

Light in the darkness

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Through this book we will take a walk through various aspects of our lives that may have been a stumbling block for our own family or friends.

We will discover what it means to be light in the darkness and we will see that both religion and atheism are not a way out of our problems.

The greatest achievement that we can aspire in life is to have a relationship with Jesus, who will guide us to be better family member, to be merciful, loving and good disciples.

In addition, through this book I share my testimony so that it can be help to those who are going through problems or believe that there is no remedy or solution for their lives.

If God changed me, he can change anyone.

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Happiness and acceptance

In our quest to expand to new horizons, we begin a life of hard work and stress, concentrating ourselves on how to make money to give a good life to our children.

We go day after day trying to fill empty spaces with material things thinking that the more we have, the more satisfaction and joy we will reach, we are forced to belong to a social group that, although it works too hard and has a good salary, remains empty, regardless of the achievements.

We want all people to praise us for our high responsibility and we focus on seeing how to give our family a better position but we forget that what we need most is love before anything else.

Material things buy five minutes of happiness but will never buy a full life or one I love you.

We confused love with remorse, for that reason we seek to please others through what cannot fill our hearts, we give away cars, watches, dresses or shoes, video games, rings, bracelets but we never give away love and quality time.

What is happening to us? We have forgotten to stop our busy schedule of activities to give a hug or to reach out others just to say, how are you? Do you need something?

In such a fast-paced world, will it be possible to pause and seek the way to love, charity, mercy, attention, kindness, compassion, and faith?

The more days go by; we do not realize that at the end it is a day less of life, one day less that you can enjoy

your spouse, your children, your parents or friends.

Live to the limit

It is a fashion to say that you only live once or that we have to live each day as the last day of our lives, but we applied it incorrectly thinking that there is no tomorrow and we strive to look for results that give us a high social status but we let behind to look for results on how to be a better person.

We fall into vices of all kinds that later become customs without realizing that we hurt those around us and we deceive ourselves thinking that we will do it just once more.

All my life I searched in the wrong places to fill what money cannot do, my ignorance led me to make many

mistakes and to think that peace and happiness would be found in something that I could buy, or being in admirable position before society.

I never imagined that over the years need would become so great and dissatisfaction as well.

When we are in search of happiness, we get into trouble because happiness depends on ourselves not on other things or people, and above all we do not realize that love is the basis for everything we do, and love is so important to make a person want to live or die.

Love is not a feeling, love is the presence of God that dwells in us, but because we have forgotten God, we have started a cycle of dissatisfaction and error.

The medicine cabinet

One of our problems is that we complain about everything and we deny everything, but we do not want to wake up from our nightmare and we leave God aside as a first aid kit that we use only when we want to heal the wounds that we have generated ourselves.

We remember God when we need a hand, in those moments when we are deepest in the mud and we cannot find a way out, but at the end of the tribulation we say "Thank you very much for everything, I do not need you anymore..."

If you are looking to live every day under your own strength, you will fail as you have done until this day, I am saying this because I know people who are so poor that all they have is money, but their lives are full of

despair and bitterness, because there are certain things in our life that nothing and nobody can fill, only the One in whom we should put our faith.

Remember that money does not buy or cure everything, such as loneliness.

Also it is a fashion not to believe in God, reason why we believe that we can live our life to the limit without suffering consequences, the same folly of man kind has caused us to separate from God; We blindly believe in ourselves and here is the point of break of humanity, thinking and acting as self-sufficient.

Far from God we cannot do anything, the moment we tell God to leave us alone and that we know what we are doing, our decay will begin, there are certain things in the life that God puts in your hands for you to do

something, but to take good decisions we need the wisdom of God and we must take in mind that our strength also comes from Him.

This is something that we find difficult to accept, because we believe ourselves so intelligent and so prudent but it is when we are more prone to fall into temptations and commit all kinds of mistakes that affect us all.

A purpose

Let me tell you that God has a purpose of good and not of evil for each one of us, but when we seek by our own we deviate from the path He had drawn for us and at the end of our disobedience we still have the gall to complain or reproach because of our current condition.

If you ask if I am a religious person, the answer is ... No, in fact I do not profess any religion, I simply have a relationship with Jesus every day, and from the first day I left my own wisdom and religion that prevented me from having that relationship with him, because I realized that was what I needed in my life.

