

The day was June 16 of 2010 and my birthday. I just turned 31 yrs old. and i was contemplating killing myself. I reflected hard on my life that day. here it was my 31st Birthday and i had no friends no family or nobody who cared if i was alive or dead. I didnt receive 1 phone call from anybody to say happy birthday. everybody that i have ever had any type of contact with i had harmed in one way or another. I had lied, robbed, fought and used any person that ever came through my life until the point that nobody wanted to be around me or even in the same place that i was because they knew if i was there something bad was going to happen to someone. I just didnt care about anything or anybody else. I was a miserable selfish ignorant person. I used my own family to the point that they hated when I called or came by. because they knew that i had some kind of story as to why i needed something from them this time. It was almost always for money for alcohol or drugs. that was the only time i really ever talked to them. and they knew it. But like i said when your hooked on drugs or alcohol, you dont care about hurting people or lying to them, ~~so~~ Just as long as you get what you want. and on my birthday at 31 yrs old ~~that~~

and that really got me thinking a lot that day. I started thinking about things all the things that drugs and alcohol have done for me throughout my life. I had done given my life up for them and was thinking if i've been so loyal + faithful to them what have they done for me. And the curtain of my past started rolling back. I just lost my younger brother to an overdose of oxycotton in January of last year. my oldest brother is in Indiana state prison doing 65 yrs for murder over drugs. My best friend is dead now because of a heroin overdose. one of my uncles is dead because he shot himself over drugs and a woman. My other uncle died on christmas day a few yrs ago from serosis of the liver from alcohol. 3 of my really good friends are in prison in VA. for killing a guy after he robbed them drugs. my 11 yr old little sister and my stepmom are dead thanks to a drunk driver. and so is my granddad. I have done some time in jail and each time. it was for drugs or alcohol. I watched my dad physically abuse me, my sister and my mom when i was a kid and had to watch when he would rape her when he was drunk. So here i was 31 yrs old today. and needless to say, i was reflecting

for something that i cared so much about.
and gave up everything for! So what did i do. I
got drunk and ate some xanax and a couple valiums.
because thats all i knew. and in the midst of my
drunken stupor I remember saying Lord what am i
going to do. The next thing i remember is that it
was thursday and i was mad because i had never
planned to fall asleep or pass out and i felt like i
wasted what wouldve been a good high. So i called
in sick to work and started my day with a beer
and a bar of xanax. Then i'll never forget if i
live to be a million. It was around 5pm in
June with the S.C. heat well over 100° and i get a
knock on my door. Well Im half wasted and yell
outside to hold on, because Im wondering who in the
world is at my house. So i open the door and
I see this guy in a 3 piece suit. Sweating to
death but as happy as i have ever seen anyone
in my life. Im talking glowing. So happy and
excited to tell me about this guy named Jesus and
what he's done in his life and how he delivered
him from drugs and alcohol and a life of sin, he
shared a little bit of his testimony with me and
he invited me to come to church with him on Sunday.

to me. because i thought no one cared, and here was this preacher who didnt know me but i could feel the love in his prayer and in his words. Well he left but he left me with a gospel tract that was called "all this i did for thee. Well i went back inside and i looked at the bear in my hand and the Gospel tract and the Lord immediately started to work on me. how Jesus came and died for me and i felt horrible about myself. Sean told me that he was going to come back on Sat. and i was really looking forward to getting to talk with him some more. I was thinking a lot about his story and all the things the Lord has done in his life and how he delivered him from a life of sin and gave him a happiness that I have never had from anything in my life. Well Sat finally came and Sean is a man of his word + was there around 2:00. he said he came by once before but i was still hungover + passed out from the night before. I was drinking when he showed up again. and he came in for a few minutes. and he told me a little about the preacher. he told me how he used to be in a motorcycle gang, and how he was addicted to heroin and cocaine. ~~and~~ for 13 yrs. and the Lord delivered him also from his life of sin. after hearing about this i was really intrigued about Jesus. and wondering

