

9 YEARS OF RUNNING FROM THE LORD



I HAD BEEN PRAYING EVERY DAY TO THE LORD, FOR HIM TO HELP ME SOME WAY, SOME HOW OR THROUGH SOMEONE AND FINALLY THE LORD DID. HE SENT AN OLD FRIEND TO CONTACT ME BY PHONE, AND MAN WAS MY LIFE CHANGED FOR EVER!

IN 1991 I WAS INCARCERATED FOR 11 MONTHS ON A 6 YEAR SENTENCE THAT I HAD PLEA BARGAINED DOWN FROM 10. WHILE IN T.D.C. I LOST MY WIFE TO CANCER ALONG WITH TWO OTHER RELATIVES ALL IN THE SAME YEAR.

BUT GOD NEVER LEFT ME. I STARTED TO ATTEND THE CHURCH SERVICES WHILE INCARCERATED AND THROUGH THE HELP OF THE CHAPLAIN AND OFFICER, I WAS ABLE TO VENT MY HURT ALONE AND QUIETLY.

I HAD THREE 6 YEAR SENTENCES RUNNING CONCURRENT WHICH MEANT I WAS ONLY TO DO TIME ON A 6 YEAR SENTENCE. BUT SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH THE PAPERWORK. I PRAYED AND THROUGH THE HELP OF A WRIT-WRITER (inmate lawyer) I WAS RELEASED. I CAME OUT JAN. 1992.

BUT I FORGOT WHAT THE LORD DID FOR ME WHILE I WAS LOCKED UP AND THE MANY SERVICES I ATTENDED, ONLY TO COME OUT TO LIVE MY LIFE MY WAY. WELL IN 1993 I WAS RE- ARRESTED.

I WAS STILL ON PAROLE AND HAD PICKED UP 5 NEW CHARGES AND WAS SENT TO THE COUNTY WHERE I AM FROM, AWAITING TRIAL, BUT GOD HAD HIS HANDS ON MY LIFE AGAIN.

I ATTENDED SERVICES WHILE IN THE COUNTY JAIL FOR THOSE SIX MONTHS UNTIL GOD ONCE AGAIN OPENED THE DOORS FOR ME. I WAS ACQUITTED OF THE CHARGES AND LET OUT ON PAROLE AGAIN.

I CAME OUT AND STARTED TO LIVE MY LIFE MY WAY AGAIN. I HAD FORGOTTEN ALL THE SERVICES I HAD ATTENDED, THE PRAYER REQUESTS I HAD MADE AND MOST OF ALL I FORGOT GOD AGAIN. I USED HIM LIKE A LIGHT SWITCH, ON AND OFF.

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UNTIL 1995, I WAS REINCARCERATED THIS TIME WAS FOR THE REMAINDER OF MY SENTENCE. I HAD LEFT PAROLE. I NEVER ONCE REMEMBERED GOD, I WAS ANGRY AT MYSELF, AT THE WORLD, AT EVERYTHING AS ALWAYS. IT WASN'T MY FAULT, SO I THOUGHT.

I ENDED UP DOING 4 AND A HALF YEARS STRAIGHT, ONCE AGAIN THE LAST 2 YEARS I SETTLED DOWN. I ATTENDED CHURCH SERVICES AGAIN IN 1998 WENT THROUGH A RIOT BUT WAS UNHARMED. I WAS SEGREGATED FOR A WHILE AND WAS PEGGED TO BE GANG AFFILIATED. BUT THE LORD HELPED ME OUT OF THAT SITUATION UNTIL I MADE OUTSIDE TRUSTEE STATUS.

BUT ONCE AGAIN I WAS RELEASED, 4-1--2000, ONLY TO FORGET ALL THAT GOD HAD DONE FOR ME. I WAS PARTYING, LIVING MY WAY, I HAD MANY GOOD PAYING JOBS, WOMEN, YOU NAME IT. THE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL WAS LORD OF MY LIFE AGAIN UNTIL I HIT ROCK BOTTOM!

I STARTED TO LOSE MY JOBS, MY RELATIONSHIPS EVERYTHING AROUND ME WAS CRUMBLING DOWN.

UNTIL THAT ONE DAY OUT OF THE BLUE A FRIEND CALLED ASKED ME IF I WOULD ATTEND CHURCH WITH HIM. TO MY SURPRISE HE HAD RE-DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO JESUS AND ONLY ASKED IF I WANTED TO ATTEND. BUT PRIOR TO THIS JESUS HAD BEEN KNOCKING ON THE DOOR TO MY HEART BUT I WOULDN'T LET HIM IN. (YOU SEE THE DOOR HAS ONLY ONE DOOR KNOB AND IT'S ON YOUR SIDE NOT HIS). WELL I STARTED TO HELP OUT THE CHURCH. THEY NEEDED SOME REMODELING SO I VOLUNTEERED TO HELP

UNTIL ONE SATURDAY AFTER THE WORK, INSIDE, WE SAT DOWN TO TALK. THE PASTOR, MY FRIEND AND MYSELF WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, I JUST BROKE DOWN INTO TEARS. I FELT EVERY HEAVINESS LIFTED.

IMMEDIATELY THE PASTOR AND MY FRIEND STARTED TO LAY HANDS ON ME, TO PRAY AND EVER SINCE THAT DAY I RE-DEDICATED MY LIFE TO CHRIST TO SERVE HIM TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I DIDN'T MENTION BUT IF I DID THE BOOK WOULD BE ENDLESS. BUT JESUS IS REAL IF ONLY YOU STOP RUNNING AND LET HIM WALK BESIDE YOU AND LET HIM GUIDE YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!!

I BASE MY MINISTRY ON THESE SCRIPTURES: ACTS 1:8 AND HEBREWS 13:3!!!!

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