Lesson

Herb Bearing Seed Is Not a License for Intoxication

Cannabis, *Pharmakeia*, Sobriety, and the Fear of YAH

(KJV, literal, precept upon precept)

Opening Statement

Many people defend cannabis by saying, "It is only an herb." Others say, "It is natural." Others appeal to Genesis and say, "YAH made every herb." But the question is not merely whether cannabis is a plant. The deeper question is this:

What did YAH give herbs for, and what happens when men use what He made in a way that breaks sobriety, weakens discernment, and feeds the flesh?

Yes, cannabis is botanically an herb. But Scripture does not stop at botany. Scripture judges **use**, **fruit**, **sobriety**, **self-control**, **discernment**, and whether a man is walking in the Spirit or making provision for the flesh.

This lesson will show:

- cannabis is an herb in the natural sense
- Genesis 1:29 is a **provision verse**, not a **license verse**
- herbs were given for service, nourishment, and lawful use
- not every use of a created thing is righteous
- the Bible commands sobriety, vigilance, and temperance
- the word often translated sorcery is tied to **pharmakeia**
- there is no difference in principle between getting a buzz from weed and a buzz from drink if the effect is the same: a clouded mind and weakened self-control

---

1. Cannabis Is an Herb — But That Alone Does Not Settle the Matter

Yes, cannabis is an herb in the botanical sense. An herb is simply a soft-stemmed plant rather than a woody plant. But Scripture does not teach that because something is a plant, every use of it is righteous.

The Bible does acknowledge herbs as part of YAH's creation.

Genesis 1:12

"And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good."

Genesis 1:29

"Ge 1:29 (KJV)** And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

Yes. **Cannabis is botanically classified as an herb (a plant).**

More specifically, it is an **herbaceous plant** in the genus **Cannabis**, commonly referred to as:

- *Cannabis sativa*
- *Cannabis indica*
- *Cannabis ruderalis*

An **herb** in botany simply means a plant with **soft stems rather than woody stems**. Many plants that people eat or use medicinally are herbs.

---

1. The Bible mentions herbs many times

Scripture acknowledges that YAH created herbs.

Genesis 1:29

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat."

Genesis 1:12

"And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind…"

Psalm 104:14

"He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man…"

These verses show that herbs were created for the **service or use of mankind**.

---

2. But the Bible does not say every use of every herb is righteous

Scripture recognizes that something created good can still be **misused**.

For example:

- **wine** comes from grapes (a plant), yet drunkenness is condemned.

Proverbs 20:1

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

So the existence of a plant does not automatically make **every way of using it righteous**.

---

3. The key biblical issue is sobriety and self-control

1 Peter 5:8

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Galatians 5:23

Ga 5:23 (KJV) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. The Bible emphasizes:

- sobriety
- vigilance
- temperance
- self-control

So the question Scripture pushes believers to ask is not only:

"Is it a plant?"

but also:

"What does it do to the mind and behavior?"

---

4. Summary

✓ **Yes — cannabis is an herb (a plant).**

✓ The Bible acknowledges herbs were created for the **service of man**.

✓ But Scripture still evaluates **how something is used**, especially when it affects:

- sobriety
- judgment

- self-control
- obedience to YAH.

What Many People Miss in Genesis 1:29 About Herbs

(KJV, literal explanation)

When people discuss cannabis or any intoxicating plant, Genesis 1:29 is often quoted. But the verse contains an important detail that is frequently overlooked.

---

1. What Genesis 1:29 Actually Says

Genesis 1:29

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat."

The key phrase is:

"to you it shall be for meat."

---

2. The Meaning of "Meat" in the Verse

In the King James Bible, the word **meat** does not only mean animal flesh. It often means **food** or nourishment.

So Genesis 1:29 is speaking about:

- herbs used as **food**
- fruits used as **food**

This is why many herbs in Scripture are used as food plants or medicinal plants.

Examples include:

- mint

- dill
- cumin
- bitter herbs
- figs
- olives

---

3. The Focus of Genesis 1:29 Is Nourishment

The verse describes plants given to mankind for **sustenance**.

It is describing plants that:

- nourish
- sustain life
- serve mankind

The verse is not describing plants used to **intoxicate the mind**.

---

4. The Bible Later Warns About Intoxication

Even though plants were created good, Scripture later warns about intoxication.

Proverbs 23:29–30

“Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?
They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.”

Wine itself comes from a plant (grapes), yet misuse of it is condemned.