When you have a relationship with Jesus you receive grace to become a better person living under

the love of God, all this love and grace inside of you is what is needed to share with someone else the good news, but understanding that took me many years of my life.

God does not want me to go every Sunday to church, God wants me to live on the basis of His Word, to live as the church and as a representative of His Kingdom, He wants me to have a strong relationship, to put him first in everything I do, That I may love my neighbor, that I may care for the needy, for the poor, for the orphan, for the widow, for the sick.

The Spirit of God wants to dwell in you, and wants to teach you the right way to happiness and fulfillment, but it is necessary that we cease to live for ourselves, so His Spirit will manifest in your life grafting the dreams that God has for you, because your ways are not the ways of God.

Love

Why there are so many deviations from the human mind and love is something that we are loosing?

The answer is simple, because we have left God on one side and we no longer let Him rule our plans, our thoughts and our hearts.

We live in a world full of dark, full of hatred, resentment, dissent, wars, hunger, need, so we can continue growing the list and fill more sheets of the book, but if there is something difficult to find today, that is love.

Where is love?

It is easy to answer that question if you know that love is the mark or sign of God in your life, it is written that he who does not love has not known God and is not from God.

But, is that love in man only a passing thing that comes for ages and then goes away?

To tell the truth, everything that is in this world is temporary, from fashions to our works, but the love of God always is, because God is love. Therefore, if God is in you, you are a new creature and you will become from a person without love and without charity to a person with love and good intentions.

We must remember that we can be light in the darkness and not simply one more person who seeks a light to follow.

I lost many years of my life in things that I am now embarrassed, I wasted many years of my life living my own way, looking for love and acceptance in women, drugs, work, although I was not rich I tried

everything but evidently nothing filled me.

The love I lacked in my life was beyond material or artificial things that I could get anywhere in this world, but it was something I did not understand then or rather, I did not want to understand and I decided to look for it on many things regardless of the consequences.

Religion or Atheism

In my search for answers about these two evils, I went from a bad experience to a worse one, because until certain moment in my life I had only heard of God as a religion I realized that it did not help me at all, so I began to transform from a religious man to a completely atheist, because religion could not fill that emptiness in me, I got this fight with God for the misfortunes that I provoked myself in my own life.

Recently there was news of a new solar system discovered 40 light years from ours and it came to my mind that for a long time in my past life (I do not mean reincarnation) only a few years ago, I denied the existence of God and I claimed he did not exist, because I definitely could not believe in someone I had never seen.

But although I denied His existence or did not see Him, it did not mean that He was never there, like that solar system, the fact that scientists have not seen or discovered it before does not mean that it has never been there, so for that same reason nobody can come to me now and tell me that God does not exist or that God can be found in a religion because neither atheism nor religion answered my questions or guided me on the right path.

From bad to worse

I thought about my ignorance that being looking at so many things and getting carried away by the current or the fashions I was going to feel complete, but it was just the opposite, one problem led me to another and one mistake to make more mistakes, all because I built my future based on what I wanted for my life and I never let God build my future and give me the life that He had predestined for me.

I lived a long time being part of the darkness that surrounds us in this cold and violent world.

I found myself involved in fights, in dark things, in a myriad of ways that increasingly drove me away from God and his purpose for me.

Many times I felt that I was not worth it or I did not value myself as a

person because of the fact that I came from a broken home. A life where my mother had to leave the country in search of something better and a father drunk by profession.

It is difficult to find meaning in the life when you had gone through many hard deals, but despite everything God was still there, and although I made many mistakes, I am sure he protected me in such a way that I am still alive until this day.

I was wrapped in debt, thoughts of death, betrayal and divorce, but God had a plan of good for my life, although I did not understand at the time, but until this day I can say that God never left me and was always by my side.

I understood that all things happened to me because of my bad decisions and my vain way of living but

God turned all that disaster into a new beginning, where there was hate now there is love, where there was selfishness now there is charity and mercy, where there was Infidelity now there is fidelity, where there were fights now there is peace, where there was idolatry now God occupies the first place, where there was death now there is life, where there was doom now there is salvation, when I was a bad person now I am someone new.

Leaving pride

The most difficult thing for a man is to leave his pride, and that is what I had to do, to give up my dreams, my desires, letting God to fulfill his purpose in me and although it was something very... very difficult to do, this proved to be the key to success.

