

The background of the entire page is a fiery, hellish scene. It features a central, dark, arched opening, possibly a doorway or a tunnel entrance, set against a backdrop of intense red and yellow flames. The texture is rough and jagged, resembling a volcanic or infernal environment. The overall color palette is dominated by bright reds, oranges, and yellows, creating a sense of heat and danger.

# Out of a Horrible Pit

**The Dan Ingram Story**

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All Scripture quoted, unless otherwise noted, is  
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# Fun in the Sun



I WAITED patiently and expectantly for the Lord:

And He inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up out of a horrible pit

(a pit of tumult and of destruction),

out of the miry clay (froth and slime),

and set my feet upon a rock, steadying my steps

and establishing my goings.

And He has put a new song in my mouth,

a song of praise to our God.

Many shall see and fear (revere and worship)

and put their trust and confident reliance in the Lord.

**(Psalm 40:1-3, Amplified Bible)**

It was the summer of 1990. I and a few friends were heading to Ft. Walton Beach, Florida for a week's worth of "FUN in the SUN". The beach, the babes, the booze and another binge. But this time instead of excitement, anticipation and

# Fun in the Sun

jubilant, there was fear. Fear not of the thought of fun in the sun, but fear of the effects. The morning after. The shakes. The tremors. The sickness. The early morning hours when I would awake with the shakes, jerks, anxiety, fear, physical sickness, and the totally drained and hopeless feeling that I had found myself in over and over again. Fear that there was not, nor would there ever be an escape from this cycle that I had found myself in.

Since January of that year I had tried to quit drinking and drugging on my own, and I had white-knuckled it through Memorial Day. But a trip to the lake and a weekend on a pontoon boat had ended that. Now, on the days leading up to the beach trip, I felt like a blindfolded man standing at the end of a pirate plank about to take the final step to my own death. I knew what was about to come. Once again, I would fall off

# Fun in the Sun

into a horrible pit of darkness, drunkenness, sickness, hopelessness and despair . . .



Who has woe ? Who has sorrow ?

Who has strife ? Who has complaints ?

Who has needless bruises ?

Who has bloodshot eyes ?

Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wines. Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly ! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things. You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. "They hit me", you will say, "but I'm not hurt ! They beat me, but I don't feel it ! When will I wake up so I can find another drink ?"

**(Proverbs 23: 29-35, NIV)**

# What's Wrong With You?



I was born on September 18th, 1961, with one lung, one kidney and a severe case of scoliosis (curvature of the spine). I had three major operations by age eight. At six weeks I had a hernia operation. At age four I had a rib fusion, where they took out a rib so I could breath more easily, as I had asthma as well. At age eight my spine was fused so it would not get worse, and I spent the three months of the summer of 1970 in bed flat on my back. I remember well when at the doctor's office I finally took my first steps. I wobbled and staggered and then began to walk again and return to a normal life.

I was always a happy, joyful person despite the physical difficulties. I believe God gave me that joy as a strength. Later, this same strength

# What's Wrong With You?

would aid me in overcoming the wrong choices I would make in my adult life.

As I grew up, I faced the inevitable questions: "What's wrong with you ?", "Why are you wearing that brace ?" I learned to just tough it out and ignore the questions, rejections and the stares. I built up a wall of protection and learned to overlook the questions and eventually to not even think about it. But after years it finally took its toll on me as the wall became a fortress of pride, anger, jealousy and resentment that I built up to keep from being hurt. This later led to alcohol abuse, drugs and other addictions that led to my downfall. Because of wearing a brace around my neck and torso area of my body, I often felt ashamed, second class and at times even fearful of what people would say or think. I was afraid to even walk in front of a crowd of people or stand in front in public. Isn't it funny that now the Lord



# What's Wrong With You?

has me standing in front of his people, preaching and teaching his gospel with boldness and courage! Even though I was shameful and fearful of my handicapped outer appearance, I had something within me that told me I was a lion who could do something and be something in life.

I knew that I could prosper, that I could overcome, that I could do great things, that I could be somebody.



For I know the plans I have for you,  
declares the Lord,  
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future.

**(Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)**

# Reborn



At ten years of age, I was born again in a little Baptist church. I can remember going to the altar and weeping uncontrollably, like a baby, as I was born again on a glorious Sunday night. God had been tugging at my heart, and on that night, He brought me into a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, who is Lord of All.

But like so many, as I entered my teens, I began to wander away from church and eventually from the Lord as well. I began to look around at all the older guys with the long hair, and red squinted eyes hanging out in the game rooms playing pool and foosball.

# Reporn

It all seemed so enticing, so free, so innocent, and so much fun. I began to be drawn into a lifestyle of alcohol, drugs and partying. But in the end, it bit me like a viper and stung like a bee.



