

The Paradox of Power

When I was 39, the President of the United States asked me to serve as his special counsel. **It was one of the most powerful positions in the world.** Every day, National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger walked into our briefing sessions with a worried look on this face and said, 'The decision we are going to make today will change the future course of human history.'

I now realize we never changed anything. We dealt with Congress and newspapers but we didn't change how people lived. It was in prison, where I served time for my involvement in the Watergate conspiracy that I learned about real power.

Steps to success

I went from nothing to being successful. I won a scholarship to Brown University and graduated with honors. During the Korean War, I was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Marines.

When the war ended I earned a doctorate in law and started a successful law firm. Soon I became the youngest administrative assistant in the United States Senate. I worked with President Richard Nixon. I had everything a person could want but I felt empty inside.

An encouragement

As the Watergate scandal unfolded, one particular friend was a source of encouragement. His life had changed and I asked him why. He looked me straight in the eye and said, 'I accepted Jesus Christ and committed my life to him.'

He told me how he had started out with nothing and had risen to a position of power but felt empty. It was a story just like mine! He began a search for God. He described God as a living God who lives today and is not an ancient historical figure.

As I left my friend's house one evening, I couldn't get my car out of the driveway because I was crying too hard. I wanted more than anything to be at peace with God. 'Just take me, God,' I cried. 'Take me the way I am.' The next morning, **I felt a wonderful peace.**

The prison prayer group

As the Watergate scandal unfolded and I went to prison. I was in a prayer group with two dope pushers, a car thief, a stock swindler and a former special counsel for the President of the United States. Our group saw men give their lives to Christ. We saw hearts transformed by the power of the living God.

Today, I thank God for Watergate. It taught me the greatest lesson of my life. I learned about the paradox of power: he who seeks to save his life will lose it, but he who loses his life for Jesus' sake will find it.