Success is not in the midst of fame or money, success lies in giving and not in receiving, success lies in loving and giving without expecting anything in return.

Our world is submerged in hatred because we allowed it, we no longer have the time to invest in our family, to train our children and teach them moral values, to teach them that even if we are in a room alone, there is someone who can see us and is right next to us in the good or bad decisions we take or the actions we do.

When you realize that you have been created to love others and give yourself the time to worry about their well-being then you will find the true happiness and satisfaction that you are doing things the best you can.

The natural thing is done by each one of us and the supernatural things are done by God, you must only love and be merciful and God will turn the hatred into love and acceptance.

To love our neighbor

Many times we blame the government or irresponsible parents for what happens today in society when seeing so much child or youth involved in gangs, robberies, or murders, but it is also our fault for not having reached those who needed it.

The delinquent we see today, a few years ago was a child that we could have reached, formed and planted a seed in his heart to make right decisions, but although we never did it, now we worry about the increasing delinquency in our community when it could have been avoided.

The need of most children and young people make them commit crimes in third world countries, it is very probable that we know children and young people close to us that

although we know that they are not in good steps, we let them be, and we say, "Poor child, he is beginning to steal already... ", but we never became agents of change for the good of society.

The churches are now only a social club where everyone forms their own small group, but when they leave the building, they all continue to live the same way, with no visible changes in their life, they remain selfish, hypocritical and self-centered.

We do not bow to the needy or care about the need of another person, when we should be those who reach out to someone who needs it and help without expecting anything in return.

But, if we often do not love ourselves, how do we expect to love someone else?

The sharing with someone has become so difficult to do, not giving to the needy has become something religious that we do very well.

The love in us has turned cold in such a way that we do not even share dinner with our own family without leaving the mobile devices aside.

I have seen entire families or couples that even though they share the same table, everyone pays attention only to their cell phone.

We let TV, video games, tablets or teachers in school educate our children and we expect them to instill moral values, which are up to us to give them as parents and even more, we often do not set the example.

We forget that even if we give everything material to our children, if we do not inculcate moral principles to make them a good person in society

they can become someone we did not want them to be in the future.

We have a big responsibility, but nevertheless many times we evade it by our silly way of thinking, we deceive ourselves thinking that times are more advanced now and there will not happen what we most fear.

We have the power in our hands to form right people or the offender, it is in our hands to give a better future to our generations, but we lose the time in working more for a company leaving on the one hand working for the people in our house so that none of its members would lost.

Light in the darkness

The motive of being light in the darkness is to be this agent of change that impacts society and its environment, you do not need to focus in showing your neighbor or your collaborators at work of how you try so hard working so many hours to give the best to your family .

I ask you, what is the gain of working as a slave if your offspring is lost?

For love, we should focus on the most important thing that is our family and prepare them to be good people.

But you will tell me, "I am a good person because I do nothing bad or evil ...", but let me tell you that even if your works do not reflect anything good then it means that you can do better.

Light in the darkness

To be a person of good or light, we must let our works speak for themselves, because it is easy to speak than doing what God has commanded us to do while we are on this earth.

God has established that the only pure and spotless religion is to help the orphan and the widow in their needs, but also to keep us clean from this world; He established us that we must watch over the sick, for those who suffer any kind of need including poverty... That, my friend is being a light in the darkness and better yet if your children follow that example of love and obedience.

But I repeat, it is not religion as we know it today, it is about having a relationship with God every day in a way that is notorious that you have been with Jesus.

Light in the darkness

If we understand this point, we will go much well in life, we will be that light that the world is waiting for be ignited and our generations will follow our steps being people of integrity and good.

You will tell me maybe that it is too late to start again but it is never late for a change, until the moment when death surprises us, then is late, but as long as you have life everything can be fixed.

You can tell me that you have also done very bad things and you are not feeling worthy of having a relationship with Jesus, but let me tell you that Jesus was and is looking for those who in the eyes of others are the greatest sinners.

He in his immense mercy knocks the door and asks if He can enter, because he is a gentleman and will not

do anything by force, so the decision is in you to say "Yes".

I can assure you that when that relationship with Jesus begins all things will change and you will see them from another point of view, that is, with His eyes.

You will find meaning in your life and you can be an integral person who seeks for others to experience the same thing as you.

