

**GOD WILL OPEN DOORS**  
*The Testimony of Brother Robert -- Minister of Music*



I was brought up in a house that was everything a child could want. I was the seventh child of my parents and I was brought up in church all of my life. When I was on the streets, I enjoyed being a Dee Jay. However, I was led astray by something we all think must have (friends).

After the trial and being sentenced to life in prison, I had nowhere to turn. I was in a gang and I would tell guys all kinds of things to do and to say. I would go in the chow hall and take food off people's trays. I did not care if I was killed. I wanted to die. I was just too much of a coward to kill myself. Then one day I was busted with shanks in my cell and I was sent to segregation. While I was there, I was having trouble dealing with why I was in prison. So the devil took that opportunity to come to me and say this. "Where is your God? Well, Well, Well! Here we are in prison, in jail, where is your God now? Your mother just had a heart attack and your father is hurt from going to work to get money to send to you. Your brothers and sisters don't hang out with each other anymore. Your kids have been taken and you have a life sentence. You should just go on and kill yourself and save everyone a lot of trouble."

You know that the devil picks the perfect time to come to you and make everything sound logical. And I was going to kill myself. To put the icing on the cake, he said, "You are a Christian, so you will be with God anyway." That was a lie and I recognized it. If I kill myself, I was going to Hell and that thought made me get up and start crying right there in the cell all by myself. I got up and I turned on the TV and there was a church service on. The preacher said that he had a lady that he wanted to speak and that she had spent over six years in prison and there was a man that had done three years in prison. Just as he said that, the lady came running down the aisle and she came up to the podium and started to testify and she was praising and glorifying God. The guy was so overcome that he could not even get up. He just started shouting right from his chair. This told me that no matter what the problem is, God can work it out. So I got on my knees and I asked God, "What do you want me to do. I was raised in church and I think that you are real, but not many people in here believe in you. I am all mixed up and I have no life. I am in this gang. God tell me what I am to do. I just don't know."

After I had prayed and committed my life to God, I started to write music. I just took it as doing something to keep going. A few months after I had gotten out of seg, I was in the basement at Stateville when we used the basement as a place of worship. I was down there waiting for a service to start and I got on my knees and started to pray and I cried to God and said, "Look, I am still in the same position and I am not going anywhere. I am praying and I have not heard from you. What's up? I love you and I need to know that you have heard me." And as I cried, I felt so lost. Then I heard someone coming. I got up and as I was walking around, this guy I knew came to me and said, "Do you want to learn to play the keyboard?" I said yes I did. Then he said that on one condition, he would teach me. He said that if someone else wanted to learn, I could not charge anyone who wanted to learn. So he started to teach me and I learned fast and the music filled my soul. I started to play for church and in a band.

One day God told me in a dream that I was going to be one of the greatest gospel artists in the world. I was kind of perplexed because I am in jail with a life sentence. But as I read Joel 2:25 that states, "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten," I knew that it was possible. So I started to train so I could become the best musician that I could be. I read every book on the subject that I could get my hands on and looked at every magazine and went to the library to read more.

Now I am one of the best in the world and I know that even though I am still in prison, I will be one of the best in the world and because I listened to God. I am now also a great song writer. I sing and I have not changed my heart toward God. I am too close to Heaven to turn around. One thing that I learned is that when things look the worst, that's when God is getting ready to bless you. So don't give up when things are rough. Just know that when you have lost your case and the judge has turned you down, when your appeals are over, and there's no where to turn, just know that it had to happen so God can bless you. Depend on God and hold on, your blessing is on the way! *In Christ's Love, Brother Robert*