So the principle becomes clear:

Creation is good, but misuse of creation leads to sin.

---

5. Herbs Were Also Used Medicinally

The Bible also records medicinal use of plants.

Isaiah 38:21

“For Isaiah had said, Let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a plaister upon the boil, and he shall recover.”

Lu 10:34 (KJV) And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

These are examples of herbs or plant products used for **healing**, not intoxication.

---

6. The Overlooked Distinction

Genesis 1:29 shows that herbs were given primarily for:

- food
- nourishment
- service to man

But Scripture consistently commands the servant of YAH to remain **sober**.

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

---

7. The Biblical Principle

A plant being created by YAH does not automatically mean every use of that plant is righteous.

For example:

- grapes are good
- wine exists
- drunkenness is condemned

The same principle applies to any plant that alters the mind.

Deeper Look at Genesis 1:29 — “Herb Bearing Seed”

(KJV, literal explanation)

Yes — there is an important detail in that phrase.

Genesis 1:29

“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.”

The phrase to pay attention to is:

“every herb bearing seed”

---

1. “Herb” in this verse points to vegetation, not automatic permission for every possible use

The Hebrew idea here refers broadly to **green plants/herbs/vegetation** that produce seed. The stress in the verse is not on intoxication, ritual use, or altered states. The stress is on **seed-bearing provision from the earth**.

Notice the pattern in the verse:

- **herb bearing seed**
- **tree yielding fruit**
- **to you it shall be for meat**

That means the emphasis is on **productive plant life given as provision**.

So the point of the verse is not:

- “Whatever grows from the earth may be used however a man wants.”

The point is:

- YAH provided seed-bearing vegetation and fruit-bearing trees as part of man's provision.

---

2. The phrase "bearing seed" highlights reproduction, order, and provision

Genesis keeps repeating the idea of things bringing forth **"after his kind."** That shows order in creation.

Genesis 1:11–12

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.
And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good."

Literal meaning

The emphasis is on:

- created order
- kinds
- reproduction
- provision
- goodness of creation

So when Genesis 1:29 says **"every herb bearing seed"**, it is pointing back to the ordered, fruitful, provisionary design of creation.

---

3. The verse is about what was given for sustenance

Again, the end of the verse explains the purpose:

Genesis 1:29

"…to you it shall be for meat."

As mentioned earlier, **"meat"** here means **food** or **nourishment**.

That matters because it helps define the scope of the statement. The verse is not centered on:

- smoking
- fermenting
- intoxicating
- hallucinating
- abusing substances

It is centered on:

- eating
- provision
- sustenance

So a man cannot honestly take Genesis 1:29 and make it say:
"Any plant can be used in any manner because YAH made it."

That goes beyond the text.

---

4. Scripture itself shows created things can be misused

The fact that YAH created something good does not mean every use of it is righteous.

Romans 1:25

"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

Proverbs 20:1

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

Grapes are part of creation. But intoxicating misuse brings rebuke. So the logic is simple:

- creation is good
- misuse is not good

That same principle applies to herbs.

---

5. “Herb bearing seed” does not cancel later commands about sobriety

Even if a thing is an herb, the later commands still stand.

1 Peter 1:13

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

Ephesians 5:18

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

So no one can use Genesis 1:29 to overthrow the repeated command:
“Be sober.”

If an herb is used in a way that breaks sobriety, then the user is no longer standing on the purpose stressed in Genesis 1:29.

---

6. The seed-bearing language also points to usefulness, not vanity

A seed-bearing plant is a plant with ongoing value in YAH’s created order. It is part of a system of:

- fruitfulness
- increase
- feeding
- continuity of life

That stands opposite to fleshly abuse.

Scripture repeatedly condemns using creation in a way that serves lust rather than righteousness.

Romans 13:13–14

“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

So the issue becomes:
Is the herb being used as part of righteous provision, or as provision for the flesh?

That is a major dividing line.

---

7. Genesis 1:29 gives provision, not a blank check

This is the deeper point many miss.

Genesis 1:29 is a **provision verse**, not a **license verse**.

It tells you:

- YAH gave plant life
- YAH gave seed-bearing herbs
- YAH gave fruit-bearing trees
- these were given for man’s sustenance

It does **not** say:

- every use is holy
- every preparation is righteous
- every effect is acceptable
- every altered state is approved

Men often turn a verse about provision into a permission slip for indulgence. The text does not do that.

