

# Robert Ray Davis

## Testimony

My name is Robert Ray Davis; I was born in Portland Oregon on March 29, 1988. I never lived in the ghetto with gangs and violence and I'm very thankful for that. Due to both my parents having addictions they were unable to raise me and I was adopted and raised by my Grandmother. Looking back at my childhood there were traumatic events that I can recall that would make me live the next 20 years of impulsivity. To me my childhood was perfect. I always had a roof over my head, had lots of friends and was spoiled to death. When I was young I was baptized Catholic and even went to a Catholic school on certain nights (can't recall exactly) and my Grandmother made sure we attended church every Sunday. There are a lot of good memories I have as a child.

It wasn't until I went to middle school that I started getting into trouble. I remember that I met this kid in my apartment building; that was a year older than me. His whole family smoked Marijuana and drank and he introduced me to both, which I fell in love with instantly. I felt like I was on top of the world nothing could bring me down. Around the same time my Grandmother started having health problems and it hurt me emotionally. Pain was a totally new emotion that I didn't know how to properly deal with. I hid behind weed and alcohol to cope with the pain. I started a habit that caused a lot of problems for me. Due to my Grandmother's health I had to move into my Aunts house. I didn't notice it at the time but I had a lot of freedom at my Grandmas that I didn't want to give up so I started running away and going back to her home.

I began going to run away shelters and group homes, which weren't terrible, but I ran away and back to my Grandmothers, the first chance I got. That lifestyle went on for a few years until my Grandma got really sick and had to move into my Aunts house. I still ran away with no place to go and eventually found all the runaway kids downtown and met all the street people, that drank even more than I did. I think I was fifteen the first time I got into serious trouble with the law for taking my Aunts truck. I was put on probation and got house arrest. Now every time I ran away or got into trouble, I went to Juvenile Hall. During that time I never went to school and flunked my High School years. As soon as I turned eighteen I was already going to county jail. I saw other people I knew so it was never that bad of a consequence. In late December of 2006 my Grandmother passed away. I was in jail at the time; so they left me have a furlough so I could go to the funeral. It was the most painful experience I have gone through. I got out two weeks later and went on a binge that lasted a few years. I was in and out of jail for stealing, fighting, and drinking. I had lost my relationship with God and didn't know what to do. I felt completely alone, treatments didn't help, my family was angry with me and so were my friends, so I decide to run far away. I picked up and moved to Albuquerque New Mexico.

When I got to Albuquerque I didn't know anyone there so I found the street people. Somewhere along the line I realized that the life I was living was going to kill me. I felt like my life was worthless and I was on the verge of suicide. I knew something had to change. I tried to change in Albuquerque but I couldn't do it, so I asked my Aunt to send me home and she did. When I got home I

lasted a few days, but I was running into everyone that I used to know and I fell into the street life once again. This is when I got a felony for stealing beer and was looking at 3 years in prison plus 8 months for all my probation violation. I was crushed. I would be 27 years old when I got released. I knew right then and there I had to find another way to live life.

I met a guy in county and we started talking about God. He answered a lot of questions that I had and gave me a new testament Bible and told me to start with Matthew and just keep reading. I did and realized that what I've been missing all along was to have God in my life. So for the first time I asked God to forgive me for all my sins and that I believed that his son Jesus Christ died for my sins. I told him everything I felt guilty for and prayed for my future and I even prayed for people I disliked. When I was done praying I felt like a new person. I felt better than I have ever felt. My attitude changed immediately and the way that I think.

A few weeks later they offered me 16 months, both my lawyer and I were shocked and my lawyer told me that I would only do about 10 months. I got another chance to start over at a young age. I took the deal as soon as I went to court. I felt so relieved that everything was working out.

I am currently still serving that sentence, but I'm getting my GED and making up plans for college and stability for when I get released. I am even talking to my Aunt and she is going to help me get my life straight as long as I am trying. I have left my past in the past and I'm living the future in God's grace. When I get released one of my goals is to help inmates and ex-inmates to find hope and inspiration

through God. I thank God for turning my life around and opening up a wonderful future.

I hope this testimony has been a blessing to you. If you would like to read how others in similar situations 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. Please send us your testimony as well.

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**The Roman Road**

I had a pretty good opinion of myself until a friend invited me to take a walk down the Roman Road. He used a single book in the Bible to open my eyes to my relationship with God, and I haven't been the same since.

He warned me that the trip might hurt, and he was right because he started by revealing my real status before God.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God ...

**Romans 3:23.**

Then I learned of sin's penalty.

For the wages of sin is death ...**Romans 6:23a**

He went on to tell me that God loves me so much he offers an alternative called "Eternal Life" ...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ ... **Romans 6:23b.**

Then he showed me how God provided his son Jesus as a atoning Sacrifice for my sin. Jesus took my penalty! But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8.**

I wondered if God would accept me. He assured me with even more good news. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved... **Romans 10:13.**

My friend showed me what I should do to receive Eternal Life. That if thou confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God raise him from the dead, thou shall be save ... **Romans 10:9**

We prayed together, and I gladly accepted God's gift of Eternal Life through Jesus Christ.



Robert ~~Ray~~ Davis

## Testimony



## Through Eyes of a Troubled Soul