

TESTIMONY OF MORRIS

I've done so many things that counted for nothing. I always rebelled against my father, who was a preacher, and grew up believing nothing could touch me. I started by forging checks. Checks led to credit card crimes. The Feds got me on forgery and possession of marijuana. But that didn't teach me anything. I still didn't believe anything really bad could happen to me. I was on a high horse of pride. I was an idol unto myself.

I got out of prison and decided 9 to 5 work wasn't going to earn me the kind of money I was used to. I was in so much pain, and had so much hurt; I picked up where I left off and got arrested again. The cycle continued. Out of jail, than back in. And always the same feeling of not being able to forgive myself for shaming my family. I was so tired of my life. I hit bottom after getting arrested yet again. I wanted to die so badly, I said to God, "You've got to give me something to hold onto because I can't go on." I even thought of suicide which was really wrong. I kept hearing this whisper to do it. Now I know it was the Devil's whisper.

My celli had a Bible and I opened it to Isaiah 54:7-9 and read words that burned into my heart. "For a brief moment I left you. But because I love you so much, I will bring you back. For a moment I turned my face away from you. I was very angry with you. But I will show you my loving concern. My faithful love will continue forever." That was the beginning. There were more ups and downs. I had messed up my life from age 24 to 38. It was time to stop testing God and to trust Him with every part of my life. At a chapel service, this tall dude gave a sermon that opened my eyes like never before. It was on spiritual warfare. I had never heard that kind of preaching where he backed everything up with verse and scripture. He exposed the devil, his tricks and lies with scripture. He showed us that we can be overcomers, but we needed to tear down strongholds that the devil had on us. He tickled me when he said, "tell yourself the truth, don't nurse it, curse it, or rehearse it...only God can reverse it." He gave each of us what he called God's Arsenal Prayer and encouraged us to pray it daily. I have done this. My faith and confidence in the Lord increased the moment I left that service. I pray this prayer daily and spend a lot of time in the word of God. He challenged us, which we needed.

I'm looking forward to starting over. I really believe my life up until now was orchestrated by God to bring me to Him. I'm going to serve Him after I leave here. That preacher man said that we were all called to serve. There are a lot of young people out there living like I did. God can do the same thing for them that He did for me. I believe I can show them the way to the cross. I did so many things in my life that counted for nothing. Now my life is filled with joy as I follow Him.