---

8. The broader creation language supports responsible use under YAH's order

Psalm 104:14

"He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;"

That verse helps even more, because it explains herb is for **the service of man** and then immediately ties that to **food out of the earth**.

Again, the biblical emphasis is:

- service
- provision
- food
- ordered use

not intoxicated pleasure.

---

9. Final plain meaning

So the deeper detail in **"herb bearing seed"** is this:

The phrase emphasizes **seed-producing plant life in YAH's created order**, given as part of mankind's provision and nourishment. It points to **fruitfulness, order, and sustenance**, not a blanket approval of every way a plant might be used.

That is why Genesis 1:29 cannot be used honestly to defend mind-altering indulgence simply because the source is botanical.

Short conclusion

Genesis 1:29

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed… to you it shall be for meat."

The overlooked point is:

- **“herb bearing seed”** highlights created, fruitful, ordered plant provision
- **“for meat”** shows the purpose is nourishment
- the verse is about **provision**, not intoxication
- later commands to **be sober** still govern how any herb may be used

So yes, cannabis is an herb in the botanical sense. But Genesis 1:29 by itself does **not** prove that using an herb to alter the mind for a buzz is righteous.

If you want, I can turn all of this into a full lesson titled **“Herb Bearing Seed Is Not a License for Intoxication.”**

In the New Testament the word translated **sorcery** is the Greek word **pharmakeia**.

Galatians 5:19–21

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before… that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

The word translated **witchcraft** here is **pharmakeia**.

No Difference in Principle: A Buzz From Weed or Drink Still Breaks Sobriety

(KJV, literal precept-based lesson)

Opening Statement

The question is not merely whether a substance is called **wine**, **strong drink**, or **cannabis**. The deeper question is this:

What does it do to the mind, the judgment, the vigilance, the self-control, and the fear of YAH?

If a thing gives a man a **buzz**, then it is doing something to his mind. It is altering his alertness, softening his restraint, dulling his discernment, or lifting him into a changed state. Scripture

consistently warns the saints to be **sober**, **vigilant**, **temperate**, and **not brought under the power of any**.

So even if the substances are different, the **principle** is the same:

If the effect is intoxication, impairment, or mental alteration for pleasure, then it is moving in the same sinful direction.

---

1. The command is sobriety, not selective intoxication

1 Peter 1:13

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"

1 Peter 5:8

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

1 Thessalonians 5:6

"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

1 Thessalonians 5:8

"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

Literal meaning

The Bible does not say:

- be sober from alcohol but not from other intoxicants
- avoid wine but allow another buzz
- reject drunkenness but permit another form of mental impairment

The command is broader:

“Be sober.”

That means the saint is commanded to guard the mind, not merely switch substances.

---

2. Scripture contrasts drunkenness with being filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

Literal meaning

This verse gives a direct contrast:

- **not drunk with wine**
- **but be filled with the Spirit**

The issue is not only the liquid itself. The issue is the state produced by it.

If a man says, “I am not drunk with wine, only high from weed,” he has not fulfilled the principle of the verse. He is still seeking altered feeling rather than sobriety.

The saint is not told:

- avoid one intoxicant and take another

The saint is told:

- **do not be drunk**
- **be filled with the Spirit**

---

3. Drunkenness is condemned because of its effect on the mind and conduct

Proverbs 20:1

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

Proverbs 23:29–35

“Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?
They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.
Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.
At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.
Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.
Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.
They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.”

Literal meaning

Why is wine rebuked here?

Because it:

- deceives
- disorders judgment
- loosens speech
- inflames lust
- disturbs perception
- creates bondage

Those same kinds of effects are exactly why a “buzz” is spiritually dangerous, whether from drink or weed.

The specific substance may differ, but the issue remains:
the mind is being tampered with.

---

4. The Bible condemns works of the flesh, including drunkenness, because they weaken holy self-control

Galatians 5:19–21

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
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.”

Galatians 5:22–23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Literal meaning

Drunkenness belongs to the flesh.
Temperance belongs to the Spirit.

So the real issue is not:

- “Is this wine?”
- “Is this weed?”
- “Is this legal?”
- “Is this natural?”

The real issue is:
Does this produce temperance or does it weaken temperance?

A buzz does not strengthen self-control.
A buzz is the softening of self-control.

---

5. YAH forbade intoxicating influence in holy service because it corrupts discernment

Leviticus 10:8–11

“And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying,
Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:
And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses."

