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CHRIST FOUND ALL CREATION SAVED

THE TESTIMONY OF A FOOL

THE SIX LESSONS

BY ASSOCIATE MINISTER, BROTHER GERRY D. BROWN

This testimony is based on six verses from the Book of Proverbs

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to help men see that there is a better way.

Chapter one

“The way of a fool is right in his eyes, but the wise will hear advise. “ Proverbs 12:15

THE WAY OF A FOOL!

After many years of living in self-denial, today I have acknowledged that I have lived an entire life in the way of a fool. Now, you may ask, “What is a fool by today’s standards?” Well, my reply to that question is that a fool a hundred years ago would still be a fool today. Simply put a fool is a fool, yesterday, today and tomorrow.

If you know that God is God, Creator of all, orchestrator of life, death and the hereafter and you still live your life as if that fact has no importance, then you are definitely and without a doubt, a fool.

Now, being a fool is not something you acquire at birth, it’s a learned behavior. You have to work hard to be a fool. It’s also a condition as to when you finally get your wake up call. The knowledge that you are a fool has sprung on you like a hungry lion and is eating your self-esteem in big hungry cobbles.

But, let’s examine this condition in me, since I am the only fool that I can talk about without slandering someone else’s character. I was born in the projects, a hard row to hoe by any standard, but not one that is fatal to growth as an individual. Therefore being born in the projects doesn’t make you a fool. My Mother was a party girl, my grandparents were alcoholics, and my Father was a picture of a man that I would never see in life. Still these things are pre-conditioned not a cause.

My image or role models for a man was an Uncle who drank, gambled and ran around on his wife to the detriment of his family and his children. Yet, that is not a linking factor to becoming a fool.

Subsequently I spent the early years of my life drinking, gambling, and chasing women. Strong liquor incapacitated me. Gambling kept me broke and most of the women were using me when I thought I was using them.

Now for me there was a duality in life for me back then. Like most inner city black kids in those days, we were sent to other relatives to spend the summer, supposedly to keep us out of trouble. My Aunt and Uncle who basically functioned as my Parents were God fearing Christian people who did their very best to instill in me work ethics and

respect for others., love of self, family and the basic knowledge that God is the only sure power, and deciding factor in a man's life.

Yet, even then, I drank, knowing that I couldn't handle the stuff, gambled knowing that I was neither good nor lucky at it. I chased women who had a many flaws or more than I did. Did I see any of this as foolish behavior? No! I was more like a small branch caught in a current smiling, relaxed, floating from one bad decision to the next.

Early in my life being fool carried with it some heavy consequences. Fools make decisions based on foolish thoughts, so they do foolish things based on foolish thinking. I thought I was John Dillinger and I ended that budding career with a forty-year sentence in Kentucky State Prison.

Now you would think that a situation such as that would be a wake up call? Wrong! I submerged myself in that culture, even told myself that I was good at robbing people. Six years in prison followed by three years freedom, followed by three years in prison, followed by one year of freedom, followed by six and a half years in prison, well you get the picture. The reality was that I had been to prison for everything I had ever done, so I was a really great criminal, right?

Then one morning, I woke up homeless, no job, living on the kindness of strangers, nothing to show that I had lived or accomplished anything in the entire course of my life. I then knew what a fool felt like. How I wished I had listened to and learned from those wiser than I thought I was.

Chapter Two

“The wicked wish for wrongful plunder, but the plant of the righteous bears.” Proverbs 12:12

THE WICKED WISH

All of my life I wanted to be rich, at least Black folk rich, you know what I mean? Not to worry about food, clothing, shelter, transportation or money in my pocket. My adapted parents use to tell me that if I worked hard, saved my money, lived within my means, prayed and was righteous with God, he would provide my every need and bless me with my increase. Even though I watched God work that very same thing in their lives, He moved to slow for me.

I saw my dad (Uncle) come home in the morning so tired he couldn't climb the stairs to go to bed, and my Mom (Aunt) so worn out she just sat on the porch for a while. But I really didn't pay that much attention to the full refrigerator or the absence of bill collectors. Even the new car in the garage next to the nice house had no real effect on me after all they weren't mine. I took all those things for granted because I always had some grand scheme to make something for nothing at someone else's expense. And as you would know, it always failed.

