My Story So Far

My parents divorced when I was 5 years old. I had my first taste of alcohol when I was 6. The first time I got drunk was at 10. I started to steal and drink hard liquor when I was 12, and pretty much spent my teenage years as an alcoholic. One ingredient that GOD included in my DNA that has made everything move at light speed is... ADHD. It has to be the reason I've moved my family 30 times since 1987! LORD have mercy!

My energy has always driven me. When I grew up in the 1970's it was known as Hyperactivity. Within that drive a lightning fast decision making process has been the rule of the day for practically ... EVERY DAY OF MY LIFE! All significant decisions I have made in my life have been made quite literally, in seconds. I met my wife and got married at 19

years old and we almost immediately started our family in our early twenties having two sons and a daughter. For the first 15 years I was sober. These were the best years that our family had together until I started drinking again. The next 10 years were a blur. It's hard to recount those days because of the depth of pain they caused, both then and the years after. **But GOD** is faithful. As I write this in 2026 I've been sober now for 13 years. Those years have been extremely difficult as only months after getting sober I had a stroke that has impaired my cognition. Our kids have grown and have families of their own now. We've got 8 grandkids! That's my story so far.

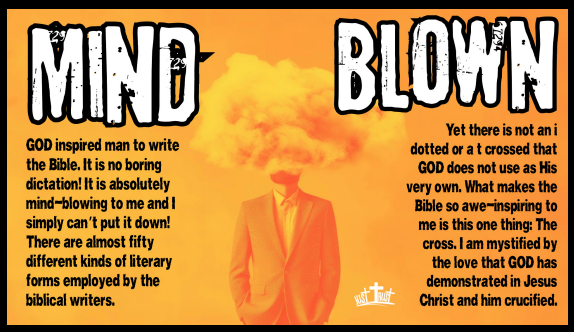
Wait! What about the Bible, and Jesus Christ and Him crucified? How in the world am I supposed to explain THAT through all the uneven progress I've had? Many of us feel like our story could never be a testimony of what it means to trust in Christ because of how inconsistent we have been. **But GOD** gives us grace. For every time we fall, we get back up! **GOD's grace is greater than our past!** One of these days we're going to realize that we're forgiven and the proverb will be true in us ...

"The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day."
Proverbs 4:18 NIV

It has taken a long time for me to learn this. But oh, how wonderful a truth it is! It's like the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is working in me ... BECAUSE it is! There's no two ways about it.

"For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes."
Proverbs 24:16 NIV

How many times? Seven out of seven ... EVERY TIME! Jesus Christ is the only Savior and thank GOD, He's my Savior! The Bible is where I've come to know Him. It's the Word of GOD. You know how I know? It's the only book that GOD has claimed as His very own. My mind is blown! Tell me, what one thing has happened in world history that demonstrates the love of



GOD for the whole world? My honest belief after years of research is that Jesus Christ and Him crucified is the only answer that truly satisfies. It's the only answer that has held me up and carried me through life so I could face my worst fears and overcome them. That'd be the definition of sufficient courage to me. What's the worst that could happen? Bring it. My GOD is able!

> *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
> Romans 5:8 NIV

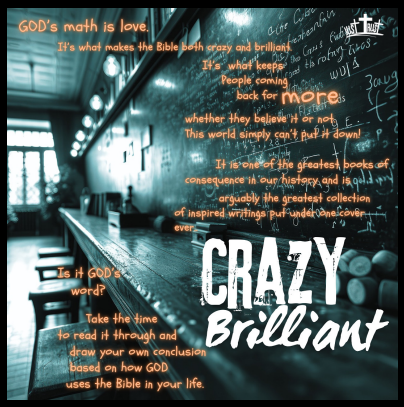
Every morning when I wake up I get my coffee and I pray, "Good morning GOD." All hell can be breaking loose in my life, and oh it most certainly has at times, but still I call it "Good." I call it THAT because of one thing

... GOD's Love.

We've all got a story to tell. Mine is FULL of ups and downs. From teenage alcoholism, to a drunken marriage proposal that has turned into a great love story, to a wonderful family, to full time ministry, to ten more years of alcoholism that gave me a slow stomach, to a stroke that slowed my brain, to moving more than Moses, to eight grandkids from our two sons and daughter, to their families' ups and downs including steadiness through some of the best and worst of times imaginable. One theme has remained true for us all. **We are the standing family.** We have all been knocked down, but we all get back up. As messy as life can get, we all try to be there for each other through it all.

What does the Bible, the Word of GOD, mean to me in my life? In a word ... everything. It has consumed my life. Why? It's where I know GOD. It's where I hope you can know GOD too. Read it through from cover to cover and see what GOD does in your life. It's alive and powerful. The words get into your soul in a way that changes you from the inside out. No other book does this. It's because of GOD's forgiveness.

Two words that I have used to describe the Bible are Crazy Brilliant. Not a single one of these "books" were written with the intent of one day being part of "The Book." In our statement of faith we say that the original manuscripts were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and without error. To me, that means that those who wrote it were fully inspired to write



a perfect work. They wrote exactly what GOD wanted. We also say that the Bible is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. How could the Word of GOD not be [ALL THAT] to those who believe it? But how do you know for sure? The proof of the pudding is in the eating. You'll never know what it means to be forgiven until you believe. Knowing this, Jesus gave us the answer.

> *"Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."*
> John 7:17 NIV

You got to read it and be willing to find out for yourself. Otherwise, you'll never get ...