Literal meaning

Why were they forbidden to drink wine or strong drink before ministering?

Because they needed to:

- discern holy from unholy
- discern clean from unclean
- teach correctly

That means intoxication interferes with:

- judgment
- discernment
- holy service

So if weed produces the same practical result — clouded perception, relaxed restraint, altered judgment — then in principle it belongs in the same forbidden direction.

---

6. Scripture rebukes prophets and priests who err through strong drink

Isaiah 28:7

"But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment."

Literal meaning

The problem here is not merely that a bottle exists.
The problem is that intoxication causes them to:

- err
- get out of the way
- stumble in judgment

If cannabis gives a buzz that causes the same kind of dulled discernment, then the spiritual issue is the same.

---

7. The Holy Spirit is never presented as requiring intoxication

Acts 2:1–4

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 2:13–15

“Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.
But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:
For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.”

Literal meaning

When people thought the apostles were drunk, Peter denied it.

“These are not drunken.”

That settles an important principle:
The moving of the Holy Spirit is not to be confused with intoxication.

So a person cannot justify a buzz by acting like altered consciousness is spiritual.

---

8. John the Baptist is an example of separation from intoxicants and filling of the Holy Ghost

Luke 1:15

“For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.”

Literal meaning

Notice how the verse puts these together:

- **drink neither wine nor strong drink**
- **shall be filled with the Holy Ghost**

This is not accidental.
Scripture shows separation from intoxicants and filling with the Spirit together, not intoxication and filling with the Spirit together.

---

9. The saint is not to be brought under the power of any substance

1 Corinthians 6:12

“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”

Literal meaning

A buzz is usually pursued because a person wants:

- relief
- escape
- elevation
- calm
- pleasure
- detachment

But if a substance becomes the tool by which a person manages life, feelings, fear, stress, or pleasure, then it is beginning to have **power** over that person.

Scripture says:
"I will not be brought under the power of any."

That condemns bondage, even where men make excuses for it.

---

10. Rebellion and witchcraft are connected, and intoxication often helps rebellion

1 Samuel 15:23

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."

Literal meaning

This verse shows that witchcraft is not only about rituals and spells. It is also about the deeper spirit of:

- self-will
- refusal of YAH's order
- stubbornness

Why does this matter here?

Because many use intoxicants not for righteousness, but to:

- escape conviction
- silence conscience
- avoid pain without repentance
- relax into disobedience
- chase feeling instead of discipline

That serves rebellion, not obedience.

---

11. The body and mind belong to YAH, not to chemical control

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Literal meaning

If the body is YAH’s temple, then the question is not:

- “Can I get away with this?”
- “Is this less bad than alcohol?”
- “Is it only a little buzz?”

The question is:
Does this glorify YAH in the body and in the spirit?

A man should not offer YAH a clouded temple.

---

12. Those who live by fleshly indulgence destroy watchfulness

Romans 13:13–14

“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

Literal meaning

To seek a buzz is often to make provision for the flesh.

It is planning for:

- sensation
- loosening
- indulgence
- altered ease

But Scripture says:
“make not provision for the flesh.”

---

13. Pharmakeia shows that Scripture also warns about drug-related corruption

Galatians 5:20

“Idolatry, witchcraft…”

Revelation 18:23

“For by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.”

Revelation 21:8

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Literal meaning

The word translated **witchcraft/sorceries** is tied to **pharmakeia**, which has to do with drug mixtures, potions, poisoning, and corrupting influence.

This does not mean every medicinal use of a plant is sorcery. But it absolutely does mean Scripture is not casual about mind-altering, deceptive, or enslaving use of substances.

If weed is used to get high, get buzzed, relax the conscience, alter perception, or feed the flesh, then it is moving in the direction Scripture warns against.

---

14. The real issue is not the label of the substance but the state of the soul

A man may say:

- “I don’t get drunk, I just smoke.”

- “I don’t black out, I just get buzzed.”
- “It’s natural.”
- “It’s medicine.”
- “It helps me relax.”

But Scripture asks higher questions:

- Are you sober?
- Are you vigilant?
- Are you temperate?
- Are you under its power?
- Are you making provision for the flesh?
- Are you clouding a mind that should be girded up?

That is where the judgment lies.

---

15. Plain conclusion

There is **no difference in principle** between getting a buzz from weed and getting a buzz from drink if the effect is the same:

- altered mind
- weakened sobriety
- lowered vigilance
- softened self-control
- fleshly indulgence
- dependence on a substance instead of steadfastness in YAH

The Bible’s standard is not:
avoid one intoxicant but replace it with another.

