My Walk of Faith and Lou Gehrig Disease (ALS) by Ron Christy



Many who read this testimony account, or perhaps by God's supernatural grace will listen to me give a verbal testimony, will know that it comes from my heart and spirit. I was encouraged to write down personal spiritual thoughts by my beloved friend and prayer partner, Gary Austin.

My desire is that the Lord and Holy Spirit will use what I share in your life. I will not focus upon the many trials of this disease, but mainly on my Lord, His Word, prayer and my walk of faith. I have asked the Holy Spirit to direct my thoughts, so that what is written will bring much glory to God the Father, and the Lord Jesus.

I am so very thankful for my wonderful, loving wife Wendy, for her diligent care of me throughout this very challenging illness. I thank God for giving me such a fantastic wife who has always shown a servants heart. I love you, Wendy! Our two children, now young adults {Angela and Matthew} are both very precious to us.

I am also thankful for my brother, Dave Christy, for his prayers, loving concern and our close friendship throughout the years. I will also include my relatives in Indianapolis, Indiana who have been faithful in their love and prayers {Derrick Christy, Jeanene Christy, Blake Christy, Jena Christy, Sarah Christy and Debbie Cunningham}.

I have been privileged by the Lord to serve Him and His people in the prayer ministry of Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church, Winona Lake, Indiana. I love and hold the pastors in high regard as

men of God who consistently demonstrate a Christ-like servant's heart. I have appreciated so much the spirit of love and prayer that many at WLGBC have extended to me. You and many other friends are all dearly loved!

"I will lead you in paths you have not known before"

"Do not fear; trust me"

You may be questioning why I included the two statements shown above. I'll explain later why both are significant. But before presenting the balance of my testimony, I'll share brief comments about the disease.

I was officially diagnosed with ALS late in 2011. However, I was pretty sure that I experienced some signs of the disease earlier that year. I have seen ALS close up as both my mother and sister suffered from this disease and went home to be with the Lord years ago.

For those who don't know, ALS is a degenerative neural/muscular disease for which there is no known cure. Oversimplified {from a layman's perspective}, defective neuron cells originating in the brain enter the spinal column and body areas attacking muscle and nerve tissue and progressively weakens them. The body is covered, or as I would put it, lovingly wrapped by God, in muscle to provide us organ protection, structural support, balance and strength for everything that we do. Imagine the extreme exhaustion your body feels after hard exertion. You collapse in a chair, or lay down, seemingly incapable to move for a given time. That's far from a perfect example of what happens to someone with ALS, but they do progressively become weaker and weaker until they lose body strength. It can get really challenging as the diaphragm is the primary muscle controlling breathing. Other symptoms arise which can further complicate daily living. But that's not what I want to focus on.

What has it meant for me to live by faith, prayer and walk with the Lord? I expressed in some detail what it means to walk by faith, living a life of prayer with dependence upon the Holy Spirit, in my book "*Holy War of Faith*". What I will do now is apply these spiritual principles briefly to some of my life experiences before and during ALS. I will not cite many Scriptures in this testimony (reference my book), but I trust you will detect spiritual truths.

During my adult years the Lord has spoken to me verbally once, at other times in my mind with clear messages and has dramatically captured my attention on a couple other occasions. I have frequently felt His presence as I worshiped, praised and fellowshipped with Him. The Holy Spirit has filled my

soul enabling me to pray and worship the Father and Son. The Spirit is my constant loving companion. God has placed godly men and families in Wendy and my life as dear friends for many occasions throughout the years for great Christian fellowship. They are all dearly loved and are precious to us. There are too many to mention and I would never want to omit anyone. The Bible states that iron sharpens iron *{Proverbs 27:17}* which applies to dear brothers that I have had the privilege to know and frequently met with for mutual challenge, prayer, Bible study, and encouragement.

The Lord got my attention as a young man to seek Him through a life of prayer and a heart commitment to know the Word. On one occasion during my early adult years while seated on a couch intently reading the Word, I distinctly heard my first name {Ron} whispered (still, small voice). I immediately looked to my left down a short hall curious if someone was standing there. As a single adult in a two story home this experience could unnerve someone. The opposite was true, as I felt completely peaceful. I later determined that the Lord graciously called my name to express His love and to encourage me. On another occasion, while seated on my bed reading the Word, I suddenly felt the presence of Jesus sitting near me. It's impossible to fully describe this experience. I was definitely surprised with the realization of His presence, but when the Lord decides to come near, He always brings peace to the heart and mind as we enjoy His loving, sweet presence.

As a father with young children the Lord kept drawing me to be alone and fellowship with Him. I was always intrigued and challenged with the invitation and desire our Lord expressed to abide with us *{John 14 & 15}*. During those years I dug into the Word to better understand truth while serving in church ministries. I was greatly challenged to grow in my faith by a godly pastor Larry McCall, who was and continues to be my friend. I was privileged to serve on the church deacon board which God used to further grow me in faith. You can read about a couple other experiences during this time in my book.

