

(Share this with a friend)

Summer 2018

Prison Epistles

WHY DO PEOPLE TAKE DRUGS?



A man who had been a national gang leader and spent over 42 years in prison (over 11 years in solitary confinement) was asked this question.

HERE WAS HIS ANSWER...

"God created man with a void in his life that only God can fill and for a myriad of reasons some of us looked to fill this void in all the wrong places. The lesson I learned is that nothing in the world will ever truly satisfy us. Nothing in this world will ever make us complete. Only One Person

can do that and it is God Himself in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit."

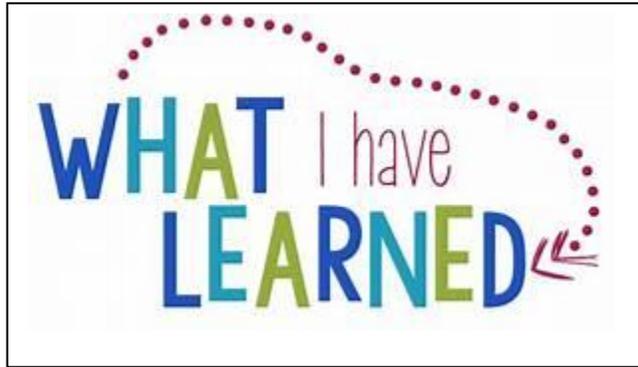
This man learned this by experience and after many years of crime and drug addiction, he was given a Bible one day and he saw for the first time what Jesus Christ had done for him. He cried out to God for forgiveness of his many sins and was given amazing peace and personal fellowship with Almighty God!

He discovered that the Bible was true and his life was finally filled with the love and grace of God that changed everything into that which he had been seeking all those years!

You may write to this brother in Christ:
JUAN R. AGUILAR,
P.O. Box 1181, Joshua, TX 76058

You're Not Alone

I've always believed in God and I have always been interested in church and learning about Jesus. Since I was a little girl, I have had the desire to go to church and be in Bible study. When I was in Awanas as a young girl, the teachers had us memorize Bible verses and in return we would receive a patch for our vests and a new level in the club. I wanted to be the best at memorizing those verses. As I sit here in these "shackles" and ponder on the subject, I realize that it wasn't about earning a new patch at all. Knowing the word of God in your heart builds confidence in yourself and will also prepare you for the Devil's attacks. Because they will come. But with the help and comfort of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, we don't have to fight this fight alone anymore. And that feeling I get in knowing that He is there with me through it all, gives me a peace that surpasses all understanding. It amazes me that even though I am incarcerated, I am no longer in bondage to the guilt and shame that my sins have brought on. I used to pray to God and try to talk Him into doing what I wanted Him to and be frustrated and upset because I didn't get what I wanted. Now I have learned that that is not the way to pray. I thank God in these circumstances that I am in instead of complaining about EVERY LITTLE THING. Acceptance is the key to all my



2 problems. I accept people and situations for the way they are at that very moment because there is really nothing I can do about whatever it is that I find unacceptable. I thank God in these trials and tribulations because, with this experience, I have had the

time to discipline myself and renew my mind. I practically feel like a new person. To me, that is true freedom. "Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way,

consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow." James 1:2-4 (Life Recovery Bible)
I pray that my testimony will touch the lives and hearts of many people. I thank God for the opportunity to share about my spiritual experience and I thank Him for the right words. May God bless you all. **You're not alone.**

Jaden DeWitt

Religion is NOT the Answer

Greetings my brothers/sisters. My name is Dell and for so many years I lived in sin thinking that because I was doing good deeds I should be OK. Well as a teen and young adult I was into any and everything that made me feel different. Then came trouble and I went to prison for two years. I stayed in the Bible and went to church while incarcerated. After being released, I had to prove myself to my family. I went to church,

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worked hard and knew I didn't ever want to go to prison again. Soon after I was married to a wonderful woman, had a kid and owned my own business. We stayed involved in the church. I was so happy, everything was going right. Then I was given an opportunity to work in the oilfield. Yes, very good money. We fell more and more off at church, then drinking harder started. I thought I was on top of the world making six figures a year only working six months, until my wife and I got

more time than anywhere else in Texas. This place is the best place I could of gone to with guys I've been around and truly giving myself to the Lord since 5/6/17. I'm at peace with any and everything and when I'm done bringing more people to be saved behind bars I'll be saving people after my release. God is great. Confessing my sins to Jesus gave me an amazing peace and great fellowship with almighty God! My calling is to help others. I'm not sure which direction it is yet but He will guide me right where I need to go. God Bless!