The Bible’s standard is:

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober, be vigilant…”

Ephesians 5:18

“And be not drunk with wine… but be filled with the Spirit;”

Galatians 5:23

“Meekness, temperance…”

1 Corinthians 6:12

“…I will not be brought under the power of any.”

So if weed gives a buzz, and drink gives a buzz, and both move the mind away from sobriety, then in biblical principle they stand under the same rebuke.

An Exhortation

The servant of YAH is called to:

- a clear mind
- a sober spirit
- temperance
- vigilance
- obedience
- discernment

Anything that clouds that for pleasure is not helping holiness.

A saint should not ask,
“How much can I alter my mind and still be acceptable?”

He should ask,
“How can I keep my mind clear before YAH at all times?”

1 Peter 1:13

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober…”

Sabbath Lesson Addendum

Mind-Altering Substances and Spiritual Warfare

How Altered Consciousness Opens the Door to Deception

After understanding that Scripture commands sobriety, another dimension must be considered: **spiritual warfare**. The Bible teaches that believers are engaged in a constant spiritual conflict. Anything that weakens vigilance or clouds discernment creates vulnerability.

---

1. The Bible Teaches That the Mind Must Remain Guarded

The mind is the place where temptation, deception, and spiritual influence operate.

1 Peter 1:13

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"

1 Peter 5:8

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

These verses connect two commands:

- **sobriety**
- **vigilance**

Why?

Because the adversary looks for moments when vigilance is lowered.

A mind that is clouded or relaxed into intoxication is not a vigilant mind.

---

2. Spiritual Warfare Requires Clear Discernment

Ephesians 6:11–12

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

This shows that the believer is not merely fighting physical temptations but **spiritual forces**.

To stand against deception, the mind must be:

- alert
- disciplined
- sober
- spiritually discerning

Anything that weakens those qualities weakens spiritual defense.

---

3. Intoxication Weakens Judgment and Self-Control

The Bible repeatedly warns that intoxicating influence causes people to **err in judgment**.

Isaiah 28:7

"But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink… they err in vision, they stumble in judgment."

Notice the effects:

- they **err in vision**
- they **stumble in judgment**

This principle applies to anything that produces intoxication or a "buzz." When judgment is dulled, spiritual discernment is weakened.

---

4. The Mind Is the Battlefield of Spiritual Warfare

2 Corinthians 10:4–5

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;
Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

Spiritual warfare involves controlling the **thought life**.

The believer must bring every thought into obedience to the Messiah. A clouded or altered mind makes that discipline harder.

---

5. Mind-Altering States Can Lower Spiritual Guard

When people pursue intoxication, they often seek:

- escape from stress
- emotional relief
- altered perception
- relaxation of restraint

But these altered states also reduce **alertness and restraint**, which are precisely the qualities Scripture commands believers to maintain.

1 Thessalonians 5:6–8

“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”

Here sobriety is directly connected to **spiritual watchfulness**.

---

6. The Bible Never Links the Holy Spirit With Intoxication

When people thought the apostles were drunk at Pentecost, Peter corrected them.

Acts 2:15

“For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.”

The presence of the Holy Spirit does not require intoxication or altered consciousness.

Instead, Scripture repeatedly connects the Spirit with:

- self-control
- clarity
- discernment

Galatians 5:22–23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

The key word here is **temperance**, meaning self-control.

---

7. The Body and Mind Are the Temple of YAH

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you… and ye are not your own?
For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Because the believer’s body and mind belong to YAH, they must not be surrendered to substances that cloud judgment or weaken vigilance.

---

8. Spiritual Warfare Requires Self-Control

The believer is commanded not to be controlled by substances.

1 Corinthians 6:12

“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient… I will not be brought under the power of any.”

If a substance produces dependence or controls a person’s state of mind, then it is exercising power over them.

That is the opposite of spiritual freedom.

---

9. The Real Danger Is a Lowered Spiritual Guard

The core issue in spiritual warfare is **exposure**.

Anything that:

- dulls discernment
- weakens self-control
- lowers vigilance
- clouds judgment

makes a person more vulnerable to deception.

This is why Scripture repeatedly commands believers to remain **sober and watchful**.

Final Exhortation

The servant of YAH is called to maintain:

- a clear mind
- spiritual alertness
- self-control
- vigilance

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”