During those initial 10 to 15 years I loved to discuss Scripture, evangelize and at times enjoyed debating to get my views across with others. I was much too head-strong and prideful. The Lord caused me to realize that He wants us to know the God of the Word intimately, not just fill our minds with His Word for the sake of knowledge. Knowledge alone will puff up. All true knowledge and understanding are found in revealed truth and comes from God. The disclosure of an amazing God is the main subject of the Bible. The Word reveals the heart of the Father, how He thinks and responds and it invites us to enjoy the miracle of saving grace and closeness with Him. We are His children and He is our ABBA "*Daddy*" Father.

I love the profound truth expressed at the close of *I Corinthians 13 – "So now faith, hope, and love abide {they're all important}, these three, but the greatest of these is love*." I knew that a deepening love for the Lord would spill over and cause us to share that love with His people. I wrote about that in my book concerning the Holy Spirit and drinking from His endless well, His river of blessing. Love is an action verb originating from the heart for the benefit of others. As an adult believer, I eventually understood many Bible truths, yet I was increasingly aware that I needed to grow to know God. I would later understand more completely what this would mean.

The Lord never lets His children drift very far away without getting our attention. He allowed me to drift in the spiritually dry desert of this fallen world so that I would better understand and appreciate my great need to love and to be close to Him. He is intensely jealous for our love, and desires to purge our lives of false idols. The most important truth in this life is that He can only satisfy the soul. When all the materialism and vanity crumbles, we discover that He is all we ever had and ever needed.

Yet, He understands us completely, because we are *one spirit with Him {I Corinthians 6}*. The full force of this truth defines our close intimacy with Him which is closer than the marriage bond. Our relationship with the Father and the Lord Jesus is foundationally that of a loving union. I love *Psalm 139* which describes not only God's majesty, but how precious we are to Him. When I fail to live in this truth, I miss the enjoyment of walking in step with the Spirit. However, He never stops teaching me to know, love, and serve Him and to become more like Jesus. I am so thankful how God has worked in my life during those years to mold and prepare me.

Prior to being diagnosed with ALS, my employment at Zimmer Corporation and home responsibilities kept me very busy. But I was committed to make time to meet with the Lord. Nothing is more important than to be alone with the Lord. Investing much time in the Word and in prayerful union will spiritually transform us. This will impact everything in our lives. When we allow the world system values to control our priority choices, we fail to live as we are called by the Lord. I was also committed to be a witness for the Lord and to do my best to be a light for Him {though imperfect I may be} to impact others. I discussed one account regarding this in my book. Please refer to that for a more detailed explanation.

I'll mention an important life situation that significantly impacted me. I prayed during one of several work force reductions to be released from my company and God answered my prayer in mid-2009. That may sound weird to some, but I had a growing heart passion to invest more time to be alone and diligently seek Him. I sensed God calling me to meet with Him to further transform my life and to direct me into ministry.

It was June and the weather was pleasant. The first week I was home I carried a chair, my Bible, note pad, pencil and sat under the shade of a tree in my side yard. I remember saying something close to this – *"Well, here I am Lord. I'm here to be with you and listen to you. Lord, strip the other needed layers of worldly crud off me that would hinder our fellowship and change me."* Those daily meetings, plus long walks where I would praise, worship, listen and talk with Him continued intently for six months. That period of spiritual commitment and renewal established the pattern for my life forward. It's so incredible when you get alone and seek to turn the world off and the spiritual dimension on, asking the Holy Spirit to direct you. Don't get the impression that I am some spiritual man who always walks in the Spirit. I wish that were true, but we are all dependent upon His grace and daily sanctification. Life is a spiritual war zone and God was not through changing and using me. All I can say is that I experienced a whole new spiritual dimension and direction in my life. I was

really meeting with my heavenly Father, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit. WOW!!!

The Lord, in His providence, led us to another church when I reached my mid-fifties {Winona Lake Grace Brethren}. We were unclear why we had changed churches other than my belief that God was directing our path. I had decided to keep a low profile initially, but I enjoy serving so much that this would change during the following year. Wendy and I became involved in an Adult Bible Fellowship {ABF} and were beginning to get to know some of the church family better. During that year a leadership opportunity presented itself in the ABF and I offered myself as their temporary Shepherd. A few months after this I was getting better acquainted with pastors Bruce Barlow and Kip Cone. I also started to become involved with my heart passion- the church prayer team. That's when my relationship with Tom Julien started. The pastors wanted to relaunch the prayer team and expand its vision. I was more than willing to serve the Lord and the church.

