

My name is Charles McDonald. I am presently incarcerated at the Carol Vance Unit which is a faith-based pre-release program which uses biblical principles to emphasize the importance of taking ownership of one's life and developing good decision making skills and behaviors.

The purpose for this testimony is in no way to glorify my past, but only to share where I've been and where I am now in Christ Jesus.

My life was full of sin. I used drugs and partied every chance I had. My mom always gave me the love every child dreams of having. I love my mother dearly and I know she did her best to take care of us. Every Sunday morning my mother literally forced me to go to church (If I had the choice, I wouldn't have gone). Although, my body was present I ignored the Word of God.

The problem was that I lived for so long doing wrong and enjoying sin that my heart became hardened. As a result, I was not able to put my full faith in Him. A sinful lifestyle became more important than the will of God. When satan has full control, it doesn't matter how many times you pray to God, satan will make you believe your prayers are not heard.

For years, I watched my mother pray for the day that I would change my way of living. It's quite touching and even hurts to think back of all the emotional pain and anguish I have caused her. Now that she is no longer here, I pray for forgiveness. My only desire now is for others to have what I have, without going through what I went through. My life of crime in the free world affected my family in many ways that I did not realize at the time. God took my hate and gave me love, he substituted my anger with joy, my wickedness with righteousness, my heart of war with one of peace. Above all, he has put the truth in place of my ignorance and confusion.

I don't deserve His forgiveness, His mercy, His love or His grace. I don't deserve anything that He offers or gives. Thank God that He operates in love and compassion. His grace never ceases to amaze me.