



Paul McCartney Started Me Smoking - by Larry Nobles

While growing up in Memphis in the early 60s, I wanted to play guitar just like Paul McCartney (*Yes, I know he played a left-handed bass, but just go with me on this because I wasn't into Elvis*).

When I was about 12, Santa brought me a Sears Silvertone guitar and amplifier just like these. I was SO thankful for my two best gifts ever! (*I thought at the time*).



But that's the problem with being too thankful for "things" (stuff) at Christmas or anytime, for that matter. They could come back to bite you.

In my case, as I grew to know more about 'good' guitars, I realized mine was not in that category. It was by Sears, for goodness sake. The action was terrible! (*Strings too far away from the neck the higher up you play*). My love dwindled. Then, one night while practicing at the house of a friend, I naively decided to take the smaller amp box off the big speaker box and lay it on the carpet by my chair with the back of it facing down. I could then easily lean over and reach the knobs. Well, you guessed it. When I soon saw smoke coming from the amp, I jerked it up and found three large adult thumb-size black burned spots smack-dab in the middle of this poor lady's new living room carpet! TROUBLE RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY! The pre-solid state white-hot "exposed" TUBES needed air flow. Duh! The carpet was fuming hot, and my soon-to-be X-friend's mom was too.

While I profusely apologized and she was semi-gracious, she was struggling to hold her frustration (anger?) in. When I left that day, I was never asked to return and never heard from either of them again. I felt terrible, but I blame it on Paul.

But the truth is that in the Bible Job spoke about this when he said "*Man, who is born of woman, is short of days and full of trouble*" and then Jesus reiterated that, "*In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*" Hey, when (*not if*) life brings troubles, we should still experience true and lasting thankfulness. Romans 8:28 "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" I DID learn to not put hot things on carpets. I'm thankful for that.

I'm also very thankful for the eight Christian authors whose books I narrated in 2022 and the other narration clients like [From His Heart Ministries](#) all of whom trusted me with their precious cargo. This was a busy year joining with some wonderful people to help share good news to the world.

I pray that you'll experience a beautiful Christmas season and be even more thankful and joyful for the gifts you receive from God through Christ.

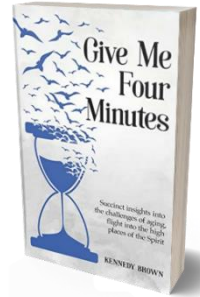
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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