Initial leadership committees were forming and meeting for *Imagine The Potential* campaign to expand ministry facilities and Pastor Bruce included me. God was clearly involved. I never sought a leadership position, but God was orchestrating everything. I discovered that my name was included on the Finance committee. It's not that I don't get turned on with finance, but I was puzzled why I was seated in a room with a half dozen very capable team members. I recall offering my services to pray at the beginning and close of the meeting, but that was the extent of my interest. God took care of this as Pastor Bruce scheduled a meeting with me soon after that team meeting. I had no idea what the meeting subject was. However, this meeting stands out in my mind. I can still visualize Bruce telling me that prayer was going to be a vital focus of this stewardship campaign and he wanted me to consider leading such a team. I recall responding that I didn't need time to consider this ministry, because I believed God had called me to do it.

The reason that I included the details in the above paragraph is to illustrate that God was working in the specific details of my life after I had yielded to His leading and to walk by faith. I communicated with the prayer team about the Hub project and we worked to pray for and to encourage the church body. I don't consider myself to be an accomplished speaker; in fact, I tend to be a bit timid when I speak before people. However, I had made a promise to the Lord that I would never shy away from prayer-speaking opportunities, in any venue, but I would depend totally upon Him and the Spirit for the ability. God has always been faithful. I committed to the well known Scripture in Philippians 4:13; *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."* This has been dear to my heart to the present time. All things are really possible through Christ who loves and strengthens us. We simply need to believe what the Word declares, then step forward and walk by faith. Christ always honors faith.

I really enjoyed a couple circuit journeys visiting most ABF's the next 18 months to talk about the Hub and prayer. I had opportunities to teach about prayer for several Sundays in a couple ABF's. Some may recall the "prayer man" which is the title several groups would use to introduce me. I loved that introduction. I soon lost most of my fear of speaking before people, because I loved the

ministry God had called me to, and the people I was speaking before. That makes all the difference in ministry; it's not about duty or us. The Lord wants us to follow the leading of the Spirit to serve with a heart of complete dependence upon Him.

During this time I started meeting with Tom Julien on a fairly regular basis. That continued for about a year to discuss the prayer team, the prayer partner ministry, future prayer initiatives and to pray. He quietly, patiently, yet purposely discipled and encouraged me. What a blessing it was to get to know Tom on a personal basis. I continue to enjoy our fellowship time. He is a great man of God committed to the Lord, God's people and prayer.

I also got acquainted with Mike Grill and attended his prayer class in 2010. The Holy Spirit led me to share with this class my heart concerning prayer and fellowship with God. In 2011, I began coordinating with Mike on church prayer ministry issues. I loved this man so much and greatly benefited from our times of sharing and personal emails. He possessed what I would term a *radical faith!*

The pastors were emphasizing the prayer partner ministry to the church body. The prayer team functioned to encourage everyone to pursue a partner to pray with. Several of us visited most ABF's and youth groups to encourage them to have prayer partners. I spoke briefly words from my heart stating that linking with a brother or sister is so vital to the Christian life. We all need each other in our battle against the world, flesh and the devil.

I really enjoyed meeting frequently with my prayer partner, Gary Austin. I could write much about these interactions; how challenging, provoking, point-counter-point stimulating, fun, prayerful, etc. they were. We still meet regularly, although it's a bit more challenging for me. Gary knows that I like to talk and he finally has the verbal advantage {ha!}. When you fellowship for 2 ½ years with someone, you soon get personal and share deep personal truths. Only my wife, immediate family, several friends and Gary have heard me share how the Lord has been near me. I'll try and briefly explain below.

Let me first state that I have never questioned or have been angry with my Lord that He allowed me to have ALS. God is purposeful in all that He does and He loves us so much. His wisdom and ways are far beyond our ability to fully comprehend in this life. That's why the Bible states the righteous are to live by faith and trust in His infinite wisdom and goodness. The flesh cries out for immediate relief when life hurts, or when we suffer. That's natural and the Lord understands our frame. When the props of this life are removed we face the truth that we are all really quite weak and totally dependent upon our heavenly Father. All things really do work together for good to those who are called according to His purpose {*Romans 8:28*}.

You will recall the prophetic messages that I documented at the beginning of my testimony. I also stated earlier that I enjoyed taking long spiritual worship, praise and prayer walks. I often sensed the nearness of the Holy Spirit and the Lord. I loved to listen and enjoy their presence. On one such

walk the Lord clearly spoke this phrase to my mind – *"I will lead you in paths you have not known before."* I knew right away that this message was from the Lord. I did not ask what these paths would be, but ALS was the vehicle the Lord chose for me. I always carried my iPhone to play songs of worship and praise. On one of those walks my iPhone started to play a song I had not chosen. It was about the Father's love, provision and care for us.