I was looking for the easy score and it always turned out not to be easy or that much of a score. But my mind never stopped working on something. I wonder if I had put that much energy into something legal, where would I be today. I watched friends who I had considered a lot less smarter than me buy houses, raise families create a history to leave behind of the things they have accomplished and I'm still here on the outside looking in. The wicked wish for plunder and end up with nothing.

Chapter Three

“A man cannot build upon wrong, but the foot of the good has a sure base.” Proverbs 12:3

A MAN CAN'T BUILD ON WRONG!

About Twenty years ago, I moved to Minneapolis Minnesota, got married to beautiful and intelligent women. I got involved with the community and met other upwardly mobile people. People who where going places, doing things and making a difference in the lives of other folks. I was right in there being heard and in a position to make a difference myself. For the first time in my life I was legally prosperous, had a home, car, bills paid, money in the bank., businesses, respectability and stability.

But I, listen now, I could not give up my “Gangsta” status. I If that doesn't sound “Ignat” I don't know what does. I got involved in the selling of drugs, the power, the night life and the women soon had me as caught up as any other user was. All the things that had made my family and me successful begin to unravel. I spent more time selling drugs than I did selling the services of our construction cleanup firm. I spent more time hanging out playing the baller role, than the husband and father role, I spent more time getting high than I did getting home.

Everything that I had built with hard work, diligence, intelligence and prayer, I tore down with illegal activity, neglect and self-destruction. So there is an illustration on how no matter what good you do, you can't build anything on wrong. All you can do is destroy what you've done. Oh yeah, that ended in a prison term too.

Chapter Four

“Like a passing storm, sin goes; but goodness endures forever.” Proverbs 10:25

LIKE A PASSING STORM

At some point in life a man must determine his worth and it is by looking at his life in terms of what has he accomplished and by what he will leave behind him when he is separated from this earthly plane. What will his legacy be?

In my case what has being a sinner begat for me? Well, I can sum that up for you in one word. Nothing! Now some sinners have prospered beyond imagination, become rich

and famous by denying the goodness, dependability and omnipotence of God. They believe that all they have accomplished was of their own will and by their own design.

That might be the way it turns out for some but us basic, down home, forget to pray, break the rules, neglectful sinners who don't call on God when we need Him so much, suffer so much in the worldly way, that it is us who in the middle of our need rather than to cry out for Gods Mercy and His Grace; instead we ask something dumb, Like "Why Me Lord!"

Our lives are a storm filled with sin clouds and the pouring rain on us reminds like mighty beats on our heads that God is the answer to our every need. Yet we refuse to submit to His will and His plan for our lives, ignoring His constant calls.

Life is a winding highway with places that are straight and narrow, and every now and then we get on that straight part, then we take a side road, just so that we can go though the storm again. We get so caught up in the "I" can that we forget again that without Him we can do nothing. We forget the sunshine and the cool breezes and come to prefer the thunder and the lightning that comes with the storm.

Misery likes misery as much as it likes company, Paul said, "the good that I would do, I don't." this is because the flesh is weak and has to be supported by your willingness to lean on the Everlastings Arms for support and guidance. I have always known that there was good in me, but my problem was that I couldn't figure out where the profit was in it for me. The other part was how could I use it, what would I do with it and whatever this goodness was? Then what comes to mind is "what would it profit a man to gain the whole world but lose his soul."

So if I have spent my whole life walking in the storm as a sinner, the questions is would I rather stay there and loses my life or walk in the sun (THE LIGHT) and gain my soul?

Chapter Five

"A man may scatter and still increase, or grasp at much and be poor." Proverbs 11:24

GRASPING AT MUCH

In the course of my awakening, I am forced to examine what I have grasped and reached for in my life. I have had my share of riches, the very things I had spent so much time trying to get illegally and without earning. Even then I didn't see that I had accomplished my goal in the very manner my parents had been so adamant in teaching me.

The problem arises when you don't give credit and thanks to the one who really made your success possible. We ask God for help in our lives, our jobs, our goals and when he is allowed to step in and orchestrate some productivity in our lives, we step up like big

dogs and shout to the world, look what I have done, look what a smart and great person I am. We have reached for God's hand and found that without God's help, your hand may as well be empty.

