

## **Tom McCauley**

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**My Background:** There was a lot of abuse in my early life - mental, physical, emotional, and the biggest one of the spirit. The hardness started at a very young age with the separation of my parents. At five years old, I remember looking out to the driveway, with a lit cigarette in my hand, and wetting my pants, because I knew it was probably the last time I would see my father. There was child abuse from age 5 to 13, when I finally got tired of the closed fist from certain relatives. At age thirteen, I started to elevate my hardness to drugs and alcohol, and also as a way of numbness because of the pain and abuse. I had abusive relationships with the opposite sex all through high school, and my first marriage was at 22, in a totally drug-infested relationship. Years later, by the grace and mercy of God, through devoted men and women of God, like Tom and Dottie, our Lord and Savior has woken up this spirit forever.

**Getting Saved:** I had been on about a 3-day bender. I got home, and my brother Steve said, "Hey, walk up with me to this coffee shop up the street - I want you to meet someone." Well, here's this big dude with a beard, an old biker guy and his wife, Tom and Dottie, who run a 12-Step recovery ministry. So after the meeting I approached Tom and said, "I want to see God." That night it was crucifixion and resurrection of cleanness and purity for Tom McCauley. Thank You, Jesus! To give you some background, my mother first had come up to Tom and Dottie at church and asked for prayer for her unsaved son who was a crack cocaine addict (that was me). Several months later was when my brother Steve brought me to one of their "Love Lifted Me Recovery" meetings, and I had said that I wouldn't believe in God unless I could see Him. Tom asked me to stay after the meeting that night, and he presented the gospel to me for over an hour, opening his Bible to verse after verse, and having me read them. We prayed, and I received Jesus Christ as my Savior that night, Sept. 12, 2000. In over four years of my walk with the Lord, I'm not perfect, and I backslid many times. I had to take a year's worth of court-ordered anger management classes because of some of the crazy things I'd done, and out-of-control anger. I had a lot of ups and downs in my addiction recovery, until at one point I needed a place to live, so Tom and Dottie helped get me into the Bible Tabernacle "New Life Institute" out in Canyon Country. I stayed seven months, and got really grounded in the word of God, and the Lord has been growing and maturing me in the years since. I didn't always live close enough to come to Tom and Dottie's meetings regularly, but Tom spent hours and hours with me in counseling and discipling either on the phone or in person.

**The Best Part:** I finally felt it was time to try to get back together with my wife, Priscilla (from my second marriage) and young son, Thomas, who had moved up to Oregon. It has been many months of adjustments in living together after a separation of several years (and both of us were unsaved when we were together before), and I made lots of calls down to California to Tom for counseling and prayer. We are beginning to experience peace and victory in our home, and God is putting together a marriage that was once questionable. Glory to God! I give thanks to my Father for putting the armor on me and my wife and family, through the tough times, and pulling all of us out of the storm. The biblically-based 12-Steps at Love Lifted Me Recovery, not only the teaching, but the one-on-one counseling with Tom, helped me with my bitter roots. With prayer and understanding of God's word, the long nights and days with Tom on the phone, not only do I have a walk with the Lord, but also two people who are my friends and a true brother and sister in Christ Jesus, who I love truthfully on this earth and in heaven forever. In His name, Jesus, hallelujah!