One day, a few months later, while seated in my living room quietly meditating, the Lord impressed this message to my mind – *"Do not fear; trust me."* Often when I have been seated outside in my yard praying and worshipping, I have sensed the presence of Jesus right beside me. After preparing my heart, I have been graced to pray in the Spirit when I asked for His enabling. There are many other such experiences that I have had with the Lord.

I do not state these experiences to impress anyone to think highly of me. Please do not! Think highly of our glorious, gracious and loving God. Seek closeness with the Holy Spirit with your total being and crave such union. I've learned by faith to seek with all my heart to listen and to be led to pray with the Holy Spirit. We learn to do that by patiently waiting, by a heart commitment, and by living for His glory with a sanctified life. If we regard iniquity in our hearts He will not hear us (Psalm 66). Another way to say this is if we harbor or retain sin that has not been confessed, we can't expect His fellowship or blessing.

Many of you could also cite precious times of fellowship. I firmly believe, based upon Scripture, that close spiritual fellowship should be normative for all believers with their heavenly Father. In John 14, Christ promised that he would manifest himself to those who loved Him and the Father. I'm convinced that we frequently receive what we value most in this life. Wendy and I have been blessed to have faithful brothers and sisters in Christ for encouragement and to pray for us. I have loved to study the life of King David because of his heart passion to know, love and obey his God. He was far from a perfect man, but he was a great confessor of his sin demonstrating a humble, contrite heart. God referred to him as a man after His own heart. WOW!

I will relate one other transforming event where the Lord graced my life to experience personal revival in my total being. I discussed earlier how the Lord stripped layer after layer of this fallen world off me. Purging the life of false gods and having too much of a worldly focus can be quite difficult and painful. However, the other side of the cleansing, renewal and revival process is such a spiritual blessing. Yet it's not a one time in life experience. It's a daily spiritual battle to achieve victory. It's not that I hadn't asked the Lord's forgiveness for sin and believed I was forgiven. There is something more powerful and needed that He wants to do within us – namely to confess *all known sin* to others we have sinned against and to seek their forgiveness. The Spirit led me to do that which resulted in me writing letters to people naming the sin and asking forgiveness. That wasn't easy, but it was so freeing!

Following what I described above, I read the Bible, gave thanks in prayer and enjoyed a great time of worship and praise. I continued my inward meditation for several hours. When I went to bed my heart was still reciting Scripture, praising and worshipping Him and this continued for 90 minutes

without a pause. The best way that I know how to describe this was that the words seemed to flow from the inner recesses of my being from the Holy Spirit. I was praying in the Spirit and at the end of that blessed time, I was not at all fatigued. I simply closed my eyes and soon went to sleep. There are other times that I have prayed with the Spirit's enabling and leading.

I'll conclude this testimony by sharing some thoughts from the past year up to the present time. Despite ALS, my heart and spirit is steadfastly committed to walk by faith and completely trust the Lord. His goodness and faithfulness is unchanging. We need to trust this truth in both the good and bad times. I have asked the Lord to fill me with His love to express this with His people. The flesh interferes at times, but I believe God has enabled me. During my days at home, I constantly talk with the Lord and recite Scripture promises. I breathe, walk, swallow, move and do everything by faith. He has answered so many of my prayers to be near me and to provide for me in my weak and helpless state. Praise Him!

It has been my joy and privilege to serve WinonaLakeGraceBrethrenChurch in the prayer ministry. I enjoyed many weekly visits to the church office during 2012 to encourage and pray with several in the staff. They are a hard working group of dedicated servants of the Lord. I appreciate and love them all. We should pray for them daily. I frequently surprised Bruce Barlow and Kip Cone by stopping at their office doors to say hello. They always had time for a hug, brief expressions of mutual love and praying together.

I am so thankful that many in the church are committed to prayer. That's very remarkable and demonstrates the fact that the Holy Spirit has been at work. He deserves all the praise and glory. My desire is that you will ask the Spirit daily to lead and direct your life and take every opportunity to talk with the Spirit and the Lord. God is always there waiting to hear and talk with us if we diligently seek Him with all our heart. Taking needed time to be quiet and to listen to Him is important. He doesn't shout. He may even surprise you with a blessed encounter.

The tables have been turned. Instead of my privilege of serving to bless others, many wonderful people have been showering me with multiple expressions of love. They always express love and speak encouraging words to me each Sunday. Even though I have lost my ability to speak clearly, they have understood and poured out love and kind words. I have seen the love in your eyes, and felt such love in your hugs. Wow, I am truly a blessed man! With the help of a dear brother, I was able to attend the last evening of the April 2013 Men's Retreat. I was greatly impacted by many men walking up to hug and say encouraging words. It was a powerful session with many men attending. Many in the church body have sent me encouragement cards, prayed with and for me – thank you! Several have stopped over to our home to say hello and to pray. You have taken me to special church and ministry events. I am overwhelmed by your many expressions of Christ-like love. Wendy and I thank God for you.

