**My Testimony**

**Life before Christ**

I grew up in Griffin, Ga, a small town south of Atlanta. I was raised in a fatherless home, leaving me with no male role model. I was lost concerning what was my purpose in life. I had no knowledge of the Gospel and what was God’s will. Unfortunately, today’s rappers are icons for many African American males, frequently defining our manhood. I relied upon rappers, and the streets to discover who I was as a man. I sought identity and fulfillment in a lifestyle of money, illicit sex, and gang activities, all things contrary to the Word of God. I was arrested at the age of 17 on Sept 4, 2009 for burglary and 2 counts of aggravated assault on law enforcement. I was facing 25 years to prison which was the most terrifying moment of my life. A lifestyle that I thought was so fulfilling lead to my brokenness.

**Salvation**

It was in this moment of desperation, that I realized how empty I was inside. On December 6, 2009 I attended a church service that was held in the facility where a minister shared the Gospel. I remember him teaching on the Life of Jesus, mainly about his sacrifice, and I realized that I needed to make things right with God. Hearing the Gospel really caused me to question my life decisions. That night, I made the decision to repent and give my life to Christ. I didn’t do it because I wanted God to give me a “Get Out of Jail Free” card, but because I was truly convicted of my sins. On December 8, 2009, I was sentenced to ten years, only serving three and half years. Within that time, I sought God intensively to discover my purpose and His will for my life.

**Life in Christ**

I used my time to draw closer to God and the more I learned about Jesus the more I discovered who He created me to be. Through Christ I overcame addictions, lust, and anger. I gained a true definition of manhood, not one given to me by society. The Gospel brought me hope in a hopeless situation and joy in the midst of turmoil. I was released from prison two and a half years ago and God’s goodness has overtaken me. I have a great job as a RSA for Ashley Furniture, I’m pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Theology, and I have been blessed me with a Godly fiancé. I hope to be a Pastor in the near future under the headship of a great Pastor, friend and mentor Pastor David Holt.