Chapter Six

“A fair women retains her honor, as wealthy men, retain their wealth.” Proverbs 11:16

A FAIR WOMEN

Now I come to the most difficult subject for me to tackle. Women! In my life there have been a few great loves. Albeit they are no longer in my life. But over the years I have come to understand a few things, not many but a few. Some have said to me that the measure of a man is the woman he is with. It says of him what makes his life complete.

The woman is a reflection of the man and he is her reflection also. Neither is complete without the other. The basic fact of a man and his mate is that if you are a knucklehead, then you're attracted to knucklehead women and so forth. Every man wants a woman who shares most or all of his interest, which is what gets the man and woman whom have left God out of their lives into trouble, deep trouble.

I am not going to speak about your choice in women because due to my wayward life, the good and honorable women I have known did the correct thing and got away from me. And I in retaliation and being a knucklehead ran right into the clutches of every knucklehead woman on the planet. But as the Man said, “You gets what you paid for.”

Men want what men want, and at the same time daim to be “real” men. They sit on the sofa watching the game while his woman shops at the supermarket alone, seeing other couples holding hands as they walk through the frozen vegetable section, sneaking little kisses by the fresh produce, and she wonders why they don't do those things anymore. What kind of man do I have, she asks herself?

She gets up Sunday morning and goes to church and she sees her friends in church together, praising God together, praying together, and she wonders why her man will not come to church with her? She asks herself, “What kind of man do I have?” It is very true that the family that prays together stays together. A woman's honor, my friend is tied up in the man as much as it is in her public face and her moral character.

But, the thing each man really needs to know is that she can retain and even enhance her honor by ridding herself of a man who is not committed to God and to her. That's her value, however flattering it may be to think that her value is being with you. The truth is that her relationship with God is the deciding factor in her life, and if you want to be in her life, in the words of D.L. Hughley, “Boy, you need God' in your life.”

I don't really know anymore about women now that I am older but I have learned that an honorable woman is worth her weight in gold.

CLOSING REMARKS

About the Author:

Gerry Brown, known to many of his friends, as "Poppa" is a fifty-seven (57) year old, ex con who sees most of his life as an exercise in futility. "It is only and I do mean only by God's will that I am alive."

Having spent twenty-five (25) years of my life incarcerated and I will most likely spend the rest of my life under supervision. I came to God in 1992 after I was a practicing Muslim for twenty years.

God moves people around to suit His own sense of humor, when I re-converted my life was threatened several times. God builds hedges around those for whom He has purposed.

Now living in Florida and studying under Pastor Charles Frederick, and seeing him start his live fresh and to learn what God has planed for him and the men that the Father is using to re-establish the foundation of His house. According to pastor Charles.

"God protects fools and children I guess I have been a lot of one and too much of the other."

I Gerry D. Brown authorize the release of this testimony with the use of my name in knowing that one good man needs to know the Father has a purpose for him. We are a testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Charles

As an Apostle and a Teacher of His Word I to was called at fifty-seven, which has been less, then four years. God called and I answered. If you have ears to hear listen for we will and are to establish His House with our good works.

Please visit our web site and read foundation of God's house.

Pastor Charles Frederick

We are a non-profit 501c3 and our mission is to work with men to break the cycle.
Tax deductible donations can be sent to: CFACS, Inc.

P.O Box 23972
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 These offerings will be used to help men like Gerry.

Thank you and as I am, so will you walk in our Fathers footsteps.

The lord is my personnel savior

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that god hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Lord Jesus I know I was a sinner. This day I come before you to confess all my past sins. Lord Jesus please forgive me of all the things that I have done wrong against you. You said, Dear God if I believe in my heart that you sent Christ Jesus to die for my sins. That He rose again from the dead for my sins. That He went to the newness of Life for me. I am reborn in the Holy Spirit and I am saved, Lord I believe and I confess with my mouth that Jesus died, rose from the dead and sits as the right hand of the Father. I believe in Him and I shall live an eternal and abundant life. From this day forward I determine in my heart to follow you Lord to receive you into my heart Lord Jesus as my personnel Lord and Savior. I have decided to serve you. Lord Jesus you are my personnel Lord and Savior by the confession of my faith in You. I declare I am saved and born again in the name of Jesus Christ.

Name

Date

By

After reading this aloud turn around one time. Your life has now turned around

The old man is dead.

You are reborn in he name of Jesus Christ;

Take your first step forward as a new Spirit.

Every step you take after this you will be walking in the kingdom.

Amen