It's been a privilege and joy to minister with such a fantastic Prayer Team. They have ministered and

encouraged me in so many ways. I love them all. There names are worthy to be mentioned: *Gary Austin, Steve Friedberg, Kathy Friedberg, Jim Hill, Jason Lenon, Tami Miller, Tom Miller, Cathie Peebles, Jim Mccoomb.* Keep up the great work team to fan the flame of the Holy Spirit's work in many hearts regarding prayer. I am reminded what our Lord said -*"My house shall be called a house of prayer"* {Matthew 21}. I am thankful that our pastors are committed to prayer and the vital ministry of the Holy Spirit. They have lead the way regarding Prayer Partners along with a prayer emphasis during many Sunday services. My prayer is that all in the WLGBC church body will have a prayer partner.

I'll conclude by again saying that I appreciate and love Wendy so very much! Words cannot adequately express what I feel for her. I have faith in God and His Word to be healed, but I know God's perfect plan and purpose will be done in my life. Praise and bless His holy name!

Pray Without Ceasing!

Note: Ron passed into glory in the early morning hours of October 16, 2013. We encourage you to leave a comment below. Jim Hill

Ron_Christy_My_Journey_of_Faith_and_ALS.pdfDownload

John's Testimony – From Roman Catholic to the Truth

Study Notes for the Sunday Mass Published by Christians for Christ Ministries. We are a non-denominational Christian ministry that seeks to encourage and facilitate Christians in studying the Holy Scriptures. **"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus."** 1 Timothy 2:5



For the first twenty seven years of my life I lived ina perpetual state of rebellion, emnity, and warfare against God. My taskmaster sin dictated my standards, ethics, morals and goals. Enslaved to the lusts of hardened heart my life was cloaked in darkness and evil. Lost and ignorant, I loved my nation more than God. I loved my family more than God. I loved my life more than God. Apart from God's intercession my temporal state would one day become my eternal state.

On March 13, 2005 my eternal state was secured not by my depravity but by the blood of Jesus Christ. Though the miracle of grace God revealed Himself to me in truth through His Word. I repented of my sins, accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior and sealed with the Holy Spirit, received everlasting life and forgiveness of sins.

Divine truth replaced satanic lies and through the renewing of my mind, heart, and will I knew, loved and obeyed God for the first time in my life. I have been crucified with Christ so that He may live through me to bring Glory to the Father. For the remainder of my time in this world I strive to be blameless and upright, fearing God and turned away from evil. I pray that my life will be unexplainable apart from God. That I recognize anything the Holy Spirit accomplishes in and through me is unto the praise of His glory. At the judgment seat of Christ I pray the record stands that I did not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, that I faithfully finished my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus to testify the Gospel of the Grace of God.

Note from Jim Hill: John spent four years as an aircraft mechanic in the Air Force, then attended college and got his bachelors degree. He began attending Grace Theological Seminary located in Winona Lake, Indiana in January of 2011 to earn a masters of divinity. He can be reached through his page on this ministry.

Deborah's Testimony



This is my testimony of the true Lord Jesus Christ in a shorter version in hopes that when reading many will not be overwhelm with so information at once. As a Christian believer, I was actively involved in many well known Christian churches from 1990-2007 believing was saved and serving God. During that time experience many manifestations of the spirit believing this was a confirmation of my salvation. Then I started witnessing through those years many Christian believers get sick and die even though they were prayed by pastoral staff and other believers.

Then one time I went to a revival meeting and met a well known evangelist, who prayed over me and had same power in him as I did and it felt like someone was going to punch the whole world. I said to myself that's not the holy Spirit, but that spirit said your blasphemy God. At that time did not know or understand what was happening so I didn't talk to anyone about it. Then after a few more years in ministries still kept witnessing many believers from Christian churches, ministries get sick, die, have bad things happen to them and their families, even church leaders and staff. Couldn't understand why many believers repeatedly coming to the altar for prayer for their problems but never resolved. They just kept coming back for prayer over and over again, if they didn't get deliverance they went to another Christian church. I also was having problems in my own life and it would come and go.

Then in 2008 couldn't take it anymore sought God in prayer for the truth about the Christian churches, her leaders, believers, and myself. I took one day one hour out of every week to pray to

God. In 2009 of December (two years later), he answered me and said, My child what do you want to know? And within myself (my soul)I said to him, I want to know the truth. Then later that day believed God would show me in his perfect time the truth. Well a couple days later he revealed to me there are two identical Jesus. I saw them. They look exactly alike and the one in my chest came to the one outside of my body and they were going to fight, because the one outside of my body wanted in me, but the one in me wanted to stay. Immediately I said while looking down at the scene, wait a minute there is only one Jesus. Will the real Jesus please stand up. I said this because they were each identical of a small figured man in brilliant heavenly light. Then my body woke up. To make a long story short I was not truly saved and had the mark-death, hell and the grave. I did not have the true Jesus in me. It was the devil. Remind you I have been in Christian churches, study the word of truth , nothing else. I've always believed there is one true God, the creator and Jesus Christ.