# Sweet Leaf



I was at my grandmother's house in the living room one day at thirteen years of age. As I reflect, I realize that my grandmother never let us go into the living room. She even had all her furniture covered with plastic so we kids and others would not get her furniture dirty. We kids especially were to stay in the den or backyard. But here I was in the living room with the big stereo. My aunt was asleep in her room; my brother and sister were in the den with my grandmother and grandfather. Already being drawn into the culture of sex, drugs and rock-n-roll, I came upon an album by the stereo with big purple letters and a black background. The album was *Master of Reality* by Black Sabbath. As I put the record on and it began to play, a whole new world opened up. I realized a whole new reality as the song "Sweet Leaf"

# Sweet Leaf

started playing and blasting out of the speakers.

No one can tell me that music is not powerful or that it doesn't have some kind of spiritual connection. It is a powerful medium that can be used for either good or evil. I know music was instrumental in pulling me into satan's kingdom. I began to be drawn and lured deeper into alcohol and drugs, and music was the avenue that helped me get there. Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, The Rolling Stones and Jimi Hendrix all became my friends who helped me get "experienced". I began to teach myself how to play the guitar and fill my life with all the popular musical sounds of the 60's, 70's and eventually the 80's. All the while falling into the horrible pit and going deeper and deeper and deeper into the muck and the mire and getting trapped in a world that I had made for myself. One foot in the grave, and one foot on a banana peel. I looked for the enemy, and found . . .

# Sweet Leaf

... the enemy was me !



Don't let anyone under pressure to give in  
to evil say, "God is trying to trip me up."

God is impervious to evil,  
and puts evil in no one's way.

The temptation to give in to evil  
comes from us and only us.

We have no one to blame  
but the leering, seducing flare-up of our own lust.

Lust gets pregnant, and has a baby: sin !

Sin grows up to adulthood,  
and becomes a real killer.

So, my very dear friends,  
don't get thrown off course.

**(James 1: 13-16, Message Bible)**

# Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll



As my teen years progressed, I began doing more drugs. I started drinking and staying out late, often disappearing for days. I began buying and selling drugs in order to get mine for free. Of course, as many know, it was not really free. I graduated from high school and got an associates degree from a technical college. I was high and drunk most of the time, BUT, I wasn't stupid (or so I thought). But by my early 20's, my party lifestyle began to take its toll. The weekend party began to turn into a week binge.

As my addiction progressed I began using cocaine. The thing I remember about cocaine is that only once in a while would I actually enjoy it.

## Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll

I hated the way it made me feel, but I kept doing it anyway. All the while, I was drinking more and more. By the age of 22, I was a full blown alcoholic and drug addict. I also formed a punk rock band, wrote most of the songs and began playing around in nightclubs. My songs were angry, violent and vulgar, and the band ended in failure as I chased my dream of “sex, drugs and rock-n-roll.”

I began to lose more and more money on drug deals, went into financial debt, got put in jail, had so many blackouts that I hardly ever remembered driving home (remember those praying grandmas), and had multiple car wrecks. The entire time, I was losing respect for family, friends, and even myself. I was going down for the last time with DT's, shaking, anxiety, fears and bouts with depression. After the binges, I despaired of even life itself. Life in the fast lane was destroying me.



# Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll

**Jesus said in John 10:10,**

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;  
I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the fullest.”



By age twenty-eight, I was spiritually, physically and emotionally sick, lost, and hopeless without God or life in the world. I entertained thoughts of robbing banks and dying. I knew that time was short and soon it would be all over.

And now I was walking the plank again, heading down to Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. After that I would go on a binge to New Orleans in the same summer of 1990. But soon and very soon I would fall into the arms of my Lord and Savior and Deliverer the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Sex, Drugs & Rock-N-Roll

**Joel 2: 32 says:**

“And it came to pass,

That whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

(NKJV)



# At the End of My Rope



On the morning of September the 5th, 1990, I was at the end of my rope. I woke up sick, shaking and hopeless again. I also had the fear of death. This was now three months after the Florida trip. Since that time, I drank just to survive. I was down to working about three days a week. I would leave work for about an hour each afternoon after the morning beers wore off. For lunch I would guzzle about three or four more beers just to make it through the shift.

The week after Labor Day of 1990, I had been up and down. Sleeping till the alcohol wore off, I would rise and drink again until I passed out. I would awake to anxiety and fear, so I would drink some more, pop some more pills and pass

## At the End of My Rope

back out again. I would awake and start the cycle over again. This lasted for about seven full days.

But on this particular morning something happened! I went over to the stereo (I had passed out at a friend of my sister's house) and turned on the music. As I shook and trembled drinking a beer to ease the withdrawals and tremors, the music began to play. It was good, old-fashion, country gospel music. But I was too sick and weak to get up and turn it off. All of a sudden without warning, I began to weep and cry uncontrollably. Years of emotional pain, hurts, wounds, rejections, fears, anxieties, and sin began to leave. I heard a voice speak up on the inside of me and give an impression of what I was to do. And I knew it was the voice of The Lord. He told me to go to a treatment center of which I had never heard of, been to, or even knew how to get to.

## At the End of My Rope

As I wept and listened, over and over again the voice I heard told me to go.

I finally said "Yes, Lord, I will go." At that point I began to laugh as deeply as I was weeping. For the next two hours I laughed and cried, laughed and cried. By that afternoon, I was in treatment center facility never to be the same again.