Respectfully,
Dell Burkeen
Granbury, TX 76048



divorced. She was truly my world and I began drinking worse and worse. I met a beautiful woman and settled down. I thought she loved me and we had the big house, nice rides and all our children spoiled. Then layoffs in the oilfield happened. I found out that my lady was cheating so I gave myself a reason to break, using meth after 13 years and I completely ruined everything about anything and then some more. I went back to jail. CPS had the children. I was to get probation but hadn't been locked up long enough because my life did a 180 when I found my love with my supposed to be best friend. So trying to hide pain and getting over on probation on drug test for two years until I went to jail again but this time I'm in a county that is not about justice and gives out

EARN CIRCIFICATES!

**MAILED
BIBLE
STUDY
COURSES**

**NOTHING TO JOIN
Proceed at your own pace.
Ask questions on any subject.**

Name: _____
Address: _____

Mail to:
**P.O. Box 1181, Joshua, TX
76058**

Levels of Testing

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Jacky Ray Davis
Carol Vance Unit
IFI Group #64

In a believer's life there are many different levels of arrows or darts sent from the enemy. These arrows can be classified in 3 different levels: the common testing, the seasonal testing and the hourly testing.

The Bible teaches that "No temptation has overtaken you except such which is common to man" (*1Cor. 10:13*). For example, all men experience temptation in some form. To occasionally be stressed out is testing. To occasionally battle fears is also common to man. The **common testings** come and go and are easier to defeat if we use our "Shield of Faith."

The next level is a **seasonal test**.

After Satan tempted Jesus forty days in the desert, we read that Satan challenged and departed from Him for a season (*Luke*

4:13). One area Satan challenged Christ was on His Deity, questioning if He was the Son of God. More than 3 years later at the crucifixion we see the same attack coming from the people and from one of the dying thieves. "If you are the Son of God..." *Matt. 27:43*.

You see, tests and temptations move in seasons. For example, a believer can be delivered from a habit such as smoking, and go for months without any desire to smoke. Then one day that same person gets up and senses a strong force or desire to go back to that habit. If that person understands that this is a seasonal attack he can endure the season and within a short time that pressure will be removed. Remember that the seasons come and go---they change. Remember Saints, what we battle today can be removed tomorrow.

The 3rd and most difficult level of testing is **the hour of testing** mentioned in Revelation 3:10, which will come upon the whole earth. This hour of testing is when a family member or circumstance causes a situation or a personal attack arises and tests your faith in God.

Such an example is when Job lost his entire livestock, ten children and his health. You see, your hour of testing could be the sudden death of a child or loved one, or a deadly disease affecting someone you care about. At some point in our lives each of us will have our hour of testing.



Each level of testing is sent with darts and arrows to attack the mind and turn our hearts from the Lord. **When trouble comes we will either turn to God or turn away from Him.** The shield of faith must cover us at all times.



Only an active faith can quench the fiery darts. The washing of water by the Word (*Eph. 5:26*) renews the spirit of our mind by cleansing our thought processes. The oil of the anointing of the Holy Spirit not only breaks the yoke of bondage—*Isa 10:27*, but can also rise up within us and put out carnal fires from our mental arrows that can cause burning thoughts of lust, greed, anger and other works of the flesh.

The apostle Paul wrote that we are not ignorant of the enemy's devices (*2Cor. 2:11*). Ignorance breeds darkness in the mind and prevents understanding!

A person will never change what he/she permits and will never be free from the habits he/she accepts.

Only when a person is confronted with the light of the Truth can the rays of God's delivering power penetrate into that man/woman's thinking and create a reservoir of knowledge that leads to the prison doors of bondage in their lives being opened.

Knowledge is a weapon. The Bible states that *"My people perish for lack of knowledge."* (*Hosea 4:6*)

The enemy has difficulty deceiving a person who knows his strategy and understands how to defeat the assault. So, in all your getting, get understanding. **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."** (*Proverbs 1:7*)

Peace be upon you!