So when I found out the bad news, I tried going to my local church to get help but no relief and it was getting worse because my body was hurting all over. I couldn't go back to work, sleep, sit still, or talk. Then I black out after that holiday eve and went missing for three days. There was a police report filed about me. On the third day when I came to, I was somewhere in Mexico. I was driving and had no idea what I was doing and then all of sudden like scales came off my face then I realize where I was and what was happening. I went home and my family was surprised to see me alive for they thought I was dead. It was the mercy and grace of God. During January 2010 I was a wreck.

So from February -June 2010, I went thru hundreds and hundreds of Christian churches and ministries around the world to get deliverance from that devil. Many of these Christian churches are well known around the world so I either put my prayer requests via email or went in person for counseling, prayer, deliverance. But God in his rich mercies granted the true Holy Spirit near me so that when I slept which was very little, he would show me the Christian people if they had him or not (true Holy Spirit, running flow of clear water). He also lit up before me and showed that devil holding me and what was happening when I asked these Christian churches and ministries to pray for my deliverance. I saw him-the false Jesus and many Christian people were praying to him but he wouldn't let me go and the darkness was surrounding me. I thought why are they praying to him? I saw hundreds of Christian faces and heard their voices praying to him. Why?

I was receiving hundreds and hundreds of emails from Christian believers praying for me in the US and other parts of the world. Even went to a famous Christian minister that all he does is cast out devils around the world for people that are oppressed. Even some ministers by phone that did the same, etc. None of them nor the Christian churches or ministries were able to cast that devil out of my body. At the end of June 2010, I was down to searching on the internet two deliverance ministries. Remind you and to all that read or hear this testimony I never got any sleep night or day… I was on the internet trying to find Christian church, prayer ministry, all the above of Christian ministries that had true power of God. I completely exhausted my search on the internet by the end of June 2010.
So two deliverance ministries left that I was able to find. If they did not have the power of God I would be force to go online and contact every Christian Church corner in America.
That's how bad it was for me.

By the mercies and grace of God out of the last two remaining I found one deliverance Christian ministry, but the Holy Spirit did not show their activity in the spirit realm. So by faith gave my prayer request to this Christian minister and he forward to his prayer team. Well I still didn't get any rest and still went online searching for deliverance and prayer. Three days later, in my bedroom my body was asleep and my spirit woke up and I'm sitting up in bed and I didn't see anything around me but sense the presence of the Holy Spirit, the father came and embrace me and we went up and up, then stopped. I heard a baby cry and I said that 's the spiritual birth according to John 3 Jesus is teaching Nicodimus about you must be born again of the water and of the Spirit of God in order to enter the kingdom. Then he lowered me down and few things happen. It was the first time to get some rest. I was really happy that God came to me. Then the next day when I went to sleep my body slept my spirit was alive and the Holy Spirit was binding that devil. I kept requesting the same minister to keep praying for me, because I knew it was them that prayed me thru to God. Then after a few more days, one night I was so tired and just before falling asleep the Holy Spirit came upon my head (oil). I immediately went into spirit realm and that devil went out of my body. Then I woke up and felt so light as if a huge fat elephant came off my body. I was very happy and thankful for God removing that devil from me and the ministry that prayed for me. They were the only Christian ministry that had true power of God, holy Spirit of truth.

There are two identical Jesus Christ. The one is the true messiah, the other is the devil (god of this world) coming as an angel of light looking like Jesus appearing to men and woman Christian believers with all power, lying signs and wonders. The Catholic and Christian churches are following and representing a false Jesus. If any church teaches believers the antichrist is coming and the mark is anything but death hell and the grave, which Jesus conquered ALL POWERS of Satan and man (sinful flesh)at the cross and resurrection, they are under the control of the antichrist spirit (the devil, man of sin, son of perdition)and the mark of man- death, hell and the grave is present among the believers. In Revelation 9:20-21, during the plagues, it tells that men still did not repent from their ways. So it clearly says that God wants men to turn from their dependency on the things of this world and turn to his son (the way the truth and the life) and believe the gospel.
By the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit of truth, I am witness to seeing the antichrist-the man of sin, the son of perdition coming as an angel of light speaking God's words to many men and woman believers, who are spiritually deceived by deceptive bright dreams that promote false teachings of God's words, lying signs and wonders, promises of prosperity which keep believers in bondage to sin and the ways of the world. These churches teach believers that the antichrist is coming and we are not in Revelation yet. This a the biggest LIE of Satan 1 John 4:3.The real Jesus Christ is coming, the son of man, and it will happen very quickly because according to my testimony of the true Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Thesssalonians 2:3, 4 it is fulfilled.

