



## **FISHERS OF MEN**

**"And he said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matthew 4:19**

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Fishers of Men Prison Ministries  
Jesus Loves You!

*A Newsletter For and By Saints of Christ in Prison*

*From Childhood to Maturity in Christ – A Story of Salvation From Brother Ray*



I was seven years old in Reno, Nevada, the first time I had cuffs put on my wrists! Off and on until I was eighteen I landed in two detention centers, a drug rehab center, a halfway house, two juvenile prisons, and a Christian group home. Some I “visited” more than once.

Since I’ve become an adult (eighteen years of age), I’ve been in nine different adult detention facilities. My lifestyle consisted of alcohol, drugs of various types, violence, and crimes of many different kinds. I came back to prison for my third time in 1995 for two malicious wounding charges on police officers, as well as robbery and parole violation. I continued my drug, alcohol and violent lifestyle even while in prison.

On July 29, 1997, I had an altercation with my cell partner. He almost died! I received an aggravated malicious wounding charge and on December 10, 1998, I received a life sentence due to this charge. On October 23, 1999, I was sitting in my segregation cell and was listening to some tapes the Chaplain had sent me. It really had me thinking of what I had done to my life and to people around me. I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ!

For years, I told the head “shrinks” I was hearing voices and seeing things...lie after lie. I wanted to get on psychotic medications so I could continue to get high...and it eventually worked. For three years, I’d either trade my medication for other narcotics, sold them or took them. I continued to take them after I became a Christian and God spoke to my heart about it. I tried to quit on my own and it just wouldn’t last. I had gotten addicted and my brain had really become dependent on these medications (drugs). I wrote to other Christians and had them pray for me about this and I said, “Lord, I’m gonna quit, but you have got to back me up on this.” My sleep was disastrous. I had nightmares straight from the pit of hell. My coordination was off. I was miserable! I kept on praying, standing firm and Jesus delivered me. Praise God, I haven’t had any of those medications in months. In fact, I wrote and told the head shrinks about my past deceptions and that I was now a Christian and to please take me off the medications since the nurses were still bringing them to me. They understood and took me off them. My short-term memory was greatly damaged by the years of abuse from these medications as well as other drugs and alcohol. Again, I prayed and had other’s pray and Jesus has restored my memory. Now I work on memorizing Scriptures!

I started thinking I’d like to have some gospel tapes. The music on the radio stations and TV Channels I was able to pick up in prison wasn’t fit for sincere Christians, but I didn’t have the finances to buy any gospel tapes. I knew I was supposed to pay tithes of ten percent from whatever money I got from my family or friends. So I started sending stamps as my tithe to a dedicated man of God who really reaches out to a lot of people and other prisoners in spiritual need. Since Y2K was coming soon, the devil started telling me I need to keep those stamps for I’d really need them myself. After thinking about it a couple of days (remember, I was new at this) I decided not to listen to him and I sent my stamps as tithe anyway. Praise the Lord! Within a month, I received \$135 from friends and family, and was able to purchase gospel tapes.

I have a peace now that no drug ever gave me or can ever give me. My total sentence is life – nineteen years – six months and 105 days. I’ve been in segregation since the incident with my ex-cell partner, July 29, 1997. I’ve had one visit from my family in five years and none of it waives the peace I now have inside. Because now, I am truly free! I’ve had prayers after prayer answered. I’m almost thirty-one years old and I started smoking when I was fourteen. But I no longer even have a desire for a smoke. No more violence! I now love other people! I stay high on Jesus so there’s neither need nor desire for drugs, alcohol or psychotic medications.

Never did a drug, alcohol, pill, rehabilitation center, no programs of any kind, jail, prison, absolutely nothing ever gave me a desire to truly live a Godly, clean and productive life. But now I have this desire. Jesus Christ is the only way! There’s a heaven and there’s a hell! According to John 14:6, “Jesus saith unto him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!” Without Jesus, a person is hell bound! If you sincerely pray this prayer, meaning it in your heart, you too, can receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. Your life will then become new, fresh and free like you’ve never experienced before.

If you choose, pray this prayer:

“God, I confess to be a sinner. I repent of all my sins and I seek your forgiveness with my whole heart. I do believe Jesus died for my sins. That He was buried and arose from the dead that I might have eternal life. Lord Jesus, come into my life and take over. Change me into the person you intended me to be.”

