



## Milton, FL

My name is David and I am 28 years old. I am currently serving a natural life sentence in the Florida Dept. of Corrections. I have lived a hard life, and I have lived a life of sin, and godlessness. I dedicated my life to gang activity when I was 14 years old. When I came to prison at 18 years old and began serving my life sentence, I consider myself to be a lost soul with nothing to live for. I became addicted to drugs in prison and I have lived the hardcore life of an addict / gang banger, all while in prison. I became a "hit man" for my gang, and I would look for any little reason just to hurt other people. I have done some wicked, evil things in my life. I have spent a lot of years locked down in segregation due to my violent behavior. I destroyed relationships with family and friends, to the point where I found myself all alone, with nobody in my corner. No mail, no visits, no contact with the outside world. The outside world had finally abandoned me, all because of the lifestyle I chose to live. I finally broke down and asked God to come into my life. I earnestly began to seek Him and felt a sincere desire to "know" my Creator, and not just "believe" in Him. "Believing" in God" and "knowing God" are two very different things. To "know" God is to have a relationship with Him, and to keep an open dialogue with God through prayer and keeping Him first in life. I began to study His Word, and I

will admit, there are a lot of things I don't understand and struggle to wrap my mind around. I am no expert, and have no great skill at breaking down the Bible and have the Bible. But I seek the truth, and trust in God every day that He will guide me in my journey as I seek Him. What is my relationship like with Christ Jesus today? Well, to answer that will explain what I have learned in my journey and what I believe to be the truth: #1 I believe that Jesus Christ is a Prophet and messenger of God. I believe that Jesus was sent to make the world a better place, and He was sent to bring back the people who have gone astray from God's Word, and bring them back into God's arms. #2 I believe that Jesus is the living, breathing Word of God in the flesh. His birth from a virgin mother was divinely ordained. He is the literal Word of God. #3 I believe Jesus is the "Messiah", and is the "Anointed One" that was prophesied to come in Isaiah 9:6-7; and Psalms 2. #4 I believe that the Gospel of Jesus, the message He brought to us, the way He lived His life, if we follow His footsteps, and strive to follow the path He gave us, His way, His Gospel will lead us to salvation. I try to follow, to the best of my abilities, the path of righteousness, but as some people do, I stumble and fall occasionally. We have all fallen short of God's glory. But I know that God is most merciful, and His love for me is greater than any love I could ever receive in the world. I know if I seek His face, and repent with true

sincerity in my heart, God will forgive me, and will never stop loving me. I can see all of the changes that He has brought to my life since I invited Him into my heart and started praying regularly, and give Him the glory He deserves. I am a witness that the power and blessings of God are real. God can heal us. He can hear us. He can save us. And He loves us. If we call out to God and ask Him to come into our hearts, He will answer. He has a higher purpose for all of us. We may not always understand His purpose or the things He may put us through in order to shape and mold us into the person He wants us to be; but, if we trust in Him, and let Him guide us, He will lead us home, and we will accomplish great things in this world. I am a firm believer and a witness to His power and His love. If you take one step towards God, He will take two steps towards you. "Trust in him and lean not unto your own understanding" Proverbs 3:5.

**D. M.**

## Delano, CA

I grew up in church but lost my faith when my mother died. I was 12 years old. I sort of hated God at that time though. It was sick to give something so beautiful as a mother only to take her away. I thought He must not exist, or if He did, He was a bad person. Life was meaningless for me. I started getting high and committing crime, acting out, being a bad boy, and idolizing gangsters. One day, I

met a guy who was nice and helpful. I thought maybe he was a weirdo or a homosexual, so I asked him why he was being nice to me and helping me. He said it was because God loved him, and he couldn't help but love me. It was God's love flowing from him to me. I bristled and asked him to not talk about God to me. One day I was kidnapped, but got away with my life. I didn't know who to thank. I called my friend and he picked me up and took me to his house and told me to pray. I just said "Who do I thank?" That's when I heard a voice. He said "Who else?" When I heard His voice it was like an awakening, a rebirth, a new perspective. Just hearing that voice I went from not believing to knowledge. I know for sure He exists now. I felt all the guilt in that moment, cursing Him, talking bad about Him, not believing in Him, doubting Him. I felt horrible. All the guilt from my life in a moment. My knees buckled, I put a hand on my crushed heart and said "I'm sorry". Just like that - it was all taken away, He said "You're forgiven". I felt bliss, peace, joy- like I would float away. I said "What do you want me to do for you Jesus?" He said just live for me. Now my life has meaning, and I feel the Father's love. I read the Bible, my faith is stronger than ever, I'm so happy. I continue growing. I can never be the same. Jesus is the Son of God, the one mentioned all throughout the Bible, who hovered over waters, came as a

burning bush, saved His people, promised to die on the cross, and came in the person of Jesus. One God, the same forever. We await his return. **M.R.**

#### **Gatesville, TX**

I used to be one way, and now I am completely different, not who I remember myself to be. Others that know me here tell me that I am changed, more calm and at peace. My entire family, except one, my youngest child that has been loyal with unconditional love all these years, await my arrival back into my hometown and state, so we can begin our new life as a mother and daughter. We last saw each other October 2015. My other daughter, my oldest son, and my brother and sister have completely been distant, no contact. I can honestly tell you that I truly am alive and healthy today because of Jesus. I never knew Him personally until I came to Texas. I always had a religion to follow. I now know that it was God who saved me and brought me here to save me and reclaim my life. I participated in a faith-based program for 27 months, and was taught so much and had many godly mentors, classes, studies, and a strong support system. God has shown me, as His word tells us, that He will put the destitute in families, and His spirit will teach us all things. I have surrendered my life to the Lordship of my Savior Jesus Christ and love Him with all my heart. I am experiencing the presence of God every day, and learning to cope with anything

through prayer and His Word and meditating on all His promises. I believe and trust God, with my children and grandchildren, and pray for restoration and healing in my family. I pray that He would heal us from anxiety, panic attacks, any fears that have been present through generations. I have been healed of anger, bitterness, guilt, shame, the list goes on. I now know who I am, and who loves me. I will never be alone as He has promised to restore my life, and He is showing me daily how to cope and help others. I now know without a doubt Jesus is with me and loves me. I look forward to my children's response to a new mom. Praise the Lord!  
**L.D.**

#### **Isaiah 43:2-5**

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

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