### **Psalms 51: 7-10 says:**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear joy and gladness,

That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

Hide Your face from my sins,

And blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

(NKJV)

Yes Lord, I said ! I will ride with You . . .

## Brand New

After forty-eight hours in the detox unit at the treatment center, I was assigned a room and a bed in one of the men's lodges. I began to gather myself and settle in.

On Sunday mornings, the center had a spiritual hour, which was actually church without the church. As soon as the speaker began to speak and talk about a parable in the Bible about Jesus, I began to weep again. I was touched by God again, and for hours I wept as I walked around and about the complex. When I came out of it, I was changed. I felt brand new. For the first time as an adult, I had peace and joy in my heart. I knew that I had given my heart to Jesus. Nobody prayed with me, laid hands on me or prayed a sinner's prayer with me. God, by the power of His Spirit and because of the prayers of my

# Brand New

Grandma and her intercessor friends, had prayed me through to victory. I knew I would never be the same again !

## **2 Corinthians 5:17 says:**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
he is a new creation;  
old things have passed away;  
behold, all things have become new.”  
(NKJV)



## Restored

With a new beginning, a new heart and twenty-six days of separation from my old lifestyle, I emerged a new man. I began to go back to church. I worked what I called my spiritual triangle: twelve step meetings on one bottom corner, church on the other bottom corner, and Jesus at the top center of the triangle. I began to read and study the Bible and to spend time with the Lord in fellowship and prayer. God began to put new friends and relationships in my life that built me up instead of tearing me down. I began to grow in the Lord and get on fire for God. And the same God who called me on September 5, 1990, began to call me to preach His Gospel, the good news through the Lord Jesus Christ.



# Restored

My life began to be restored and become what God had intended it to be.



## **Joel 2: 25-27 says:**

So I will restore to you the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
The crawling locust,  
The consuming locust,  
And the chewing locust,  
My great army which I sent among you.  
You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
And praise the name of the Lord your God,  
Who has dealt wondrously with you;  
Any My people shall never be put to shame.  
Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel;  
I am the Lord your God,  
And there is no other.  
My people shall never be put to shame.

(NKJV)

## Restored

God gave me peace like a river and joy unspeakable; He filled me full of His glory. I was filled with the Holy Spirit and fire, and from that time on, I've never looked back !



### **Ephesians 5:18 says:**

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”

The many problems my addictive lifestyle had created began to work out. Both my life and my youth were restored. Shame was gone. Sin was gone. And all things began to work together for good—just as Romans 8:28 declares. Just a few years later, God brought me what I had always wanted and desired. A family. A beautiful wife with whom to share my life, a beautiful step-daughter and son-in-law, and two granddaughters to go with it.

# Restored

For the Bible says that he who finds a wife finds a good thing and receives favor from the Lord.

I want to tell you that God is faithful. He is faithful to those who are and remain faithful to Him. It has been an incredible journey thus far. I have had some ups and some downs. But I have found it to be true that a day in his courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! I have also found out another thing: The only way to lose is to quit. And God is faithful and able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than you can ask, imagine or even think !!!

Yes, God is faithful ! Will you trust Him today ?

And everyday ? For the rest of your life ?

Yes Lord, I will ride with You !





### **Prayer for Forgiveness**

Lord Jesus, I have sinned. I have gotten off track  
and fallen away from You. Forgive me, Lord,  
for all of my sins. Heal me of my back-slidings !  
I repent. I turn around now and come back to You.  
Cleanse me in Your precious blood.  
Restore to me the joy of my salvation.  
In Jesus Name, Amen.



### **Prayer to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior**

Dear Lord Jesus, I am a sinner.  
And I believe now that You are God's Son.  
That God raised You from the dead,  
And that you died for my sins.  
I believe you are Lord.  
You are the Savior of the world.  
Come into my heart.  
Be the Lord of my life,  
Lord of all for all of my days,  
And take me to heaven with You when I die.  
Father God, thank You for saving me.  
In Jesus Name, Amen.



**Now !**

### **Prayer for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

Lord Jesus.

You are Savior, Deliverer, Healer and  
Baptizer in the Holy Spirit and fire.

Lord, right now, Fill me with your Holy Spirit.

Fill me to overflowing.

I receive, by faith, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit !

Fall upon me just as You

fell upon those in the beginning.

Fill me with Your presence. I believe I receive

all You have for me !

Now, In Jesus Name.

I receive, Amen.

*Now start worshipping Him and praising Him  
all the rest of your days,  
. . And, be ye being filled continually  
with the Holy Spirit !  
Amen and amen.*





## **Dan Ingram**

- **Ordained Minister**
- **Served at Warrior A.G. for 13 years during the “Great Outpouring” and Revival.**
- **Presently serving at Restoration Christian Fellowship**
- **Served at Garywood Assembly for 10 years**
- **Served on the Board of Alabama Prison Ministries**
- **22 years in Ministry**

***Preaching, Teaching, Reaching  
and Equipping the Saints for Works of Service***