

Are you a prisoner?: By Erica Jermanus

This book is about what you can learn from prisoners or from being in prison.

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Introduction

In this book, I talk about those who suffer wrongfully by undergoing jail or imprisonment because of sin. Then, I talk about those who suffer for Christ and righteousness sake. Many Christians are persecuted for their faith and end up in jail or prison because of their boldness in sharing the gospel and Jesus Christ with others. Christians are easily persecuted just for speaking the name of Jesus Christ.

Also, I talk about what a prisoner should do while in prison and how they can be released from their imprisonment. Furthermore, I talk about if you are in a prison yourself, whether that be mentally or physically. Lastly, I talk about how prisoners are of lower status and how we can learn humility from their experiences. If you are interested in reading this book, stay tuned for more!

There are many people in the world who have grown up in dysfunctional families and homes without godly parents. The parents in the home had problems of their own and could not properly raise children. Many parents did not know God or the Bible, so they did not raise their children right in the Lord. The parents did not discipline their children when they were young. Therefore, their children have grown up with drugs, alcohol, immoral relationships, gang violence, and crime. That is why so many are in jail or prison because of not having a mother or father to love, care for, support, and nurture them in the faith.

Many go to jail and prison for suffering wrongfully due to doing and selling drugs, drunkenness, drunk driving, murder, theft, crime, etc. These people who did these sins did not know Christ and were not raised in the right kind of home and environment. So that is why they partake in these sins as they get older as adults.

1 Peter 4:15 says, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters."

A person may be imprisoned and suffering as an evildoer because of their childhood upbringing. They may not have had the best childhood. Maybe these people were introduced to the wrong things and people when they were young. These wrong things and people dragged them down hill. They got off the wrong path or were never really on the right path to begin with. That is why people do bad things in the world because of sin and Satan. Many people that do bad things are working for the devil and are given over to Satan. It mostly has to do with their childhood upbringing and not being raised in the right environment with godly parents and with biblical teachings.

Chapter 2: Suffering for Christ and facing persecution by undergoing imprisonment.

There are many Christians today who suffer persecution because of their relationship with Christ. These Christians go out and share the gospel and get imprisoned for speaking the truth. The truth can cause people to get offended easily. It is not the person themselves that is getting offended; it is the demons that manifest in people when the truth is spoken. Apostle Paul and the apostles were imprisoned for

speaking the name of Jesus Christ in the book of Acts. They were told not to heal in the name of Jesus Christ, but they obeyed God and his commands and healed in the name of Jesus Christ anyway and were arrested.

Acts 5:17-26 says, "Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life."

1 Peter 4:16 says, "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

2 Timothy 3:12 says, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Matthew 5:10-12 says, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner

of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

In countries, like North Korea, Christians go to prison for having a Bible. Bibles are banned in that country and in other countries too. They would probably go to prison too for speaking about Christ or the gospel. In America, we have much freedom to preach, to worship, to read our Bibles, and to pray freely without imprisonment. We are blessed with freedom of speech under the first amendment in the constitution. The persecution in America is nothing like the persecution in other countries. In other countries, Christians get burned alive or martyred for their faith in Christ.

Chapter 3: What should a prisoner do?

A prisoner may have to face jail or prison time because of wrongdoings. But then there are those in prison for no apparent cause. There are people in prison who did not do anything to deserve being in prison. They are innocent. But the judge proved them guilty even when they are not. When prisoners are in prison, there are some things that they can do.

First, it depends on how long you are in jail or prison. If you are in jail for about a month or a year or longer, you can focus your time on growing closer to the Lord and developing your own personal relationship with him. You can also serve others doing community service as a way of getting out of jail or prison. You may need to work so many hours until you are released. You can also serve the people that work at the jail or that are in the jail.

You can be a light and encouragement to them in those prisoners' darkness. You can be the one to get them free, healed, and delivered. God can use you in that place to be a blessing to the people in that environment. You can share your testimony with the prison inmates on how God has freed you from your past sins and bondage. Your testimony might help another inmate in the prison get free and delivered.

While you are in jail or prison, you can participate in Bible studies to grow in your faith and relationship with Christ. You can also develop a prayer life by talking and listening to the Lord throughout your time there. Once you have served your time in jail or prison, that is when you can ask the Lord for guidance and wisdom as to

where to go when you get out and what to do. He will lead and guide you if you ask him.

Chapter 4: Are you a prisoner to your past or past sin? How to get free?

You may not even be in a jail cell or prison, but maybe you are just struggling with some things, and you are trying to get free. Maybe you have been in the same cycle or pattern of sin for years. You are stuck and in bondage. I want to let you know that the Lord wants to deliver you and set you free today. You may be struggling with past sin or addiction. Maybe your prison is fear, doubt, worry, guilt, or shame. Maybe your prison is a past relationship or hurt or pain caused by a relationship.

Whatever your prison is, the Lord wants to free you from it. When you ask God to heal you, deliver you, and set you free from your bondage, you best believe he will. When you stand in faith, God will show up for you. It may not be in the way that you want him to or the way that you expect, but he eventually will. John 8:36 says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Now you just need to be willing to work with God on changing those bad habits and turning away from certain habits and addictions. Ask God to give you the strength to do it through him. He wants to help you when you ask him. He will give you his Holy Spirit to live within you to empower you to overcome sin and temptation. You may need to renew your mind with the word of God so that you can have a new mindset and not a toxic one. You may need to leave toxic influences who may be leading you to sin, hell, and destruction.

The Lord will help you to get back on your feet again. You may need to start over with a brand new life when you get out of your prison or jail. You will need to be led and guided by the Holy Spirit on the next step to take with your life. He will show you where he wants you to live, what job to take, or who he wants you to be in friendships and relationships with. Ask God for wisdom and clarity regarding any questions you have for him. He will come through right on time. Keep trusting in him.

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Chapter 5: Humility is learned through prison experiences

Prisoners are considered of low estate or lowly because when an inmate is in prison, they are at their lowest of lows. They are going through their most deep and dark moments in their lives. It brings them to the end of themselves. It humbles them and brings them closer to God. They are reliant and dependent on God to get them out of that prison that they are in, whether it is a mental or physical prison. Jail inmates, or prison inmates, are looked down on and seen as the scum of the earth.

Jail inmates are looked at as dirty and filthy. Some of them feel guilt and shame over their past and past sins and mistakes. They feel a sense of remorse for what

they have done wrong. God has forgiven them of their sins because they have a true heart of repentance. I believe prison inmates learn what it's like to be humble in prison and jail. Many inmates have grown closer to Christ through prison and have actually gotten saved in a jail cell. That is when they turned their life around for the better. They have become a better person because of going through a jail or prison experience. It may not have been easy, but it was worth it because they learned valuable lessons that they can share with others.