was not trying to convince myself that I would never want another drink. I was delaying one decision for one day. If I could make it until tomorrow, the offer would still be waiting. When tomorrow arrived, I made the same promise again.

The idea worked because tomorrow never became today. The beer was always permitted later, but it was never permitted now. I did not have to defeat the rest of my life before going to bed. I only had to stop surrendering the day directly in front of me.

Daily drinking became daily delaying. Daily delaying became repetition. Repetition created distance, and somewhere inside that distance, God began doing work that willpower alone had never been able to finish. What began as a way to survive one day became the road toward freedom.

This book is not built around the claim that six words are magic. "There will be free beer tomorrow" is not an incantation, a clinical treatment, or a clever loophole that makes addiction harmless. The words mattered because they reduced an impossible future into one act of obedience. They gave me a place to stand while God changed what I believed, what I reached for, and who I was becoming.

Addiction is skilled at using forever against us. It says the craving will never leave, the struggle will never end, and the person we have become is the person we will always be. Then it presents relief as the only rational response to a future that feels unbearable. The lie does not need to control the rest of your life all at once. It only needs permission to control today.

Freedom began the same way. It did not arrive all at once. It asked for today.

That is one reason this story is ultimately about God rather than alcohol. I believe God can do more than help a person manage an addiction forever. I believe He can restore appetite, identity, discipline, clarity, and desire. I believe He can remove chains that have become so familiar we started calling them personality.

That belief does not require me to insult every recovery program, counselor, doctor, meeting, friend, or community that has helped someone stay alive. This book is not an argument against Alcoholics Anonymous or anyone willing to stand beside a person in a fight for freedom. It is my testimony that no addiction deserves permanent ownership of a person's identity and that God is not limited in the ways He can bring healing.

It is also not a medical instruction to stop drinking without help. Alcohol dependence can require professional care, and wisdom is not a lack of faith. God can work through doctors, counselors, programs, family, community, and whatever honest support helps a person move safely toward freedom. This is the story of what happened to me, not permission for someone else to ignore the help they need.

For me, the breakthrough began when I stopped demanding a lifetime guarantee from myself. I had made the challenge so large that failure felt inevitable. Once the goal became today, obedience had somewhere practical to live. I could wake up, make one decision, and make it again when the next urge arrived.

Small decisions are easy to disrespect because they do not look dramatic. There is no audience, no finish line, and often no immediate transformation anyone else can see. But lives rarely collapse in one decision, and they are rarely rebuilt in one decision. Direction is created by what we repeatedly choose when no one is celebrating.

The first delayed drink did not make me sober forever. It made me sober for that moment. The next delay created another moment. Those moments became hours, the hours became days, and the days began forming a life that once felt impossible to imagine.

I did not wake up every morning trying to become a legendary example of self-control. I was learning to trust God with the next decision. Some days the victory was large. Other days the victory was simply reaching the end of the day without doing what I had done the day before. Both counted.

That is why Free Beer Tomorrow cannot be only the story of the day I stopped drinking. There were stories before that day that explain how drinking became daily, how something repeated often enough became normal, and how normal can disguise what is slowly taking control. There are stories within the struggle, and there are stories after sobriety that reveal what freedom required me to face once alcohol was no longer there to interrupt the conversation.

Removing the drink did not remove every problem. Sobriety does not automatically repair every habit, heal every relationship, clarify every calling, or erase every consequence. It gives the truth room to speak. It returns time, awareness, responsibility, and choice. Then the deeper work begins.

That deeper work is part of this book. The transformation was not simply from drinking to not drinking. It was from delaying pain to confronting it, from escaping discomfort to allowing God to use it, and from measuring freedom by what I could avoid to measuring it by who I was becoming.

Most of us have something we keep promising to change tomorrow. Tomorrow I will stop. Tomorrow I will apologize. Tomorrow I will get healthy, become disciplined, repair the damage, tell the truth, or obey God. Usually tomorrow is where responsibility goes to hide. In this story, God took that same word and turned it against the addiction.

The drink could wait until tomorrow. Obedience could not.

You may not be fighting alcohol. Your version may be another substance, a habit, a relationship, anger, food, attention, money, approval, or any pattern that keeps demanding the day in front of you. The details may be different, but the first question is often the same: What if you do not have to conquer forever today? What if you only have to stop handing this moment to the thing that has been controlling you?

This story does not promise that every addiction will disappear quickly or that faith removes the need for support. It offers the hope that today's decision matters, that failure is not identity, that delay can become discipline, and that God can build freedom through acts of obedience too small for anyone else to notice.

The sign in Wyoming was designed to keep free beer permanently out of reach. In my life, it did something else. It kept the next drink one day away until one day became many, the promise lost its power, and tomorrow no longer needed to include beer at all.

My name is Waldon Fenster. I went from daily drinking to daily delaying, and daily delaying became freedom. God did not ask me to carry the rest of my life in one moment. He asked me to trust Him with today.

This is Free Beer Tomorrow. Let's begin.