The Holy Spirit of truth revealed the scriptures below for believers to know the truth. Again the mark of man is death, hell and the grave. Any church to teach believers that they can not have the mark removed is the antichrist spirit. The true Jesus Christ came in sinful flesh like us and conquered ALL powers of Satan and man. Christ suffered in the flesh, died in the flesh at the cross and was resurrected destroying the body (flesh) of sin forever. Romans 8, for what the law could not do, in that is was weak through the flesh, God sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and

for sin, condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

This is why believers are getting sick, dying, bad things happening to them and still in bondage to sin, etc. in the churches around the world. This is not a joke. What I'm telling you is all true. The true living God is real and showing me what is happening in these churches around the USA and other parts of the world.
God sent his son and raised him from the dead on the third day destroying the body of sin forever. Therefore the antichrist-the old serpent and the mark of man are defeated forever to those that have faith and believe in God sending his son in sinful flesh, who knew NO SIN to take our place. This is the true gospel.

I believe in the true living God sent his son and raised him from the dead on the third day. I am alive by Christ's sufferings, death and resurrection of the dead destroying the body of sin forever 1John 2:26-28.
Please read Luke 24:44-47, Luke 9:56, Galatians 3:9, 14,16,22. The disciples and Apostle Paul preached the same doctrine nothing added nothing taken away to all people for salvation as many has the Lord God shall call.

Every Christian believer wants to know who is the antichrist, the beast, the man of sin, son of perdition, what is the mark and when is he arriving, but in real truth the antichrist has been around since the beginning. The scriptures tells us Jesus conquered him at the mount of temptation, the cross, and the resurrection of the dead, Christ being the first fruit.
In Mark 8:33 Satan knew once Jesus died on the cross reconciliation for man with God took action immediately and Satan and all the fallen angels were defeated and judged.

I gave my testimony and what I tell is from the true living God and his son. John 6:63,65,68-69.

Angel's Testimony



THIS IS MY TRUE STORY

I gave my life to JESUS at the tender age of 14 years of age, and about two weeks later this is what happened to me. On one morning in late 1986, I was getting up and I was on my way to use the restroom and saw that everybody was sound asleep. Right across my room was the restroom, and as I begin to walk toward the restroom, I heard the spirit of GOD say to me, "Look in your hand". I began to say back to the spirit of GOD, "Why would I look in my hand?" Then the spirit of GOD spoke for the second time, "I said look in your hand". By now I am still talking back to the spirit of GOD and looking up at the ceiling because I didn't know what was going on. I was only 14 years old when this happened to me, so as you can imagine, I was frightened. So for the third and final time the spirit of GOD's voice got really loud and louder! HE said to me, "I said to look in your hand!!!" This time I looked at my right hand and I saw what looked like a puddle of blood, but here's the thing: it was not bleeding.(EXODUS 3:2-3 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.3. And Mo'ses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.) Then, right in the center of my hand I noticed that GOD had put a beautiful cross in my right hand.

By now I had gone to my mother's room and knocked as hard as I could on her door and when she opened the door and saw my hand, the only thing she was saying was Oh my God! Oh my God ! we did not know what to do, so we just decided to pick up the phone book and

call up some of our local pastor's to tell them what had happened to me. My mother and I came across a particular pastor in Newnan, Georgia, and we decided to call him. My mother started to tell this pastor about all that had happened to me, and this is what the pastor told my mom: "Tell your daughter to show as many people as she can. The pastor also told my mother that GOD had 'Marked your daughter'. It was so amazing and so touching that GOD had chosen me and put a cross in my right hand, and yes this is a true story. To this day that same cross is still in my hand. (I'm now 40 year old)-MATTHEW 19:26: But Je'sus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with GOD all things are possible.

-God Bless You!:-)
-Angel

Pierre's Testimony



Pierre's Testimony (July 2012)

Born & raised in Compton, California (in August, 1989), life didn't begin so easy for me. I was surrounded by gangs, drugs, fornication & violence my entire life – not knowing the relevancy of my being, I dabbled in all of it.

I got Saved as an early teen. Not knowing the importance of being Saved, I inevitably backslid (went back into a life of sin). In the year 2008, I was still living in poverty. Because I didn't know God to be my Jehovah-Jireh (my provider), I began to "do me" – attempting to make things happen on my own. I was a musician (alias: Too Much On The Beat)… rapping, singing & producing songs that glorified sin – the very thing that my God hates.

In 2009, I produced a song for music group The Vixenz called "I Need That" (later remixed by rap artist Snoop Dogg & aired on Power 106). The song ushered in the "Jerk Movement" – beginning in Los Angeles, California, then spreading to neighboring states and eventually the East Coast. In my mind, I was on top of the world, unaware that I was wretched, miserable, poor, blind & naked (Revelation 3:17).

