MY TESTIMONY

MY PARENTS IMMIGRATED TO THE U.S. FROM MEXICO. WITH A MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION AND NO RELATIVES IN CALIFORNIA, THEY FACED LIFE BROKE & ON THEIR OWN. FROM MY EARLIEST MEMORIES TO THE AGE OF 7 I WITNESSED MY FATHER ABUSE MY MOTHER. THE TRAUMA OF THAT MADE AN IMPACT IN MY ADOLESCENCE BECAUSE LIFE AS I KNEW IT WAS NEVER A REALITY. IN THE ATTEMPT TO BLOCK THE SOUND OF MY MOTHER CRYING & BEGGING FOR HELP I NORMALIZED BLOCKING REALITY BY COVERING MY EARS AND EYES SHUT PRETENDING NOTHING EXISTED. I WAS ALWAYS IN FEAR BELIEVING THAT MY FATHER WOULD ATTACK ME AFTER HE WAS DONE HURTING MY MOTHER.

AT THE AGE OF 12, I HAD LOW SELF-ESTEEM, NO GUIDANCE, & HAD ZERO LIFE LESSONS FROM MY PARENTS, I WAS CAPTIVATED BY NEGATIVE CROWDS BECAUSE THEY DID WHATEVER THEY WANTED WHENEVER THEY WANTED. GUYS FEARED THEM AND GIRLS WANTED TO BE AROUND THEM. ONCE I WAS EMBRACED BY THEM I FELT NO LONGER IGNORED, TRAMPLED ON, HUMILIATED, NOR FEAR. I WAS PROTECTED NOW. I BEGAN TO FIGHT & DRINK AT THE AGE OF 13. LIKE WHEN I WAS A CHILD, ALCOHOL ALLOWED ME TO PRETEND THAT THE REALITY AROUND ME DID NOT EXIST.

AS AN ADOLESCENT I NEVER WANTED TO BE AFRAID EVER
AGAIN AND SO I BECAME THE CAUSE OF FEAR TO OTHERS. I ASSOCIATED
RESPECT WITH VIOLENCE AND WAS EASILY PERSUADED TO JOIN IN
ILLEGAL OR RISKY BEHAVIOR. I DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT WAS TO BE A
MAN, I WAS LESS SENSITIVE TO THE PAIN OF OTHERS, I WAS CRUEL,
AND IN DARKNESS. 2 CORINTHIANS 4:4 IN WHOM THE 90D OF THIS

WORLD 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 ON THEM. PROVERBS 10:23 IT IS AS SPORT TO A FOOL TO DO MISCHIEF: BUT
A MAN OF UNDERSTANDING HATH WISDOM.

SYNONYM WORDS FOR MISCHIEF INCLUDE; DEVILISHNESS, DEVILMENT, DEVILRY, DEVILTRY, AND DIABLERIE. I WAS DOING THE WORK OF THE DEVIL AND I DID IT WITHOUT HESITATION AND NO MERCY. I WAS CRUEL AND EVIL, BLINDED BY THE DESIRES OF THIS WORLD. I WAS AN ALCOHOLIC, A WOMANIZER, A MANIPULATOR, VIOLENT, AGGRESSIVE, ANGRY, LOST, AND HAD ENTITLEMENT ISSUES. IN 2005, A MONTH AFTER I WAS INCARCEPATED I WAS INVITED TO CHURCH SERVICE WHERE I ACCEPTED THE LORD (JESUS) AS MY LORD AND SAVIOR. I WAS STILL IN JAIL FACING THE CONSEQUENCE OF MY ACTIONS, BUT I WAS NOW OUT OF DARKNESS.

MATTHEW 4:16 THE PEOPLE WHICH SAT IN DARKNESS SAW GREAT LIGHT; AND THEM WHICH SAT IN THE REGION AND SHADOW OF DEATH LIGHT IS SPRUNG UP.

ACTS 26:18 TO OPEN THEIR EYES, AND TO TURN THEM FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT, AND FROM THE POWER OF SATAN UNTO GOD, THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

FROM 2007—2013 I WAS LUKE WARM". IN 2014 I WAS BAPTIZED WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF. SPIRITUAL WARFARE FOLLOWED AS I BEGAN TO INVOLVE MYSELF IN MINISTRY DUTIES. MY FAITH AND SPIRITUAL ARMOR WAS NOT YET BATTLE TESTED AS I CONTINUED TO DOUBT, WORRY, AND FEAR. DETERMINED TO OVERCOME MY LACK OF FAITH AND THOSE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPALITIES I CALLED & GALLED UPON THE NAME OF JESUS AND DOVE INTO PRAYER AND FASTING IN GROUP & INDIVIDUALLY.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 FORTHOUGH WE WALK IN THE FLESH, WE DO NOT WAR AFTER THE FLESH: (FOR THE WEAPONS OF DUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL, BUT MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONG HOUDS;) CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTETH ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, AND BRINGING EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST.

IT SEEMED THAT THE MORE I PRAYED FOR AND WITH OTHERS, THE MORE I SUBMERGED MYSELF IN THE WORD OF GOD, THE MORE I USED MY AUTHORITY IN CHRIST TO COMFORT OTHERS, THE MORE I WAS ATTACKED BY THE ENEMY. I QUICKLY UNDERSTOOD THAT I WAS NOW A THREAT TO THE ENEMY AND WAS ON HIS RADAR. STILL, I TRUSTED MY GOD AND COVERED MYSELF WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

TODAY, I AM STILL ON FIRE FOR THE LORD JESUS AND MY FAITH IS ESTABLISHED. I PRAISE HIM IN MY JOY, I PRAISE HIM IN DIFFICULT TIMES, AND I THANK HIM FOR HIS GRACE. I CONTINUE TO PRAY THAT MY EARS STAY SENSITIVE TO HIS VOICE SO THAT EVERYTHING I DO IS ACCORDING TO HIS WILL. I AM A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 THEREFORE IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATURE: O'D THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW.

BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW.

ISAIAH 1:18-19 COME NOW, LET US REASON TOGETHER, SAITH THE LORD:
THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET, THEY SHALL BE AS
SNOW; THOUGHTHEY BE RED LIKE CRIMSON, THEY
SHALL BE AS WOOL. IF YE BE WILLING AND
OBEDIENT, YOU SHALL EAT THE GOOD OF THE LAND.

I HAVE SEEN THE FAVOR OF THE LORD OVER MY LIFE AND I CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT. I AM CAPABLE OF LOVING AND BEING LOVED. I WILL GO THROUGH THE ROUGH WATERS WITH YOU. I AM UNDERSTANDING AND PATIENT. I AM TEACHABLE AND CORRECTABLE. I AM THIS AND SO MUCH MORE BECAUSE HE LOVED ME FIRST AND BECAUSE HIS GOODNESS LED ME TO REPENTANCE.

GOD BLESS

- ALEX -