

"FROM SORCERY TO SONSHIP"

Praise the Lord, my Brothers! My name is "Tommy" and I have been incarcerated in the Alabama Department of Corrections for over 20 years.



I grew up in a family that "believed" in God, but did not go to Church or anything. I thought there was some "constant war" between God and the devil, as though they were "equals" fighting for control. I did not understand that Christ was "ALREADY THE VICTOR" and the devil was just trying to "trick" mankind into going to hell with him.

See, that's how the devil tries to blind our minds with signs of witchcraft: intimidation {scare}; manipulation {trick}; domination {control}.

2 Corinthians 4:4 - "In whom the god of this world (the devil) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them".

Anyway, in my pre-teen years, I started becoming infatuated with the occult. I listened to music that promoted the message of Satan's rule, I had posters and pictures of demonic creatures and I thought all that stuff was "cool". I started hanging out with a 'bad crowd', started using and selling drugs, and soon "quit" High School, even though I was an "A" student.

A few years later I got arrested for "Capital Murder", and while in the County Jail a "preacher" visited me. He showed me the story of how the angel got Peter out of jail, and how God sent the earthquake to facilitate Paul and Silas' release from prison. This preacher told me that if I would pray the sinner's prayer with him, that God was going to do the "exact same thing" for me that He did for Peter. I prayed the prayer, read my Bible and sat up night after night, waiting for the angel to come and let me out.

Several months later, I went to court and got convicted for being an accomplice to Capital Murder. God had lied to me! (Or so I thought). I went back to my cell, picked up my Bible and threw it across the room and said, "**This** @&\$@&% don't work"! From that moment on, I hated even the mention of God or Jesus' name.

PRACTICING "SORCERY" WITH A PURPOSE

I came to prison and met a guy who introduced me to the "h o r n e d" god, and we started acquiring some literature on the occult, and experimenting with various things. I studied material on Satanism, witchcraft, voodoo, wicca, and such like. I got multiple "tattoos" of devils, witches, pentagrams, etc. This stuff is real, y'all. Believe me! We must be aware of it and prepared for it, but DO NOT FEAR it! The devil has got power, but our God has ALL POWER! The GREATER ONE lives in you! See, I was just hurt and angry at God. (I did not know that Prophecy is on condition and it is not always for "RIGHT THEN"). Isaiah prophesied the Messiah, His death and His resurrection. Hundreds of years passed, before it came to pass. People mocked him and called him a false prophet. Isaiah was dead. But it did come to pass, didn't it?

After that, I hated "Christians" and often debated with them "trying to cause them to doubt" what "they said" they believed. What is amazing is that I seemed to know "MORE" scripture than they did! This made it SO much easier to succeed in my mission to cause doubt, discouragement, fear

and defeat. See, first, they did not know the "WORD" of God. Next, they did not know the "COVENANT PROMISES" of God and what is more, they did not know that the devil was ALREADY DEFEATED! God's word says in Timothy 2:16 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth".

Most Christians that I met seemed only to be able to "parrot" some preacher that they had either heard or whose books they had read.

My dependence on drugs increased and that seemed to help "fuel" my occultist obsession. I believe the two of them go hand-in-hand. In Galatians 5:20, the word "witchcraft" is used, and it comes from a greek word pharmakeia, that stems from pharmakeus, *medication* ("pharmacy"). Anyway, I used drugs, I "scored" them, I sold them and promoted that whole lifestyle. But as time went on I started hating what it all was doing to me.

I tried to quit and change my "OWN" life!

I did all the drug treatment programs that were available to me, I worked the 12 steps, and I talked to my sponsor, but I still couldn't stop using drugs. My "higher power" was obviously thrilled with my drug involvement, because as I tried to get sober, I even had people trying to "give" me dope! I just went "deeper and deeper" into that hole that Satan had me digging for myself.

I was destroying myself, and even worse, I was destroying "my famil"y who loved, supported and earnestly prayed for me.

Still, I got disciplinary after disciplinary and failed "numerous" drug tests.

I eventually got an "ASSAULT" on another inmate charge, and the only way I could get out of "lock-up" was to agree to go back to the treatment program. I went and completed it but still found myself unable to stop using completely, even though I called upon my "higher power," frequently.

After graduating, I had a long enough clear record to move into the Honor Dorm, but right away I got around the same old crowd. I watched the Christians in the dorm and I hated them. I made fun of them while they read their Bibles and I went out of my way to be mean to them every chance I got.

