



Troy Stewart

This time one year ago my life was going along smoothly. I was in a job I liked and my wife had just taken a job making more money. We were in church and spiritually we were growing. Family life was looking good and I thought we were on the right track. I took PRIDE in how we were doing. At the time it wasn't noticeable to us, but the Lord saw it. He saw my GREED growing and decided it was time for me to learn a lesson.

In January my wife became ill and missed a lot of work. In addition, my work took a turn for the worse. The worst was yet to come. We started having problems in the family. We prayed, but I felt nothing was happening.

We finally decided that Michele needed to stay home. Now down to just one income, it fell on me to pick up the slack by working as many hours as possible in a job I deplored to keep the family afloat. Every day was a bad day and the day after was even worse. The weight was becoming too much to bear; I could no longer carry the burden.

After being humbled and coming to the realization that my life was out of control, I broke down and asked for the Lord to forgive me and to help me. I was trying to control something that was out of my hands and I knew it. You see, I was looking only at the problems at hand, not seeing that the Lord was trying to tell me something. I've learned that God will stop at nothing to break us, to teach us. I was so proud and arrogant and the Lord knew exactly what test I needed in order to learn a particular lesson.

My pride and arrogance had stopped me from being able to listen to God, but once I realized that, He began to comfort me. The lesson was learned. It took pain, hurt, and my giving up for the message to sink in. Now, after turning my life over to Christ and living each day for Him, things that were problems in my life were no longer as bad as what I thought.

Our family life turned around and I felt a closeness to my children I had never felt before. This is from the Awesome Power of God. Work became an opportunity to spread the Word, resulting in a joy in my heart.

Where there was heartache and pain, a feeling of peace came. Where there was worry, a sense of security replaced it. For too long I held back, afraid to show emotion to anybody, but now my cup overflows and all I want is to give back the same love that has freed me.

The day I came home from Emmaus I told my wife that the Lord was telling me to work less and to give more time to my family and church. That very same week the office canceled all double time and I was blessed with a hefty raise and a fuel program! This very week my wife got a phone call from a business she didn't even apply to asking her for an interview. Now she has a job in a place she likes and with the hours she wants. Praise God! Where there was nothing God created everything!!!

You see, God wants to pour His riches into your hands, but if you are still holding on to fistfuls of dirt, how can you receive it? God can do awesome things in your life! Believe and put your trust in Him. Put your trust and love in Christ Jesus as an infant does his parents. Give your *everything* to Christ!
