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## Enter The Federal Prison

"You're going to USP Tucson; that's a penitentiary". That's the shocking words I heard while standing in a holding cell in Raleigh, North Carolina. My heart sank to the floor, hearing the word, "penitentiary". Why? Why am I being sent to a PEN? Of the 6 or so guys in the cell, I was the only one destined for a pen. And why ARIZONA? My gosh, couldn't I have been sent to one closer? I'll NEVER get a visit from my family now. My mind raced on the death sentence pronounced upon me. Is this the end result of my prayers, and those who had been praying for me? Has God forgotten me? I don't have a violent crime; I've never hurt anybody, but this charge sends me to perhaps the lowest pits of Hades. Guys in the holding cell were just as confused; "why are YOU going to a pen"? I don't look like a guy that should even BE in prison, let alone a penitentiary.

I turned and paced the holding cell, whispering a private prayer; "Holy Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I need Your help. Please protect me and send me to a safe prison". This is a tall order, because of all prisons, penitentiaries are said to be the most violent. Gangs, rape, blood and death are quite common there... and that's exactly where I was headed. If God doesn't intervene, my life may quite literally be over.

From what I understood, we would be flying from Raleigh/Durham Airport on the prison plane (affectionally known as the ConAir), to Oklahoma City. From there, we'd be "processed", then sent to our final destination. I could only wonder about my fate.

But throughout the process, when I wanted to break down and cry about my situation, there was also a calming, reassuring voice deep within me. One that said to me, "Do you still trust Me"?

Do I still trust God? What kind of question is that? I'm going through an incredibly difficult situation, with no one to lean on for help, and God is asking me IF I still trust Him? What am I supposed to say? If I say "no" then I've denied God, even after all the miracles He's already done for me. But if I say "yes", then it would be like accepting the situation, trusting that God will work things out. What's the scripture, "all things work for good for those who love God; for those called according to His purpose". There's no doubt that God called me for this; I've known that 10 days after I was arrested in 2010. I expected to sit in the county jails for awhile, but 2 years? The Federal System is good at dragging a person through the "halls of justice". Now I'm destined to become a member of the condemned... yet even now God asks, "Do you still trust Me"? Am I still up to the challenge?