One day I shot two morphine pills with a guy and he got caught carrying the syringe back to the person it belonged to. His cell partner had told on us all. Anyway, the next morning they came and got all three of us for a drug test. They got my first morning's pee, and I was as "hot" as I could get.

On the way back to my cell, I found out who it was that told on us. I remember saying to myself, "I can't let my mom find out that I got another 'dirty urine', especially after graduating treatment." I made a decision to "do something" to the guy who told on me and I JUST KNEW the drug test would get swept to the side. Satan was still trying to destroy me, while he used me to destroy others.

HOW I GOT MY "DELIVERANCE".

As I sat on my bed pondering exactly what I was going to do, I heard a voice that said, "YOU NEED TO GO TO CHAPEL TONIGHT." I laughed to myself, because out of all the situations I had been in, I HAD NEVER ONCE had that thought before. I asked my cell partner, who was a Christian, which religious group was coming to Chapel that night. He told me and I decided to go, for the first time ever.

On my way to Chapel that night, it seemed like I saw everyone that I knew and they laughed and "joked" at me for going to Church. As I got to the porch, three men who "claimed" to be prominent Christians were leaving and giggling, saying, "They won't even let you say 'amen' in there tonight." I stopped, and was turning around to go back to my dorm (*like I was going to yell 'amen' anyway*) when one of the guys turned around and said, "Tommy, don't miss your blessing." The devil was trying hard to detour me. He was even using Christians to do it. Anyway, I went on inside. I felt so out of place! It seemed like everyone was looking at me like, "What are YOU doing in here"?

Anyway, the group that was at the Chapel that night prayed, sang a hymn and started talking about Moses' song. Somehow they ended up reading out of Deuteronomy 32. I remember verses like, (16) "They provoked him to jealousy with strange *gods*, with abominations provoked they him to anger. (17) They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new *gods that* came newly up, whom your fathers feared not".

Also, they read verses like Deuteronomy 32:35-42: "To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste".

- For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that *their* power is gone, and *there is* none shut up, or left. And he shall say, Where *are* their gods, *their* rock in whom they trusted, Which did eat the fat of their sacrifices, *and* drank the wine of their drink offerings? let them rise up and help you, *and* be your protection.
- See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.
- For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, "I live for ever. If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me. I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy."

I sat there thinking, "God is going to slaughter me", and I saw myself going to lock up again, getting out and eventually dying with a needle in my arm. I had no idea that God was trying to draw me so that HE COULD SAVE ME. It was the devil who was trying to kill me! (*John 10:10*)

Unfortunately, the Church group did not give an altar call or I would have run up there. So, I went back to my cell. As they were counting, I asked my cell partner, "Does this God OF YOURS do miracles?" He replied that He did, and I asked, "Even when you're wrong?" He looked at me for a moment and said, "Even when you are wrong."

After count, I said that I needed the cell to 'use the restroom'. I hung a towel in the door, and looked out of the back window. I did not know what else to do. Everything I had ever tried just didn't work and I was tired. I said, "God, if you are really real, please reveal yourself to me." Listen, Men of God, I saw no "burning bush", and I heard no voices, but for the first time in my life I knew that I was talking to GOD ALMIGHTY, and what was even more amazing, I knew that He was hearing me! Suddenly, I understood that God had never lied to me and that HE LOVED ME! PRAISE GOD!

After all my anger and denial, all my occultic attempts "to touch" the supernatural, here I was standing in the PRESENCE of the "REAL SUPERNATURAL"! I told God how sorry I was for my whole life; everything I had done and I asked His forgiveness. I confessed Jesus Christ as my Lord and I had no doubts that He was indeed raised from the dead. He was alive and well and right there with me in that little prison cell!

I remember saying, "God, I'm not worthy to ask anything more of you. I can do "doghouse" time, I can live anywhere, but my mother doesn't deserve any more of my s---! I need a miracle."

The next morning, they came in and called the two guys I had gotten high with and moved them out of the Honor Dorm, but they did NOT move me. The next day I went on the visiting yard, to visit with my mother. The officer who tested the urine was working up there. He approached my table, and I felt my heart sink. He told my mother that they had taken a surprise urine sample from me, but NOTHING REGISTERED!!! It's impossible that "NOTHING" even registered, right? But with God, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE! GOD gave me the miracle I asked for, just because He could. Not because I was in right standing with Him. It was His "Grace", "Love" and "Mercy". My God is real!

A week later a "guitar" was donated to the Honor Dorm, and I started writing songs for the Lord. I am going to "sing" and "play" and "praise" and "worship" my way, right out of those front gates! (just like that preacher prophesied years ago). "HALLELUJAH"! God supernaturally delivered me from the occult, from drug addiction and the power of darkness in general. God has raised my awareness about "occultist practices" in the world, and yes, even in the Church. YES! Even in the Church.