In February, 2018 I was in the Chapel of Hope at the Hughes Unit in Gatesville, TX. I saw a newsletter called "Prison Epistles, Winter 2017." I read it and was touched about the true stories that I read.

Please pray for me, for my salvation. I want peace. I want freedom from my sin, freedom from fear, hatred and lust.

Please send me your Bible studies by mail.

I was reading a booklet sent by you all. I felt like it was informing me on my need to know feelings and human needs and understand people as the Lord does.

I would also like to mention that I am a new believer in the Lord and the more knowledge I can gain about Him will excite me.

The booklet's title is **"The Truth Shall Make You Free"**...true love, forgiveness, peace and purpose for your life!

I would like to know if ya'll would be able to send me more that are similar to that one.

Thank you and have a blessed day.

The Lord Jesus Christ

(THE ONE WHO SPOKE THE WORLD INTO EXISTENCE)

said...

"For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

(John 18:37)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

(John 3:16-20)

DOES SIN = BLESSINGS??

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.

For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption;

but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

(Galatians 6:7-8)

(Following are remarks from inmates who thought that reaping the consequences of their actions was unfair)

Inmate: "I'm 42 years old. I was saved when I was 14. I don't understand why God has not given me a wife."

Minister: "Why are you in jail now?"

Inmate: "This is my 21st drunk driving arrest."

Inmate (in anger): "Heaven is later. It's not about now."

Minister: "You can be 'born again' right now, have everlasting life and be a son of God."

Inmate: "I was saved years ago. I've been bonded out of jail but before I can leave I have to sit here for 48 hours in this cold steel chair so the guards can watch me. I was arrested for domestic violence."

Inmate: (Very upset and threatening suicide because he did not think it right that life is so hard): "I was married and had a good business selling specially bred dogs. I met another women at a

dog show and took up with her and lost everything."

Two buddy inmates (sitting in jail when shown some of God's directions for life):
"No, we do what we think is right."

Minister: "Can I give you a 'Gospel of John'?"

Inmate: "No, I'm mad a God...but I might forgive Him later."

Inmate: "I was saved years ago but I don't pray to God no more. It seems every time I do pray something bad happens. I was living with a women and when I got out of jail she died."

Minister: (Read John 15:9-11 to him)
"Jesus Christ infinitely loves you but when you disobey Him you are not living where He can bless you."

Inmate: (Changed the subject to end the conversation)

TRUE OR FALSE?

What You Don't Know Won't Hurt You

A baby touches a hot stove?

You accidently step on a sharp nail?

The salesman said it worked well!

Just \$25 a month (but did not mentioned the taxes and surcharges)!

Soooo...just ignore God and His word, the Bible, and you won't be responsible... right?

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RIDDLES

Riddle
answers,
page 9.

- 1.** What 8 letter word can have a letter taken away and it still makes a word. Take another letter away and it still makes a word. Keep on doing that until you have one letter left. What is the word?
- 2.** The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
- 3.** What has a head, a tail, is brown, and has no legs?
- 4.** David's father has three sons : Snap, Crackle and _____ ?
- 5.** A boy was at a carnival and went to a booth where a man said to the boy, "If I write your exact weight on this piece of paper then you have to give me \$50, but if I cannot, I will pay you \$50." The boy looked around and saw no scale so he agrees, thinking no matter what the carny writes he'll just say he weighs more or less. In the end the boy ended up paying the man \$50. How did the man win the bet?
- 6.** Mr. and Mrs. Mustard have six daughters and each daughter has one brother. How many people are in the Mustard family?



7. A man rode out of town on Sunday, he stayed a whole night at a hotel and rode back to town the next day on Sunday. How is this possible?

8. Re-arrange the letters,
O O U S W T D N E J R
to spell just one word.

9. There are 20 people in an empty, square room. Each person has full sight of the entire room and everyone in it without turning his head or body, or moving in any way (other than the eyes). Where can you place an apple so that all but one person can see it?

10. They have not flesh, nor feathers, nor scales, nor bone. Yet they have fingers and thumbs of their own. What are they?

