News 21 November 2026 | English article

Ben Fuller Says Jesus Met Him at the Back of the Church After 14 Years of Cocaine

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Weekend warrior"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Ben Fuller, the Christian singer with the gravel voice and the tattooed hands, spent 14 years on cocaine and alcohol - and at 16 he put a gun in his mouth and tried to end his life. He tells the story himself, plainly, in a testimony he delivered inside Angola State Prison this month and in a podcast published on 15 November 2026: the gun hit the ground, God had other plans, and years later Jesus met him at the back of a small church in Nashville, under the exit sign, while he was ready to run.

Fuller grew up on a dairy farm in southern Vermont, bailing hay, loving country music, and working hard. His father was tough and never said "I love you", and the boy who heard that silence every day carried it into everything that followed.

At 16, convinced he was unloved, he placed a gun in his mouth to die. Then, he says, a sudden vision of his life flashing forward - his own funeral - stopped him. The gun hit the ground.

The rescue did not fix everything at once. Fuller went on to 14 years of cocaine and alcohol use and promiscuity, working as a stonemason and calling himself a "weekend warrior" while telling himself he was not an addict.

The cocaine hangovers, the dangerous drink-driving, the endless cycle of shame and promises to quit - all of it followed him 1,250 miles when he moved from Vermont to Nashville, Tennessee, chasing music. The addiction moved with him.

What changed was an invitation. A family from Vermont who had moved to Tennessee invited him to dinner, and then to church.

In 2019 he walked into that church and felt, in his words, "like a warm blanket from heaven". Worship leader John Reddick was singing "God Turn It Around", and Fuller says that was the moment God gave him his voice.

He stood under the exit sign, ready to bolt - and instead experienced what he calls "the highest high" of his life, sober, during worship.

He broke down and cried out, "Jesus, just help me," and surrendered. What followed was baptism, a shift in his songwriting, and eventually a Christian music career built on the story he had lived. His breakout single "Who I Am" carries the same message he now preaches between songs: identity in Christ, not in the bottle or the past.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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