



From Tejano to Christiano

My name is Leonard Vargas (A.K.A. Kidd). As I write this I rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to guide me. I am currently in T.D.C.J. (prison). I'm writing you this testimony from Administration Segregation (lock-up). I have a 25 year aggravated sentence. I was arrested for 13 felonies in less than two weeks. In September of 2004 the devil took full control of my life. I remember arguing with my girlfriend, then leaving from October 1st to the 15th. I believe that I was possessed at the time.¹ I picked up 13 felonies and one aggravated burglary of a habitation, in which **1** kicked in the door to a house and brutally assaulted a total stranger for no reason. Then, I was involved in 11 robberies when an informant tipped authorities to where I was at.

I remember jumping out of the vehicle, and a police officer was yelling at me, "Freeze-Leonard Vargas-freeze!" I refused. During his pursuit of me we exchanged words, and I remember telling the cop, "Shoot me!" I even told him, "Don't make me do it!" Then I threw my finger out in a swift motion (pretending to have a gun in my hand), hoping that he would shoot me. I can't really express what I was feeling at that time other than deep mental pain and feelings that I was possessed by something evil. I wanted the officer to shoot me. I remember that before I was arrested I was telling people that I would not let the police take me alive. I had went to my mom's apartment and once she saw me she knew that something bad had been happening with me. I have never been close to my mom. I told my mom, "I don't know what exactly I did to make you feel this way about me, but I am sorry. I am not going to let the cops take me alive." She pleaded with me to call her pastor, which I did. I was very direct and told him that I was going to die no matter what.

So, there I was-begging to get shot and I was not even saved. I was lost, possessed, and determined to get killed. The Bible speaks about those who do not follow Jesus saying that they live "according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience ... by nature children of wrath even as the rest.,"² Eventually the foot chase ended up at my sister-in-law's house. I remember being in the back yard, and the police officer was steady yelling, "Get down!" But, I kept saying, "Shoot!" After he realized that I was not armed he pepper sprayed me, which had very little effect. I was banging on my sister-in-law's back door, and when she opened the door the officer grabbed me. Then I did the ultimate; I went for his firearm. My sister-in-law was terrified. Eventually, the police surrounded the place and found me in the bedroom. Although I was outnumbered and surrounded; I still struggled with the police, and let me tell you, they used a force on me that will never be forgotten. I got the opportunity to get beaten with a long cell flashlight on my right knee more than 12 times. The Bible says of the wicked, "But they lie in wait for their own blood; They ambush their own lives. So are the ways of everyone who gains by violence; It takes away the life of its possessors.,"³ After this incident I was also charged with attempting to take a firearm from a police officer. All this points to what the

¹ Matthew 8:28

² Ephesians 2: 1-3

³ Proverbs 1:18-19

Bible says, "The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy.,,"⁴ The devil will do all he can to destroy *you*, make *you* blind, lie to *you*, make *you* self-destruct, and get *you* a reservation in Hell.

I explained to you that I was in AD-Seg (lock-up). I'm in lock-up 23 and 1/2 hours a day. The reason is because I am a confirmed gang member in the notorious Texas Syndicate prison gang. I'm locked up physically, but spiritually I'm free. Everywhere I go I'm escorted by officers with batons, and I stay handcuffed as they escort me. These are the benefits of being in a gang. If you are a follower of gangs, ask your fellow gang member or leader to let you beat him, slap him, and nail him to a cross for your wrong doings. I bet you they won't, but Jesus did this for us. So, why continue to deny Him after He proved His love for us? I joined the gang several years back. I was too dumb to see that gangs are the tool of the devil. We should be loyal to the One true Leader that died for us. Not to somebody who really doesn't care about us, but to do dirty work. The brotherhood of gangs is deeply fabricated and untrue. How can you possibly claim a brotherhood to something that has no true purpose; no foundation in the truth? The true brotherhood is the family of Jesus Christ. With Jesus there is life after death. There is purpose, there is love, and there is salvation. I don't hate gang members, but I do hate the way I served as a loyal leader for a gang that was literally destroying my soul. But now, I serve the Lord with fire in my determination because my name is recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life in Heaven.⁵ The gang Jesus has is not only physically real but spiritually real! I have learned that my Leader will never leave me or forsake me; even to the point of death. He is always right here, no matter what.

When I was locked up in the county jail I realized I had to change. Did I forget to mention that this is my fourth time in prison, not including three trips to I.S.F. (Parole Violation Camp), one trip to T.Y.C. (Texas Youth Commission), and many trips to county jail? I have been involved in gang fights, drug deals, assaults, shootings, stabbings, manipulations, and all types of sexual immorality. I put drugs before my family and kids. I should have been dead long ago. But I failed to realize that it was all by the grace of God, and I am alive so that I can write this testimony to you.

