

A Word Of Testimony

I praise God that I have a testimony to give. I love the words of Charles Wesley and to me they fill my heart with joy;

*"Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and natures night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee."*

I was brought up in a Christian home - both of my parents are Christians. I praise God for that blessing, that both my parents love and serve God. I was brought along faithfully to Church twice on a Sunday and Sunday School in the afternoon. I was brought up knowing about the Word of God and I knew who Jesus was. It was at the age of 9 that one day after Sunday School I realised that although I went to all these meetings and that I had Christian parents, I needed to make a personal commitment to the Lord, and that if I was to go to heaven when I died that I had to give my life to the Lord and I had to ask Him to forgive me for my sins. That afternoon in simple child-like faith I trusted the Lord and praise God, He is true to His Word. *Romans 10:9*

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

God saved me that day but it was nothing to do with who I was or anything I had done. Ephesians 2:8 says:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" Since the time when I was saved I have realised that the Christian life is not always easy but it is a life where the assurance of God at your side at all times is real. He proves His love each day in the many good things He gives us - health, strength, food, clothes, a home, family and so much more. God is so good and we have much to praise Him for.

While I was at primary school, I found that being a Christian was easy enough - friends accepted me as I was and I was blissfully happy to be a Christian. However when I started secondary school I began to be faced with many more temptations. Our young people need our prayers today - they are faced with so many things each day and it gets harder and harder for them to stay away from sin. Much to my regret I became involved in the things of the world - this was a

search for acceptance. What I didn't realise at the time was that I would never get acceptance from people no matter what I did. The only person that mattered was God and I had let Him down - He has never left me or let me down, He promises us *"I will never leave thee; nor forsake thee."* *Hebrews 13:5*

Young person, if you are reading this and you are in the same position as I was, let me encourage you to stay strong and rely on God. He will honour you when you honour Him and He will help you all the way. Say no to smoking, drinking, wrong relationships - I know you will only regret these things. Keep having a quiet time every day and keep praying to the Lord. There is nothing better than walking close to Him. God never gave up on me - He met my every need. He restored me to Himself again and gave me renewed strength and happiness. *Isaiah 40:31* *"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."*

After secondary school I went to Tech. And did a BTEC in social care - God really helped me through this course and then led me onto University where I completed a degree in nursing. There was a lot of hard work involved and I know that I couldn't have done it without the Lord's help. I finished University in September 2007 and have been working in Causeway Hospital's Intensive Care Unit since then. Looking back I can see how God has really led my footsteps and now I am doing a job that I love. It is not without its challenges and I see many things that are very difficult to deal with but I know that God is there helping me at all times. We can find so much comfort in God's Word - *Isaiah 41:13* *"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying fear not for I will help thee."*

I am excited about what God has planned for my future, I don't know what that is but I know that God's plan is perfect and God's way is the best way. I hope and pray that as you have read my testimony that you have seen all that God has done because it is nothing of me. God can change your life in the same way that He has changed mine and I can assure you that He will give you hope that no-one else could give you and He will be with you every step of the way. He is holding His arms out to you - will you come?

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