



True forgiveness

When I woke this morning, this is what you said to me, you've got to share with others, true forgiveness is the key.

That weight will be lifted, off our shoulders pulled away, when our lives will be shifted, each day, a new beginning.

With all the pain and sorrow, we want to pack around, if we but let it go, we stand firm on solid ground.

There is no better feeling, than obedience to our Lord, no matter what life is offering, He is the only True Road.

So when you've had enough, with nowhere else to go, when life appears to be hopeless, look to the Cross, then you will know!!
W. K.

Woodville, MS

As my life came crumbling down... Again, I found life to be hopeless. Like a ton of bricks crashing down, I lost it all, even the simple day to day necessary items like Bible, deodorant, soap, pictures, letters, and cards. Shower shoes, clothes, family, and the peace I once had. On January 1, 2023, I slit my throat in hopes to never come back to this evil I lived. Rushed to the ER, stitched up, alone in an empty cell, I hit my knees, and began to cry out to God, "Please help me." (It seems we often cry to God when all has

failed when we should, in fact, keep praying, even in good, easy times) I started asking God to come back into my life, wash me with the blood, purify me like gold, temper me like steel... And it was as though God came into my 8 x 12 cell and spoke directly to me. "I can hear you, I feel you, Lord, what must I do?" He answered, "Follow me, son, and I will heal you." "How Lord, my health, family, friends, material goods, even Bible, state issued clothing, poems, music, pictures, all gone." "Follow me," He said again. So I talked with God and cried - boy did I. I laughed, singing How Great Thou Art, got up, washed my face and went to my cell door. I asked if anyone had a Bible I could read. Praise God I got one. A guy a few cells down gave me a new NLT New and Old Testament Bible to keep. I sat here, reading, all my favorite Scriptures, marking verse after verse with a red colored pencil I'd found. And on January 2, 2023, I vowed to submit to God with a whole heart and new purpose, other than my own selfish ambition. To follow him.

Now, I grew up in church, fell off track 1,000 times, but that day it felt different. I knew I meant it this time and was ready to serve God with a pure heart. In two months, I get out of max lockdown. I'm going back to general prison and will go into the prison ministry to preach the good news. I know my purpose, found potentials I was always told I had,

and more ready to follow God's will now than ever. And despite the loss, I am slowly gaining ground in getting what I need. One guy just gave me pen and paper, another gave me a deodorant, I got a snack earlier and found your address to share God's unfailing love. **J.L.**

Canton, IL

My testimony comes with a lot of ups and downs. I'm happy to say I grew up in a loving Christian home, and I was the black sheep of the family. At a young age I was in a gang, sometimes I'd ask myself why I didn't need protection. I guess to be honest, at that age I just liked to fight. Why? Well, I don't know why, but thank God I didn't like drinking or smoking. As time passed, I got in a lot of trouble going to jail a lot, and every time I was in front of the judge, I'd look back, and my mother was always there with tears in her eyes. As I think about it, it makes me sad. More time passed, and thank God I got out of the gang but I was still acting bad. Then my life went straight down, arrested for a crime I didn't commit. They took me to the county jail, so, like about a month in, I was in this cold cell by myself. It was very silent in the middle of the night, I could hear only the sound of wind blowing (my window was cracked). So, I was in a roller coaster of mixed emotions, asking myself a million questions. I decided to do something I have never done. Pray. So in that dark cold cell, I got on my knees and while I don't think it was

the correct way to talk to God, but being honest, I told God, "You talk to me, or I will 'turn up'" (that's like act bad). I realized I was telling God with tears in my eyes, then I heard something. I was surprised, so I got up fast and looked out my cell window. The CO officer hadn't come in and the TV had been off. I noticed that it (the tv) was on. I asked myself, how did it go on when there was no one there? So I started listening, and I don't remember word for word, but it went something like this: "Listen to me. You. Yes you. You feel like you hit rock-bottom, like there's no way out. Where ever you are listening, God has been calling you. He has tried to get your attention, but you don't want to listen. Whatever you are doing, wherever you are, in a closet, in a jail cell, God wants your full attention. He wants your all. (At this point I broke down in tears, remembering a big testimony, a big event, that God saved my life, and four other people in the car with me. No joke, He really saved our lives!). So, I kept listening to the pastor on TV. He said, pray with me, if you don't know how to pray, repeat after me. At this point my heart was pounding fast I knew that my life was about to change. He prayed the prayer of accepting Christ Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I felt a big, big heavy load fall off my back. (Honestly I did!) In the morning, I ran to the phone and called my mom and told her that I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and that I wanted her to send me a Bible. She was so, so, so happy that she started thanking God and said, "Yes, I'll send

you one, first class, overnight shipping." So I got it fast. I started reading and reading. Almost 5 years later, and I'm still going strong for God in Jesus name! I'm holding onto Him, or maybe He's the one holding me together. This sounds crazy, but coming to jail is one of the best things that has happened to me. I needed this anchor. Sorry, my spelling is bad, but I needed this [anchor] in my life. This makes me think of Jacob, when he wrestled with God, and after he walked with a limp, so he could never run from God, and a reminder, God is good, and that's coming from my heart! I look at this like a brand-new beginning. The lower I am the bigger my testimony will be. Well, thank you for your time and God bless you all. **J. L.**

Marlin, TX

Hello, my name is Melinda Kay Nugent. I am currently doing 12 years and 13 years concurrently for drugs. I am 44 years old. I have three daughters - 23, 22, and 19. I have a one year-old grandson. I have been saved since I was 11 years. Fell away from God, behind a guy I thought loved me. It did nothing but get me my first prison sentence in 2009. I was on a rapid downward spiral after my mom died in 2003. I got clean 13 years ago last April. Yes, I was clean, but selling drugs. I was on fire for God for a while. Found another guy who played a great show of being on fire for God too, but wasn't. Long story short, here I am. Lost everything and back in prison. My youngest daughter graduated, but I missed it... had a baby, but I missed it. I have turned my life even to God again, for only

the Lord knows why I am going through battle after battle. Yet, every day I try and be positive. The devil keeps trying to trip me up daily, but he fails each time. I am claiming that by Fall I'll be in the faith-based dorm, getting close to God and my walk getting stronger and stronger each day. I am also claiming this time next year I'll be holding my grandson and telling my entire story to women like I used to be. **M. N.**

"Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." **Isaiah 41:9-10**

He began His ministry by being hungry, yet He is the Bread of Life.

Jesus ended His earthly ministry by being thirsty, yet He is the Living Water.

Jesus was weary, yet He is our rest. Jesus paid tribute, yet He is the King. Jesus was accused of having a demon, yet He cast out demons.

Jesus wept, yet He wipes away our tears.

Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver, yet He redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, yet He is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus died, yet by His death He destroyed the power of death.

Gregory of Nazianzus, A.D. 381.

Send your testimony letters to:

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