

## My Powerful Possession

Time can pass slowly in prison. Most people obtain some items for their comfort. These possessions make us feel marginally human. Imagine for a moment you are newly incarcerated. You have a long sentence and limited resources. Your circumstances look bleak. Loneliness and fear are constant companions. What would you seek to buy first? Why do you think it is worth the trouble and expense?

There is one purchase that stands out as my best acquisition. It takes second place in life to my Bible. However, this object exceeds the importance of all the other comfort items in my possession. It is reasonably inexpensive but this product is of great value. Can you guess what the investment is that enhances my life to such a degree?

This bargain allows me to feel connected to the world beyond my prison walls. I can use it day and night. I can enjoy it alone or share it with a friend. Using the device never interferes with other inmate's solitude. Do you know what it is?

This asset is small. I can easily store it in my locker. I can carry it on my person. The item is lightweight and portable. Can you imagine what it is?

This belonging helps me to fight off boredom. It constantly brings me in contact with new ideas and concepts. It causes me to be challenged. The item is also a source of encouragement. Have you guessed what it is?

I obtain news from this resource. I learn what is going on in the world from it. I find out the latest information about the local, state and federal governments. I often keep abreast of the weather through this device. Can you picture what it is?

Your final clue is that I use this possession to listen to music. The songs lift my spirits when I am down. They sometimes calm me when I am stressed or angry. The music often drowns out the noise and distractions around me. Now do you know what it is?

The device that does so much for me is my AM/FM radio with compact disk player. It keeps me company through the many long days and nights of my incarceration. It gives me the ability to block out my surroundings and to feel connected to society. Do you think it was a wise use of my resources? Why or why not?

Patrick Rath sack T-45624  
Valley State Prison  
P.O. BOX 92  
Chowchilla, CA. 93610-0092