11. You walk up to a mountain that has two paths. One leads to the other side of the mountain, and the other will get you lost forever. Two twins know the path that leads to the other side. You can ask them only one question. Except! One lies and one tells the truth, and you don't know which is which. So, What do you ask?

12. A bus driver was heading down a street in Colorado. He went right past a stop sign without stopping, he turned left where there was a "no left turn" sign, and he went the wrong way on a one-way street. Then he went on the left side of the road past a cop car. Still - he didn't break any traffic laws. Why not?

Many folks want to serve God,
but only as advisers!

Don't let worries get the best
of you, Moses started as a
"basket case."

Some people are like concrete,
mixed up and
permanently set.

Don't put a question mark
where God put a period.

He who angers you,
controls you.

If God is your co-pilot, you are
in the wrong seat!

The best mathematical
equation...

1 cross + 3 nails =
4 given!

Don't try to give God order.
Just you report for duty.

God wants us to be UP-set:
"Set your mind on things
above" (Col 3:2)

RIDDLE

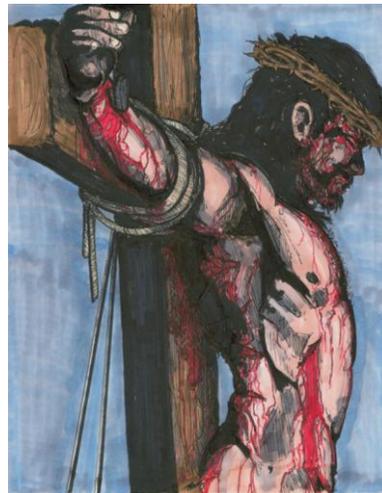
ANSWERS

1. The word is starting! starting, staring, string, sting, sing, sin, in, I.
2. Footsteps
3. A Penny
4. David!
5. The man did exactly as he said he would and wrote "your exact weight" on the paper.
6. There are nine Mustards in the family. Since each daughter shares the same brother, there are six girls, one boy and Mr. and Mrs. Mustard.
7. His horse was named Sunday!
8. Just one word
9. Place the apple on one person's head.
10. Gloves
11. You ask each twin What would your brother say?. This works because.... Well let's say the correct path is on the left side. So say you asked the liar "What would your brother say?" Well, the liar would know his brother was honest and he would say the left side, but since the liar lies, he would say right. If you asked the honest twin the same question, he would say right, because he knows his brother will lie. Therefore, you would know that the correct path was the left!
12. He was walking, not driving.

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PICTURE YOURSELF AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS LOOKING UP AT JESUS CHRIST

*He is hanging there paying for
all your sins, your foolishness,
your shame and your pride.
He is hanging there because*



**HE
LOVES
YOU!**

**YOU are
the**

**reason He cried
out,**

***"My God, My God,
why have you
forsaken Me?"***

**He was hanging
there in YOUR place!**

"It's Your Judge I Will Be"

All things well, happiness in the
way!
Not now my God, some other day.

Maybe when this life no more
affords,
I'll turn to You then, but not now
Lord.

As for today, there's so much to
do.
There's really no time in my life
for You.

My family takes time and friends I
like to see
And You'd not think these friends
very good for me.

They take me to places I'd not
want you along
For You would bring conviction to
things done wrong.

If You as a parent Your child
would ignore,
Would You not grieve and Your
soul implore!

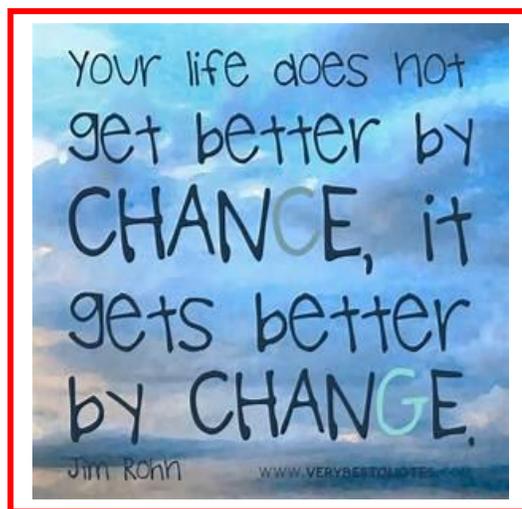
**"NOW MUCH MORE MY CHILD I HAVE
GRIEVED FOR YOU,
WHEN WITH ME YOUR SAVIOR YOU
HAVE NOTHING TO DO."**

**THERE'S COMING A DAY OF
RECKONING TO ME
WHEN I'LL NO LONGER BE YOUR SAVIOR,
IT'S YOUR JUDGE THEN I'LL BE!"**

by G. Hagan

Jesus Christ Changes Lives

My name is Jason and I was about 15 years old when I was in the Texas Youth Commission serving 9 months for auto thief when I started to realize there had to be more in life than what I had been getting so I started to seek the Lord.