The Bible says, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.,,"⁶ I surrendered my life to Christ. I "deny myself and pick up my cross" daily. I finally realized it was time to take the Lord seriously. While I was in county jail, before I came to T.D.C.J., I started reading the Bible. But, like many times before, I did it for the wrong reasons. Like many people, I cried out, "Lord, Lord!" but I did not obey Him. I was still relying on the flesh. I finally realized that the Lord looks right to the heart. I finally asked the Lord to forgive me, save me, take my pain away, and help me to be real with Him for once. I got saved by God's free grace, His blood, His pain, His tears, and His love. It wasn't until I got to this unit that the Holy Spirit started to point things out to me including quitting the gang, foul language, and the works of evil. I learned from Brother Dylan, a volunteer prison minister, that the Lord wanted a personal relationship with me. I saw that the devil was the Pilot of my destruction, and that I could not beat the devil on my own. I cry when I pray at times because I feel great conviction. I redid the prayer of salvation and the Lord answered. Ever since that day I have not

⁴John 10:10

⁵Revelation 20:15

⁶Galatians 2:20

stopped praying and seeking the Lord about how to walk closer with Him. Once you call upon the Lord, you will be saved. It was as if a set of scales were removed from my eyes. If you think you are slick; Jesus is slicker. He proved that to me. Without Jesus I was headed straight to Hell. By faith I gave my life to the Lord, and He has become so real to me. He took the pain away that has always been there. There is no game playing with Jesus. When I asked Him to set me free from sin I told Him that I couldn't do it without Him to help me be the person that He wanted me to be. It was no longer about me but Him. Please know, I am still learning to deny myself. And, with the power of the Holy Spirit I don't jump into sin. I pray that my transformation will let people see that when you receive Jesus you receive life. I still have a lot to learn, but the seed is planted and is growing. Jesus said, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine, and *you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*" ⁷

Gangs, drugs, the love of money, hate, and sexual immorality all lead to the death Of souls, but if you give your life to Christ and follow Him you will be saved. I'm no longer going to Hell. I'm a child of God now. I'm not perfect; nobody is but Christ. Please look at the world news; the time is getting close for Jesus to return. Wouldn't you like to be reunited with your family in heaven for eternity? Those who are not written in the Book of Life will be cast out into Hell forever. I write this testimony out of love and concern for you and your family because everybody will be judged on the Day of Judgment. But, Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not Send the son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." ⁸ I love you, but most of all Jesus loves you. And remember, Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." ⁹

So, give your life to Jesus as your Lord and Savior. With God all things are possible. God bless you, and May His grace, love, and peace be upon all men, women, and children in the Name above all names, I proclaim Jesus is Lord, the Son of God, who will give you the eternal gift. All you have to do is be sincere, repent of your sins and entrust your to Jesus by faith, and the power of the Holy Spirit will fill you. Jesus said, "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up in the last day." ¹⁰ I can tell you this, if you are not ready, you will suffer greatly. Speaking about Hell, the Bible says, "And the smoke of torment goes up forever and ever ..." ¹¹ The things you suffer now will be like paradise compared to the Lake of Fire. I hope you give your soul a change to be reunited with our Maker. Much love, respect, and blessings to you from a Vato on the inside. Thanks to the grace of the Lord! I love you all. Consider what Christ has done for you .

⁷ John 8:31-32 ⁸ John 3:16-18 ⁹John 14:6

¹⁰ John 6:40

¹¹ Revelation]4:11,21:8

I would like to say thank you to Jesus for Brother Dylan, Brother Ray, and the Hernandez family. Brother Dylan, I love you man. We all do. And as always, we look forward to your visits. And, thank you for bringing us the good news. I can't explain the distance your help has brought me. Thank you! Brother Ray: thank you for your encouragement. I look forward to you waking me up, and looking at that big smile that shows the love you have for Jesus. Love to you! Hernandez family: thank you for your letters. I was running from God and ran right into Him. I thank you for the love and faith you have in our Jesus!

I now humble myself and say with love, "Jesus is Lord!" Thank you Jesus for being awesome! There is nothing Jesus can't do if it is according to His will. He has a plan for all of us.

To the people I have hurt: The Lord has forgiven me. I humbly ask you to please find it in your heart to forgive me! The Lord has taught me to be humble!

With Love, Brother Leonard Vargas

FOOTNOTE: I want to say thank you to "Come to the Cross Ministries" for the copies and for his devotion. Also, to Brother Dylan McCabe from "Less than the Least Ministries" for editing and typing the testimony and scripture references. Thank you!

I would like to say that this testimony is not about me. It is about the new me in Christ. All glory and Thanks goes to the Mighty Messiah Jesus Christ! I am aware that many may have doubts and that's okay... Like I said, its all about **Glorifying the Lord!**

To the people reading this...If I have hurt you in any way, physically, mentally, spiritually, financially, sexually, manipulated you, deceived you, lied to you, destroyed your trust, love, friendship, I ask that you please reach deep down and forgive me. I was so, so wrong, but that past is gone. And I have sincerely moved forward and have made my peace with the Lord and myself. I hope to one day be able to apologize personally, but for now, God bless and protect (Psalms 91) each and everyone of you al. You know who you are. May the grace of God be with you. Michael, Sabrina, Isaac, Sky, I love you. I'm so sorry for not being there. Please forgive me. I choose not to hurt anybody else. I have done enough to my family. I love you and with God, all things are possible. Thank you for always being there. In saying that, "Jesus is Lord!"