

Testimony

AS AN UPDATE: during covid I spent the time to get my entire record expunged, so I technically/legally I can say no to the “felony” question on an application – *HOWEVER* – it is an integral part of how I came to be the man I am today. And more importantly, the believer I am today. *AGAIN*, technically speaking I do not have to divulge my past as it is “expunged,” however, as already stated, it is my life journey, and it has led to many opportunities to witness to and lead men and teach a younger generation about making healthy choices, so the bad ones do not reverberate thru one’s life.

I was born into a “hippie” family in Detroit. My mother and father were divorced by the time I was one-year old. (Dad was in the music business and it was the seventies.) One example to solidify my childhood experiences is this one: at four my mother was walking the streets in downtown Detroit flying high on acid with me in tow, she turned to me during her “trip”/walk through the inner city of Detroit and said, “don’t lose me.” During this time my mother had married my stepfather (an atheist hippie... nice guy though). Detroit was my hometown during these years.

Picking up at age twelve. My mom visited a sick aunt in California and was evangelized by my now Christian father (saved in 76’ by the “Jesus freaks” movement), and we were shortly moved out to California due to my parents being re-married after 12-years of divorce. I was thrust into an unhealthy Christian environment (TBN, Word Faith [name it and claim it], etc..) after growing up in an atheist/hippie/*naturalist* environment. I did give my heart to the Lord in the youth ministries at *Church on the Way* at 13-years of age.

From about fifteen on I rebelled... *thoroughly*. At eighteen I committed two felonies. I served nine months. I got out and broke my neck and fractured my back in a motorcycle accident. (I wore a “halo” for 4 ½ months, I refer to this time as still being behind bars.) Shortly after recovering from that near death accident, I committed a third felony (traffic violation). I served a little over six-months in the newly built “super-max” facility up here at Wayside jail (Pitchess Honor Rancho).

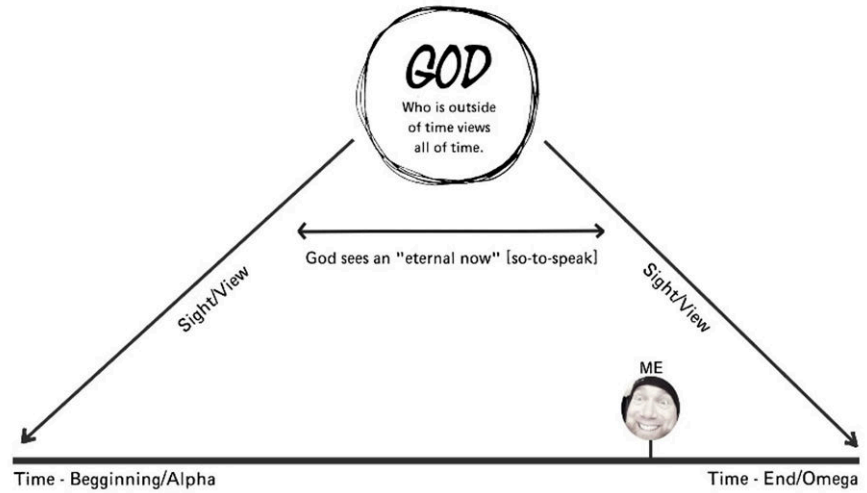
During this time, a Christian sheriff got his hands on me and challenged me to get my G.E.D., discipling me, as well as giving me two books: *The Late Great Planet Earth* (by Hal Lindsey); and, *What is Creation Science* (by Henry Morris and Gary Parker).

I refer to these two books the “*alpha and omega*” of my reading. A book on creation and a book on the end-times spurred my curiosity to better know and understand this thing called Christianity which I had been *saved to* [bought with a price] so many years earlier. These books built the idea that I was created with intention in Mind. I wasn’t an accident but had a purpose. Lindsey’s book showed me that

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time was a line... not cyclical. And that God was sovereign over all of it. *And I existed on this timeline, created with purpose, and God was sovereign over me!*

Mind you, it took many years to rid myself of all my old habits and lifestyle. [Thanks to the Holy Spirit convicting me of my rebellion and the Body of Christ intervening]. Let's just say I know the Hounds of Heaven well! (I write of them [HERE.](#))



While in jail that last time, I fell in love with the book of Hosea. Hosea talks about Israel being a Harlot, breaking her contract/commitment with God. But God never breaks His word, His commitment, His contract with those who hear His call (John 10:3; 10:27; Romans 8:28-30; 11:29). God heard me and answered me at thirteen, and He refined me by allowing my pride to cause situations to have me focus in on Him. *He will finish* the good work He started in me.

“I am sure of this, that He who **(a)** started a good work in you will **(b)** carry it on to completion until the **(c)** day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6):

- a) *HE started the Good work [salvation]*
- b) *HE will carry it out*
- c) *HE will complete it*

Here I write today at 53 years old with well over 5,000 books in my meager condo, blessed with a strong wife who went through it all with me; and two sons [the oldest son is married and in law enforcement, both are military as well]. I am a seminary grad... and more importantly, *ALIVE IN CHRIST!* All by His Perfect Grace and Concern.

My mom was not an example of faithfulness – to say the least. My dad passed away due to cancer, ignored by very bad theology/belief. Which is why I cannot thank God enough about the life I have, the passion for apologetics (started many years ago in L.A. County jail facility), my wife and kids, the community at my healthy and well-balanced church, and the like.

All-in-all I thank Him *e v e r y d a y* for the life He gave me.