You will have love in a supernatural way to share it with others at the precise point in their lives when they are looking for someone to talk with and give them hope and a path to follow.

When you leave the religion to begin a relationship, God takes complete control of your life and will put the necessary people so that you can grow more and be a blessing to

those who like you at some point in their lives are in search of something else.

When you have that love of God in your life, then you can realize where God has taken you and you are no longer a slave to many things that inadvertently oppressed you.

Your life will be a testimony, an example, to the point that even the bad things that have happened to you will serve for the good of other people, and you will be like a mirror where everyone will see that not everything is lost, because everything has a purpose for your life and the lives of others.

Having mentioned everything until now I want to share my testimony and I hope that it will be an example if you are starting some stage in your life where I have already passed and see

that it is possible to go back and start a correct path taken by God's hand.

Everything is possible for the one who believes and if you give your life completely and let the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of you; you can be the person that God wanted you to be.

My testimony

I was born on August 15, 1984, in a Catholic family although not very faithful to the religion, I am the youngest of three siblings, my brother Juan Carlos and my sister Valesca; Even though they died at birth, I know that when I have finished my mission in this life I will see them in heaven.

My father, a respected man before his friends but slave throughout his life of alcoholism and occasionally by one or another woman, did everything possible so that I never lacked anything material and my mother likewise, with much effort worked to give me education, clothing, food and a roof.

I can remember that although I was raised most of my life by my maternal grandmother, I always had the image of a drunk father in the

room or lying in the streets, I remember it even more frequently from the moment he retired, but I had what was necessary to live except for something very important, the love of a father, a situation that was not so much his fault because I never saw affection between my grand father and him.

As I grew up, my mother and her family adopted the evangelical religion, causing more disagreement between their marriage, leading them to lawsuits that although they are normal in a couple with these characteristics, are obvious enough for a child or teenager, so more than a few good moments, I also remember certain episodes of problems as a result of this, a variant of the unequal yoke derived from the neglect of not putting God as the foundation of marriage.

Verbal and physical attacks between my mother, a uncle, my father and my person were reasons to start growing bitterness in my heart and all kinds of thoughts of suicide, which increasingly made doubts about whether God existed and if he really cared of me and my family as I was normally taught, but reality at that moment pointed out otherwise. I remember a pastor once told me, the fact that you could be born at McDonald's does not make you a hamburger.

In my transition between childhood and adolescence, I came to have a lot of knowledge about the word of God but nevertheless only lived a religion, because my actions did not demonstrate my faith, that is to say I was a hypocrite, I was never being born again, I looked and I listened how God spoke to others but

not me, but even so, I began to play in the worship group of the church where we attended. My family life was a disaster because there was too much violence not only verbal but physical violence thanks to my uncle, my father drunk in the house, and to finish my misfortune, my mother tired of everything, leaves the country heading to the United States to start again and attempt to provide me a better future.

I was 15 years old when my mother went north as we say in Guatemala and although she was always aware of me, it was not the same because of the distance, the lack of love and presence of her in my life.

At this moment I could felt the physical separation of the family nucleus, although it had happened a long time ago because my parents were like two strangers living at home, this took me to the place of believing

less and less in God. My mother's departure served as an excuse for my father to ignore me, that is, if I asked him something he told me to ask my mother because she was in the United States and when I asked her, she said that it was my father's responsibility to give what I needed.

I started working by my own in programming and computer systems making money through cleaning computers or building them together for another person, this happening between my 16 and 18 years.

This became a habit for a couple of years, but, on the other hand, I also began in a period of unstoppable rebellion against my family, so, leaving the church, I began to go into hidden things, I came to the point of believing that God was only a very well organized story and as I had never heard him, nor see him, it was easy for

me to leave aside everything I learned as a child, or so I thought.

In addition, with so many fights in which I was involved, both inside and outside my home, I turned back to see my past founding myself as a member of a disintegrated family, deciding in that moment with my heart no longer believe in these things (Those were my words), becoming an atheist, an anti God person.

I listened to music that only ministered hatred, drugs and sex, participated in dark things, I lived with demons that I could even see, my heart was completely dominated by the hatred, becoming even more antisocial, in my thoughts there was only the desire to kill people and take away my life too, but thank God I never got to do it.

Before my friends and acquaintances I was a hypocrite because I showed them the face of being a normal and ordinary person, well, more ordinary than normal, with the problems that a normal person could have, but deep inside of me I knew that was not so.