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, Jesus is now in your life. Find a spirit-filled, full-gospel believing church, read the Bible EVERY day. Start with the book of John in the New Testament. Surround yourself with mature Christians who walk with our Lord daily and they’ll teach you and help you grow. And make prayer a habit for every day. Jesus loves you and so do I!



### **CELEBRATE YOU!!**

You are worth celebrating...You are worth everything.  
You are unique in all the world, there is only one you.  
There is only one person with your talents, your experience, your God-given gifts.  
No one can take your place!  
God created only one you, precious to His sight.  
You have immense potential to love, to care, to create, to grow, to sacrifice...if you believe in yourself.  
It doesn't matter you are, or your color, or  
whether your parents loved you or not (maybe they wanted to but couldn't)  
Let that go, it belongs in the past.  
You belong to the now.  
The now that Christ creates in you.  
It doesn't matter what you have been.  
The wrong you have done, the mistakes you've made, the people you've hurt. You are forgiven. You are  
accepted, you are okay, because you are... the light of Christ in our world today.  
Celebrate you...and celebrate the Christ in you.  
Begin now...Start anew...Give yourself a new birth...Today.  
You are you, and that is all you need to be.  
You are temporary. Here today and gone tomorrow.  
Bt today, today can be a new beginning a new thing, a new life.  
You can deserve this new life, it is given freely, that is the miracle called God.  
So celebrate that miracle and Celebrate You!

Contributed by Brother Gene

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### **The Word of the Lord**



In nearly every verse of Psalm 119, the author magnifies God's word. Following is a study of seven of the words He uses to represent God's word in order of appearance.

Law (Tōrah) occurs about 220 times in the Old Testament. The basic meaning of Tōrah is "teaching" or "instruction." Because God loves human kind, He has given a body of teaching and laws so that we can know what He expects from us and how we should live. "The [Tōrah] of the Lord is perfect." Ps. 19:7

Testimony (Ēdût) V-2, comes from the verb (ûd) "to bear witness." The word suggests not only corroboration by testimony, but sometimes includes a warning, as well. His word is His own testimony to Himself and as such, should be accepted and acted upon.

Precepts (piggûdîm) V-4, always appears in the plural; and its twenty-four occurrences are all in Psalms, twenty-one in Psalm 119 alone. The noun is derived from the verb (pāgad); meaning "number" "recon" "visit" "appoint" or "punish." The precepts of God are those responsibilities that He has appointed for His people.

Statute (Hōg) V-5, occurs 128 times and comes from the verb (Hāgag), "engrave" or "write." In ancient times, statutes were engraved on metal or stone so that people could read and keep them. Hōg is a general term for law imposed by God or man. The most common Hebrew word to be used with Hōg is shāmar (keep). God's statutes are meant to be kept. Another meaning of this word is "custom" such as in custom in ancient Israel of women commemorating Jephthah's daughter (Jud. 11:39-40)

Commandment (mitzwah) V-6 is used to describe the Ten Commandments (Ex. 24:12). The noun is derived from the verb tsāwah to "command" or "charge." God's commands are an expression of His person and nature. Psalm 119 teaches that these revelations of God's will are "faithful" or "reliable" (V-86), "truth" (V-151), and "righteousness" (V-172). Psalm 19:8 says they are also "pure." If we really love our Lord, we will obey His commandments and they will not be burdensome.

Judgment (mishpat), V-7 is derived from the verb shāphat, to judge or govern, and occurs about 400 times in the Old Testament, 16 times in Psalm 119 alone. The general idea is one of justice or specific ordinances to promote justice. There are many distinct usages of the noun in both secular and religious law. Each specific ordinance of the Pentateuch is called a mishpat (Lev. 9:16; Deut. 33:21). "The Lord is a God of Justice." (Is 30:18) and "Loves Justice" (Ps. 37:28). His "judgments are a great deep" (Ps. 36:6). Because God is just in righteous judgment, so should we His people be.

Word (dābār) V-9 is one of the great words of the Bible. It is an idiomatic word in the Old Testament that the King James translators needed 85 different English words to translate it. The noun comes from the verb "to say" or "speak." The main idea is that whatever God says is His word. (Continued on next page)



