

TESTIMONY OF IVAN CISNEROS

Dear Brother Mel,

I'm writing to convey to you my gratitude to God and to you for your presence here at Pelican Bay State Penitentiary. You have been a blessing to me and all the brothers here. Even though you have left, we still talk about you and the awesome word you gave us from the Holy Spirit. For that I am truly thankful. There is no doubt in my mind that you're a faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ. You walk the walk, and not just talk the talk. We learned from you to press on and stand against the wiles of the devil. We are praying the Arsenal Prayer daily, just as you encouraged us. Our shield is **UP** Brother Mel.

During the three days that you were here, I got to know a little bit about you, and I know that God is doing a wonderful and beautiful miracle through your prison ministry. I have also taken this time to get fully right with God. Like you said, yesterday is gone and tomorrow is not promised; what am I going to do with today? At one point, I was behaving like Jonah and running from God and it took something so drastic such as coming to this maximum security prison to realize what God wanted for my life. You told me to heed my calling. I am and I will!

Listening to you preach has helped me in many ways. Through the help of the Holy Spirit I bind up in Jesus name, any fears and confusion that I had about doing the Lord's work. I used to think that if I got my college education that I was going to be successful, so I went to school, but I still felt empty — Who was I kidding? Only Jesus can fulfill and satisfy that thirst and hunger for righteousness. You impressed on us that Jesus never leaves us nor forsakes us. That gives me peace and knowing that He has a plan and purpose for me.

Brother, I want you to know that my incarceration has not been in vain. I've taken this time to prepare for the real battle. This place has been my boot camp, my training grounds. I agree with you when you said, "if you reap a thought, you sow an action; if you reap an action, you sow a habit, and if you reap a habit you sow character." It all starts in the mind. I just hope and pray that my other brothers in here realize that as well.

Thanks again for all your help. You are God's vessel and I want you to know how much I appreciate you coming here and speaking to all of us. Know that from now on you will be in my prayers and I hope that our Lord continues to give you many more years of life. God bless you! You are a treasure to the lost that are imprisoned. Blessings from Pelican Bay.