Today, I am "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made me meet to be partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered me from the power of darkness, and hath translated me into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom I have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: (Colossians 1:12-14)".

I have come to understand that "rehabilitation" was not what I needed. I needed "transformation" in my life that only comes through the Lord Jesus Christ. Recovery was not enough; I needed deliverance, and my God is THE DELIVERER. Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God".

When I "truly", "sincerely", and "earnestly" surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, satans' power over my life was broken! He has delivered me from "witchcraft and sorcery", and He TOOK the drugs and alcohol from me. I am not an addict; I am a son. His son! He has given me power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over ALL the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19). He has given me the victory (1Corinthians 15:57) and He always causes me to triumph (2Corinthians 2:14). I am MORE than a conqueror (Romans 8:37). All things work together for good to me as I love God and am called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28), and all because greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world (1John. 4:4).

"MY FUTURE"

Making Christ Lord is NOT just some words we say in a prayer; it is "a decision" to commit our entire life (all that we are, all that we have, all that we will become) to Him! Let me just take this moment to testify to the goodness of the Lord. I have been working in the Chapel here for the past several years. Can you imagine someone with my "dark past" being allowed to work in the Chapel?

That just demonstrates 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." God has given me a brand new life, I truly am a man "WITHOUT" a past in God's eyes. And can I tell you, **that I know my future is bright?** (**Jeremiah 29:11**) "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." God has BLESSED me with the opportunity to be a part of making two (2) CDs, with my own original songs. Also, HE has placed me in "leadership" in the body of Christ.

Once upon a time I led men into darkness, now God has equipped me to lead them into the marvelous light! You see, "HURT PEOPLE, hurt people"! "HEALED PEOPLE, heal people"! "DELIVERED PEOPLE,

helps to get people delivered"! And what is so valuable to me is that my mother doesn't have to worry about me now, and she can believe me when I tell her something. God has restored my family's trust in me! My God doesn't do anything half way! I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that "God is able" to deliver me out of this prison also, but even if He doesn't, I will serve Him. He has given me a life and a ministry far beyond anything THAT I COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED (Ephesians 3:20). I have grown to understand that God is not a magic "genie" in a bottle who is only there to carry out my desires. God saved me to carry out His will and His purpose. Oh, sure, I pray for my release, and I believe that He will deliver me, in His time, but I serve Him because I love Him and He is good! I owe Him this life of mine that He gave His dear Son Jesus to purchase. His voluntary death, His shed blood and His resurrection, purchased US in full! Hallelujah!

I thank God for the privilege of being able to share with you all. I truly count it an honor.

Also, I thank God for Pastor Carmen McCain, The Warriors Of Praise, The House Of Praise, and Hedges and Highways Prison Ministry. "...God is not unrighteous to forget their work and labour of love, which they have shewed toward his name, in that they have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Hebrews 6:10). I pray that God will use this testimony as He sees fit and that His purpose has been accomplished. Pray for me as I pray for you all!

God Bless You, Brother Tommy





TO ALL OF MY "BROTHERS" BORN IN THE MONTH OF "NOVEMBER!

A NOTE FROM "THE DESK" OF PASTOR CARMEN:

Well said the Holy Ghost through Brother Tommy!! Praise the Lord MEN of GOD! Were you not truly BLESSED from reading this amazing testimony from Brother Tommy? I was extremely blessed when I first heard him tell it. I then asked him for permission to share it with you. After knowing Brother Tommy for many years and watching his life, I can truly say that he is a true man of GOD who walks the walk that he talks. His anointed singing, playing, preaching and praying is a STRONG witness for CHRIST, by it self.

LISTEN, Men of God, I am a personal witness to the anointing on this man of GOD's life. Many times GOD has delivered me while just listening to him minister. His HOLY life-style compels many of his fellow incarcerated "OUTMATES," to come to CHRIST. I must "Thank God" for his wonderful, concerned and God fearing Chaplain that God has given him. He keeps Brother Tommy encouraged to obey God. Let us all keep praying for Brother Tommy, that GOD will continue to use him and his "POWERFUL TESTIMONY" of GOD'S love, mercy, salvation and HIS AWESOME ability to deliver ANYONE from sorcery and any other spirit of Bondage. Do you need deliverance today? Write us... PRAYER WORKS!

P.S. If you desire to continue receiving these "Newsletters", please send us your correct cell, dorm and bed numbers. Many have been returned due to not having them.