Little by little I began to change. Upon my release I did my best but the old habits started to creep back in and once more found myself in prison. I had a long bout with drugs and alcohol and in 2014 I was arrested for burglary of a habitation.

Since my arrest, however, God has put me in line with other believers and I am truly blessed this time. He is now using me to spiritually help others.

In this December when they send me back into the world I know that God will direct me and be a light unto my path. I will forever be grateful for the brothers in Christ I've met here.!

Federal Prison Inmate

(NOW A BROTHER IN CHRIST!)

Hello brother,
How are y'all doing? Well I hope you get the visitation forms soon. I also sent you a letter and sharing a little bit of what's happening with my family.

The hardest
prison to
escape is in
your mind.

I have been talking more with my former wife and it has felt good but I also know that God's will is at work so I tell God to tell me what He wants from me. He has never allowed me to give up on her so I will wait 'till God shows me why...

but she is lost and needs his love deeply as does everyone.

Most people tell me I'm crazy cause of how she left me and went with someone else but I tell them, how can I ask God to forgive me if am not able to forgive my fellow brothers and sisters. I think the best thing I ever did in my life was to forgive everyone who ever hurt me because I had allowed them to take my happiness from me!

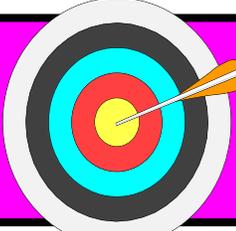
Now I have a love and joy in me that only God could have given me and by grace we are saved. I never thought in a million years I would ever want or look for God's love then I find out I didn't have too. It has always been there!

I am not perfect but I'm glad that I am on the right track to becoming the man God made me to be.

Thank you my friend for being a friend. May God bless you and your family.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

(2Corinthians 5:17)



SHORT SHOTS
PAGE 8

Pages 7 and 8

RIDDLES



MAIL BAG
Page 5

DOES SIN = BLESSINGS??

Pages 6

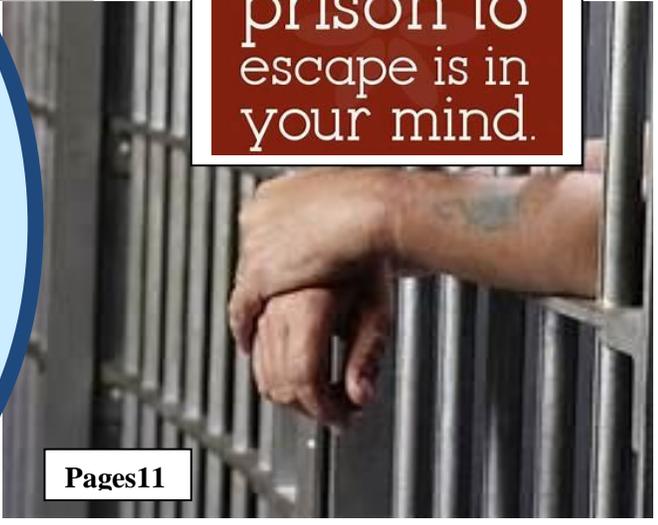
Religion is NOT the Answer!

Pages 2

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Pages 2

The hardest prison to escape is in your mind.



Pages 11

(Share this with a friend)

SUMMER 2018

Prison Epistles

SEND YOUR TESTOMONY FOR JESUS CHRIST TO...

Some Christians who are only and sufficiently a part of the church the Lord is building, of which all and only His children belong (Acts 2:47)

P.O. Box 1181
Ft Worth, TX 76058

**EARN CERTIFICATES...
PAGE 3**

Lord Jesus Christ said, "You **MUST** be born again."