I searched for happiness or conformity in everything I thought it could be possible, but nothing worked.

I never imagined that I would be so submerged in so many problems and that only lead to my life greater problems, disappointment, bitterness, anger, and a list of feelings that would not bring me a good and complete end, which was what God wanted for my life, but my stupidity did not let me see then.

Among my mistakes I made the mistake of living with a person with

whom we later married, but inside my head was that maybe one nail would get another nail out.

To my surprise, it was worse because I was not with the woman that God had for me, but since I did not want to know anything about God, pastors or churches, I used my own prudence or luck, as you want to call it, making more mistakes.

Already married I lived a life of deceit, maltreatment, and I became more violent, so I ended in divorce, leading me to another pile of consequences that I could have avoided if I had waited for the right person, the one God had for my life.

I practically touched the bottom, and the only thing that remained in my mind was to take my life away, I could not bear the idea that even in my marriage it would repeat the same

thing as with my parents only that at a higher level, and even with more violence.

I thought that getting out of what I knew was going to be better, but on the contrary, the desire to do evil to anyone became my religion, looking only for who paid for my mistakes.

As a result of everything that happened in my life I made all kinds of mistakes, I was a player, I tried alcohol, drugs, sex in all kinds of ways, pornography, fights to vent the anger I felt, I was adulterous, I had tendencies of suicide and homicide, I was disobedient, rebellious, vain, merciless, disheartened, violent, wasting, gluttonous, atheist, religious, I got involved in dark things, etc.

When I ran out of the list I realized that I was sunk to the neck and I struggled to make the decision,

however tired of trying everywhere and look for something I would never find, because I did not know what I was looking for.

At that moment, I bent my knees and gave up completely, I was tired of looking and not finding, of longing and not getting, so I fell and crying said "If you really exist, if everything I have heard is true, If I am worth anything to you, then speak to me, and I will leave everything to serve you."

The first night passed and nothing happened, I did not understand that it is in God's time, not in my time.

The next day, I said the same thing again and added "I'm going to make it harder for you; I need three different people, who do not know me and tell me what you want for me."

And so, the next day, three people I did not know, in three

different places and times they spoke to me and told me what I was going through, they told me that God wanted me to serve him and that the time had come to stop running away and seek what only He could give me.

That was the day I was born again, and when I returned to my country because I was out of Guatemala, I came to finalize everything that was pending, I trashed all the bad things, everything I had that did not please God I rejected.

I learned to forgive people who at some point in my life hurt me including the people that I caused harm.

From that hour, I surrendered my being, my dreams and all that I am to Jesus and now I can say that I am a new creature, I am a new man, living

not to fulfill my own dreams, but the dreams of the One who saved me.

God gave me a second chance with a beautiful wife who is always by my side, according to the heart of God and two precious sons that are used by God in an inexplicable way. What is impossible for man is natural to God.

I have died to my own person, to let Him live through me, any addiction or inclination to evil is gone, all hatred or rancor has vanished, He perfected my character, now I understand that his love for me is very great and that extends beyond my imagination.

But, what I am sure, is that God wants to reach everyone who like me have tried everything in life, without obtaining good results, because far from Him we can do nothing, and all the people that like me were going to an eternity of pain and suffering, He

stretched out his hand and said, "Son, I love you, follow me, that I will make you rest and show you the meaning of your life, for your destiny is safe in my hands."

God created you for a purpose, and that purpose is to live a relationship with Jesus, to follow his steps, who loves without being selective, He wanted you to share with others and to be a blessing, to be a **light in the darkness.**

Blessings.

About the author

I am Edgar Ramirez, me and my wife currently live in Antigua Guatemala with our two boys Judah and Levi.

We have projects that include education and helping poor families, the reason of this initiative is to serve people, share love and to help improve the life of many.

In the Streets

We come to the streets and talk to needy families and homeless while we share with them food, clothes and opportunities to get into our projects.

Classes for underprivileged children

This project starts with the need to teach or reinforce knowledge in mathematics, English, moral, music, computer science, reading and writing to underprivileged children.

House / School / Daycare.

Based on statistics on poor children, orphans, and children under any kind of abuse, the project was created to give these children love, shelter, security, food and education. This house will function as School for children and Daycare.

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If you would like to support us, please let us know.

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