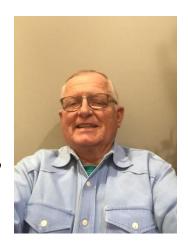
How God Worked in My Life

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I was asked by good friends to give my testimony for this magazine as to how, when, and why I became a Christian, one who has accepted and follows Jesus Christ. My journey began over 70 years ago and our Creator is still molding me one day at a time. Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, Jesus said, and today has enough problems of its own. It is written, "If you hear the "Word... harden not your heart."



Why do I pray to God each day to bless, protect, and defend all Christians in this world? This world is not my home, but a place of suffering, worries, wars, and wickedness, a place filled with pride, prejudice, and hatred. My life in this world has seen and experienced much of this human depravity. It makes my heart long for a better place where children are not hurt, thrown away and abused.

Before I became a Christian, I did not pray for others. My mother took me to church every Sunday. I learned all the stories in the Bible and the Ten Commandments, yet I did not know God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. I did not understand the Gospel or what Jesus Christ did for us. I knew about Jesus' birth, death and His resurrection on Easter; however, I did not understand the reasoning behind this knowledge.

From ages 14 through 25, I stopped going to church. I planned my own life, which turned out very differently than what I had in mind. In growing up, I was a prodigal son, not personally knowing God. I was arrogant in school but graduated top of my class. I was drafted into the Vietnam War as a front-line soldier. Returning home, I did not care about many things, and I lived on the edge of wildness and reckless behavior. I knew that I was missing and lacking something which I needed. I truly did not know what that was... so at the age of twenty-four, I reasoned that I needed to have a family.

My plan was to be the best husband and father I could be. I found the woman whom I planned to marry. However, she told me that I would have to be baptized in her church and go to school to learn about God. At this school I learned about Jesus Christ's love for me. Yes, I gave my life to Jesus Christ; I was born again, I was baptized at the age of twenty-five and married at the age of twenty-six and I was sealed with the Holy Spirit. However, this young lady whom I married did not tell me that she was dying of cancer and could not have children and would never believe in Jesus Christ. I did not understand these problems, so I was in the Word every day listening to the Holy Spirit's instructions.

I was blessed to have Jesus as my Savior, Redeemer, and Lord with all these problems. I truly learned what it means to be a Christian, whom God loves, protect and blesses. Moreover, the Holy Spirit revealed to me all things that God had done for me before I became a Christian. These were miracle after miracle after miracle, for God protected me until it was time to know His Son and believe in Him. God does not force anyone, but He prepares our hearts to hear the gospel about His Son, Jesus Christ. I truly did not have anything to do with this... the glory is all God's. God did not force me, but He loved me by His grace, which I did not deserve, through Jesus Christ dying on the cross for my sins. It was not me who came to know Jesus, but God taking me to His Son. I chose heaven with God's love over hell, and I am truly blessed.

I pray that you do not harden your heart. I did nothing to become a Christian, except receive God's gift of mercy, His son Jesus Christ. Jesus died for all humanity's sins for those who believe in His work on the cross as the gift from God. If you should fall, unable to rise, the Father will carry you until you can walk again. Everyone has problems, but Jesus said, "For my yoke is light."

I found out quickly that life as a Christian is not easy, but God is always with me. He bl healed my wife's cancer and blessed us with two children. I have seen God's miracle after miracle each day in my life. Yes, my wife, an unbeliever, divorced me after 30 years of marriage. You may reason that I would hate her, but you would be severely wrong. I did judge her, but God corrected me by His Holy Word, Matthew 7:1-5 "Do not judge, or you will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged and the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

My friend, Danny Forrest, says that I could write a book about how and why I am a Christian. I really have been given thousands of blessings and miracles in my life from God. He has used all of these things to help me grow and to know Him better. God has provided many opportunities to study His Word with good teachers like Danny Forrest and Dick Hill. I was introduced to Dick and his writings in Danny's Men Cave Bible Study. Dr. Richard "Dick" Hill has been blessed by God to make the Bible simple for people like me to understand. I truly enjoy the clear reasoning of God's words revealed in Dick's writings. For this reason, I have become an ardent supporter of Dick's ministry, "Glimpses of Grace".

I do not know your testimony. God loves you. My testimony is very simple. I was a sinner who was saved by God's grace. He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to redeem me through His blood with the price of His own precious life.