



Stephen Hendrix's Personal Testimony

My name is Stephen Hendrix. I was born and raised in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. My parents raised my brother, my sister and I to trust in God's word and to follow His ways. I, however, was living a double life. I lived for God on Sundays and for myself during the week. When I was about sixteen, I decided that I didn't need God at all and I could live just fine without Him.

The last two years of high school I began drinking alcohol with my friends to have a good time. We did have some good times, but no one told me that in just two years that alcohol would be controlling my actions, thoughts and emotions. I also found out two years later, alcohol and marijuana go hand in hand, where you find one you will usually find the other. I started smoking marijuana on a weekly basis. When I smoked my first joint no one told me that my actions would be limited as to how much marijuana I had or didn't have. I could not go see a movie, watch TV, go to a baseball game or go to a concert unless I had some pot.

Just two years later I was drinking alcohol and smoking pot, but I was tired. It was still early... I didn't want to sleep. A friend of mine said, "Here, try this." I looked down at a little bag with white powder in it. I took the bag, went to the bathroom and snorted my first line of cocaine. This made me a new person of the world. I was overconfident and cocky, and I felt great...for a little while. No one told me that this white powder would assume and take control of my life and almost end it. No one told me, in the next four years, I would lose my best friends, my self-respect, and almost my family. No one told me that I would go through seven jobs in one year's time. No one told me I would steal to support my habit. No one told me I would contribute to others addictions, who now sit in jail. No one told me that one-day I would rather die than go on living that life in bondage.

Then one day...someone told me there is hope; someone told me there is life; someone told me there is freedom from bondage of this world. Someone told me about Jesus Christ. They told me He is God's only Son and how God loved me so much that He sent Him to die for me so that I might live (*John 3:16*). They told me that if I trusted Christ with all my heart that He would free me from the bondage I was in (*John 8:32*). They told me, Christ would make a new man out of me and that I could live an abundant life (*II Corinthians 5:17, John 10:10*). They told me that if I believe with all of my heart that Jesus was raised from the dead and confessed him with my mouth I would be saved (*Romans 10:9-10*). After they told me, I believed and I confessed and Jesus radically changed my life. I am now free from bondage (*John 8:36*) and God has forgiven me of all my sins (*I John 1:9*). Someone told me, so now I'm telling you. Pass it on!