

## Richard Wise Testimony

I grew up running wild, being in and out of countless facilities. I've been to ten different prisons in two different states. I've been involved in all types of criminal activity. I've shot people, robbed them and all sorts of things. The one common factor all of these crimes had was that they were drug related. It took me years to understand why. I was chasing something but hiding from other things by clouding my thoughts. The end result was that I was truly looking for a euphoric type of peace and happiness.

I found it in Jesus Christ my Savior. I discovered that the grace of God is perfect even for a wretch like me. I first discovered Christ through the detective who arrested me and gave me 15 years in Florida prison. He testified to me about his Savior and I listened. At the time I was at my bottom and I was all ears. I was on the run before he caught me from two different states and wanted by the FBI. I was on drugs and just a wretched person. God used this man to show me what **Hebrews 12:5-12** (KJV) means. (And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:<sup>6</sup>For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.<sup>7</sup>If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?<sup>8</sup>But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? <sup>10</sup>For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but

he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.<sup>11</sup>Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.<sup>12</sup>Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees).

I could have easily ended up with life in prison but here I am now six months from completing this and back to worshipping my Savior. It hasn't been all gravy; I've been affiliated and have not been on track my whole time. The good news is this also; if you do back slide once you have been saved then God will bring you back and accept you with open arms. It's that feeling you may have chased like I was and it's called "Unconditional Love". You are worthy, I know you are! **Philippians 4:4-8**, Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.<sup>5</sup>Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.<sup>6</sup>Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.<sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.<sup>8</sup>Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

I hope this testimony has been a blessing to you. If you would like to read how others have experienced the life transforming power of God please write to me at the address below. We now have over 100 testimonies of those whose lives have been transformed by God's amazing Grace. We also have over 100 Con-tracts. Please send us your testimony as well.

**Bro. Otto Ball**  
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Angel's Story

Angel was looking for a way to fit in, but the drugs, drinking and partying didn't seem to offer the peace she knew was possible in life. Not knowing what she was searching for, Angel ended up in a church filled with ex-drug addicts holding Bibles and praising God. Suddenly she knew she'd found what she'd been looking for her whole life. When Angel reached out for Christian friends, she discovered the help she desperately needed to change her life.

Angel's true story is one of many uniquely featured testimonies from you, the members and visitors of this site. Each story reveals a life transformed by Christian faith. If your relationship with God has made a significant difference in your life, we would like to hear about it. Angel's Change

Every time my Grandma Louise would come over, *life* would enter our house. She would share amazing stories about God doing amazing things. I always thought somehow she had figured out the secret to life. Each time she would leave, I sensed the feeling of peace that accompanied her leaving the house also.

Grandma Louise used to sneak me to church with her whenever I went to visit. I tried as best I could to do the things she did and follow her example, and I came to the conclusion that one day I would get it right.

In the mean time, however, if I couldn't fill my life with God, I decided to fill it with something else. I went my own way for a while and started hanging around with my brother. He sold drugs from our house when my parents

were at work and he would also smoke marijuana in the shed out in the backyard.

### **Trying to Fit In**

I desperately tried to fit in. I started experimenting with speed, chopping up pills, ditching classes at school, and flunking grades. I found myself in many dangerous situations like being in cars with people drinking and driving.

When I met my friend Marisol, I started hanging around drug dealers. They had nice sports cars, fancy clothes, and would pay for our drinks and throw big parties. When I turned 18 I met a guy who said he went to church. I told him I went to his church also. It was a lie, but it forced me to go.

I didn't know where to find Jesus, but in the midst of everything, he found me. I wasn't expecting it to happen. I showed up at church and discovered ex-drug addicts holding Bibles and praising God. At the end of the service the pastor made an invitation to receive salvation. All I could think was that I didn't know what I was doing, but this is what I'd been looking for my whole life. Suddenly I was up at the altar inviting Jesus into my life.

### **Asking God for Help**

I was no angel immediately, but every time I went to a party or got involved in bad things, I would have the urge to leave. It just didn't seem right. I failed many times until I realized that maybe I should ask God to help me. So I prayed, "God, please take away my desire to get high. Help me stay away from these places of temptation." And he did!

One day I told my friend about my decision to follow Jesus and she said, "So, you're trying this Christian thing? Don't worry, you'll be back again next week."

The first few years were not easy. I didn't have any good Christian friends to pray with me and encourage me. I got lonely and went out with a guy who was not helpful to my walk with Jesus. I told myself that if I could just keep going to church, things would change.

### **Serving God or the Devil**

One day I heard a "fiery" sermon. I was so moved by God speaking to my heart that I called the guy I had been seeing and said, "I can't be with you anymore." I knew that I had to either serve God or serve the Devil.

I remember another day the pastor was preaching about friendships. He said, "He who has friends makes himself friendly." This phrase really struck me in a weird way. I thought to myself, "Okay God, meet me half way." I approached a lady at church and said, "I need to know some Christians. Will you have coffee with me?" Instead, she invited me out for pizza. Suddenly I found myself talking and spilling the beans on how I was struggling. My new friend was so loving. She told me that from then on, she and others would "be there" for me.

### **Drastically Changing**

From this point things in my life began to change drastically. I would wake up each day and discover I was so different than the last day. If you are having a rough beginning as a Christian, just hold on. Help is on the way. You are never alone when you have Jesus.

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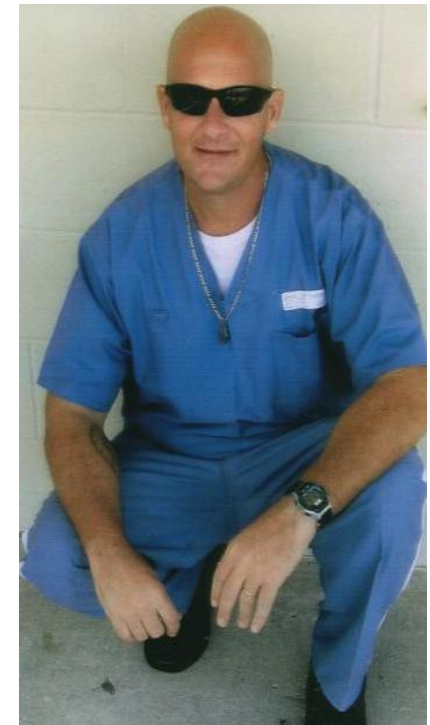
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**I Peter 3 : 18**

For Christ died for sins once in for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit."

## **Richard Wise's Testimony**



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