

Personal Testimony - Jeffrey Parrott

My name is Jeffrey Parrott, I want to tell you my story. My life story is typical for anyone who has come from a broken home. In the midst of the darkness and tragedy, a great light came to bring me hope. That's my desire for you – TO BRING YOU HOPE!

When I was a child all I remember was drunken brawls, anger, heart break and poverty. Not only financially struggling on the welfare system but we were spiritually bankrupt. My mother and father fought all the time, drugs and alcohol controlled them, there wasn't any joy or peace what-so-ever. When I was about five they finally gave up and divorced. I felt rejected, abandoned, angry and forsaken—there was no hope! So my older brother and I were raised by my mother without any contact from my father – HE LEFT! NO WHERE TO BE FOUND!

That started me off in an aimless life of destruction. I started doing drugs and drinking before the age of ten. You need to understand, I was desperate to numb the pain, the rejection and the hopelessness I had in my heart! When I was fifteen, in the midst of disfunction and confusion I was dealt the greatest blow of despair in my life. My brother was shooting up cocaine and overdosed—HE WAS ONLY EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD! Life is so fragile! We sometimes think we're invincible but this experience gave me a reality check! One tragic thing after another happened to my family. My mom was on the verge on a nervous breakdown—understandable, she was desperately trying to cover the pain by drinking herself into oblivion. THE PAIN WAS OVERWHELMING! I was fifteen at that time, a very impressionable age. The enemy of my soul was taunting me and influencing me by the deception of hell. I JUST DIDN'T CARE! Violence! Disrespect! Rage! Drugs! Lustfulness! Suicidal thoughts! Loneliness! Pain! Pride! These became my friends and they were taking me straight to hell. Until someone told me the TRUTH.

When I was sixteen, finally, someone with courage took the risk to tell me about the Lord Jesus Christ. I was in high school and really didn't know anything about religion up until that time. At first I rejected it. I said, "I have enough problems I don't need this Jesus stuff." What I didn't realize He's the answer to deliver me from sin and destruction. Something was happening in my heart. Something about those words, "Jesus loves you." I was confronted by eternity for the first time. It was foreign to me. I didn't understand at first. A battle between heaven and hell raged in my soul for months. Eternal life or eternal destruction? I felt I was already in hell and couldn't handle it any more. The light of the truth was shining in my heart. I tried diligently to resist it because I knew there had to be change. I wanted eternal life, love, hope and purpose but the price seemed to be to great. Anyways, could God really forgive me for all the horrific things I did? The question was posed to me several times, "Will you give your heart to Jesus? He really loves you, will forgive you and has a powerful plan for your life." My resistance towards God's truth was waning. One day, to everyone's surprise in the summer of 1986, I pursued the Christians that I had met and said, "I got to have what you have." We prayed together and Jesus made me clean, forgave my sin, sparked love and hope in me. For the first time, I REALLY experienced life!

I've been serving the Lord for many years and He has never left me nor forsaken me. He has been faithful even when the storms rage. My heavenly Father has given me a wonderful family that I love and cherish. He's given me the wisdom to run a business that meets all our needs - POVERTY HAS BEEN DESTROYED! He's my provider, comfort and friend. He's my ever present help in time of need. He's my life, purpose, peace and joy. His love fills my heart to spread the Good News to the entire world. JESUS WANTS TO SET US FREE FROM SIN AND DESTRUCTION! That's why I wanted to tell you my story. You are valuable to the Father and He has a great plan for your life. I hope my life story has brought a spark of encouragement to you. He loves you with an everlasting love. Why not give your heart to Him today, I promise, you will not be disappointed. He wants to make you whole so you can touch a hurting world with the message of hope!

REMEMBER, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." Jn. 3:16-17

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.'" Rom. 10:9-11