

My Story...

by Steve D. Spacek



As a young child I remember being very disobedient to my parents and others. I was always getting in trouble for misbehavior and knew I was hurting others. I knew that my lying, stealing, and being disobedient to my parents was wrong. I remember feeling disappointed in myself for not doing what was right and how my parents were so grieved and angry at my behavior. It seemed the more I tried to do better the worse I became.

Although my parents were not involved in their religion, they did allow me to attend a local Sunday School at the request of some neighbors. I was very disruptive during the Sunday School classes. Even the teachers found my presence difficult to deal with. In one event, when I caused a major disruption, I was dismissed from the class and told to sit on some steps and wait. Two teachers came and took special time with me to explain how to have a right relationship with God. I came to a spiritual crossroad in my life.

The teachers explained that God is holy, righteous, and just (Isaiah 5:16) and that everyone is a sinner falling short of God's perfection. 'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23).

I learned that 'the wages of sin is death,' [an eternal separation from God in what is called The Lake of Fire.] (Romans 6:23). The good news is that 'the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord' (Romans 6:23). God loved me so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die in my place and to save me from eternal death (John 3:16).

Although I did not understand all the particulars about this good news at that time, I became aware that Jesus Christ is indeed God and that He rose from the dead to assure my eternal life with Him. I came to realize there is nothing anyone can do to earn his or her way into heaven (Ephesians 2:8-9) and that a person must believe, by faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior (Acts 16:31). I had to repent, change my mind about whatever was keeping me from trusting Christ, and believe that Christ died for my sins and arose again (Acts 26:20).

I remember making the decision to believe these things and I placed my simple, child-like trust in Jesus Christ to save me. I am thankful that the Bible teaches that 'whoever believes, [that is having ongoing trust in and fully relying on] the Son has everlasting life' (John 3:36).

The teachers gave me a small pocket New Testament at that time. On the inside cover they had me write the date of my decision—April 19, 1955. Some may think that at the age of ten I really didn't understand what I was doing. I can tell you I certainly understood my need of God's forgiveness for my sins through Jesus Christ.

That's not to say that my faith would not be tested. My teen years were a spiritual struggle. I desired to live life for myself. But God was faithful and did not forsake me. Through the teachings at church, a teen Bible Study, and godly friends, I began to grow in understanding what God teaches in His Word. Over time I had a greater desire to please my Lord for what He did for me rather than living for my own selfish desires. I am so thankful for the forgiveness of my sins, the inward peace, and the eternal hope that I have through Jesus Christ.

We all come to spiritual crossroads in life. I encourage you to place your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior. If you are at that point in your life where you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (610) 287-9006 or sspacek@hm.org (229 Gerloff Road, Schwenksville, PA 19473).