the peace and happiness that i had seen in Sean and heard about the preacher. I could tell that Sean wouldve stayed longer had i not been drinking. but after hearing his story i can see why he doesnt want to be around it. But I felt bad again about my drinking again i could feel something inside me saying so what are you gonna do. Well he gave me 1 of the preachers cards and told me he'd be there in the morning to take me to church. Around 8:00 that night my mind was going in every direction possible and i pulled out the preachers card and called him. I didnt know why or what i would even say. and i knew he could tell i was drunk. But he gave me some words of encouragement and prayed for me. and told me to be at the church in the morning. Well the devil threw everything at me that night. I had a buddy who i havnt seen in months come by w/ a 9 ball of cocaine and some girls who wanted to party. Something inside me told me no. I told them that i couldnt stay up all night because I had to go to church in the morning. As you can probably imagine they looked at me like i was crazy. but respected it and left. I'll never forget that morning Sean + Cody picking me up for my 1st day at Sunrise. It didnt

and cried out for the Lord to help me. I don't know how long I was there but I remember Eddie coming down and praying with me and help lead me to the Lord. I felt an ease and a sense of peace that was so liberating you can't explain it unless you've had it yourself. After church I told Sean it's going to be really hard to go home and not drink before having to be back at church for night service. He gave me a bible and told me if the temptations start to just pray to God to help you and he will. And he told me that he would be back to get me for the evening service. It was really hard not to go into the fridge and grab a beer and eat a Xanax. But something inside me wouldn't let me. Something was telling me, look at your life and what you did with it. I had all intentions of going to church that night the service started at 6. I figured I'd be home by 7:30 and I'd be drunk by 9. That was my intentions. But the Lord had other plans. I'll never forget the message that Pap preached that night, about how he was an alcoholic and everyday after work he would stop and buy beer, and have it drunk by the time he got home. Then after he got saved and he stopped and bought the beer before he knew it he was home

That message was so powerful to me, because for 15 yrs that was my life. I never went 1 day without being messed up on something. I hit the altar again and i cried out to the Lord if you can deliver all these guys from a life of hell and give them all this Joy and happiness Just by putting all their faith and trust in you. Then I'm yours. Anything you want me to do, Just let me know and ill do it. because i want what they have. Well i went to the preacher after church and i told him that i didnt want to go home because I had almost 3 cases of Beer + a gallon of Vodka at my house and i was scared if i went home i would drink it. So he rounded up a few of the men from church and we headed to my house and we poured every drop of it down the drain. And let me tell you the devil does not like when you do something for God. And the preacher warned me. ^{he said} ~~as soon~~ as we leave the Devil is gonna attack you, and boy did he. I detoxed for Over 80 hrs straight w/ no sleep. going to work everyday in the S.C. heat with no sleep and detoxing 15 yrs of drug and alcohol abuse. But i had God. I soaked myself w/ God and stayed in my Bible and stayed in Church with the preacher

I really dont think if i wouldnt of had them
or so much church. I dont think i wouldve made
it. I've been saved for 2 months. I'm an usher
at my church, I sing in the choir for my lord at my
church, I count the offerings for my church, I have keys
to my church and the lord has called me to preach.
which is the highest honour that in no way shape or form
do i even deserve. I guess the moral of my story is
it doesnt matter who you are, where youve been, or what
you've done. if you call out to the lord and with
your whole heart. put your faith and trust and him
and be willing to repent of your sins. and give yourself
to him. he will save you too. and deliver you from
your life of sin. He put that unspeakable joy in
my heart. he put love in my heart. he put my families
trust back into me. he gave me my own family. he
gave me the best church in the world, the best
church family in the world. The best pastor in the
world who is a friend, confident and role model to me.
and all this he did for a low down, ~~bank~~ no good,
living drunk/drug addict tattooed up felon/sinner like me.

TRUST
IN
AMEN The
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