After a random night out with friends (drinking alcohol accompanied by foolishness), I decided to stand inside the car (hanging out of the car with the door still open). The driver pulls off & begins to speed down the street, that's when I fell off the car – scraping my entire face, arms & legs… busting my skull in 2 places & fracturing my collar bone & index finger. I should have died in my sins, but my God was merciful!

Near-death STILL wasn't enough to cause me to forsake sin & before I was done healing, I was back composing secular music, smoking weed, abusing drugs & drinking alcohol. I was a slave to sin (John 8:34).

One night, during a deep conversation with my sister, Vixen Monai, the Lord had removed the scales from my eyes – revealing that I was heading down a path already marked for destruction. I had quit doing music many times in the past, but I felt the Lord telling me "This is your LAST chance". My career ended that night.

I went on a 2-year hiatus, chasing after the lusts of the flesh (decided to "do me"). Within this 2 year span, I tried to define my being with success – pursuing a career in acting, dancing, singing, modeling, marketing & advertisement, graphic design, phone application development & a few other job titles. Trying to "find yourself" outside the will of God is impossible, but that's a lesson I learned later in life.

In 2011, I hit rock-bottom (again), but I STILL didn't acknowledge God in my ways (Proverbs 3:6). To help pay rent, I began a career in Photography (alias: Pierre Gerard aka Pierre G Visions).

Although this career began as "innocent", I later allowed myself to be used by devil. I took sensual photographs of women, promoting & causing men to lust (Matthew 5:28). I photographed many celebrities & a reputation was made, but it was all vanity (Mark 8:36).

I met a guy who, rather persuasively, inducted me into the "party life". 4 nights a week, I was partying in some of Hollywood & Long Beach's "hottest" Hip-Hop & Techno clubs… for FREE!

Romans 13:13 – "Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness…". The

Bible describes this sort of reveling as "orgies", which is exactly what nightclubs have become – sex with clothes on. "Dance" originated as a form of worshiping God, & in no way, form or fashion was I pleasing the Lord by
gratifying my own flesh (1 Peter 1:16).

I was engulfed by sin! It took for EVERYTHING to come crashing down on me before I realized how much I needed God's help. I recall 2 days where I literally cried out to God, saying "Lord, why am I here?" ..... *No answer* ..... I had this blameful attitude that if God will just tell me why He create me, I would straighten up (not the best attitude to have toward God). The very week I completely surrendered to His will, He revealed to me the calling on my life – that I was predestined to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I wasn't waiting on God, He was waiting on me!

I rededicated my life back to Christ in February, 2012, & have been enjoying my walk with Him more & more each day. I used to hear about the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7) and now I have it! I now preach the Gospel, sing in the Praise Team & Choir, dance as a member of the Greater Shiloh "Alpha & Omega" Mime Team, & oversee the Homeless Ministry at my church – all to the glory of God!

God is still allowing me to fulfill all of my dreams – not for self-gratification, but I'm using my talents to glorify His name. So be on the lookout for Christian Rap artist named "Just Pierre", and many other avenues in which the Lord leads me!

A lot of pain & anguish could have been avoided in my life had I given it to Christ much sooner. My God waited 22 LONG years for me, and to show my gratitude, I will live out the rest of my days serving Him. Forever grateful.

Kathie's Testimony



Kathie's Testimony

By Kathie Smith

Hello. My name is Kathie and I would like to share with you a story of true friendship. Funny thing is that until I had this friendship, I never knew the magnitude of what I had been missing before. This friendship relationship is so significant that it will last forever, never to be parted by physical death but lasting forever into eternity.

I had passed by this new friend of mine when I was in church every Saturday night at mass. I would find out later on that he was always eager to meet me, but I just wasn't given the opportunity to meet him. We always seemed to simply pass by each other and never really truly had the chance to get to know each other personally.

I would pass by him when I would see a person helping another person in need. I would watch him work through the person assisting the other person but again, never was given the opportunity to meet him as I casually just observed from a distance.

I would pass by him when I would hear the kind words being said by a person trying to encourage and lift me up. Once again, I never recognized that it was his voice speaking but rather just heard the voice of the person speaking to me.

I would pass by him when I heard his words preached in the gospel readings during mass. His words were simply words on a page. I never heard His voice talking to me but rather I simply listened to the mere words being spoken.

How did I finally meet this friend of mine, Jesus Christ? Sit back, relax and I will tell you the story of how my relationship with Jesus Christ began.

I was raised by two loving parents who along with five other siblings were brought up in the Roman Catholic Church. We went to church every Sunday and Holy Day, received communion, confessed our sins in confession and were confirmed in the Church. I had an awesome childhood. Our family was very close. My parents were always the types of people who would do anything for us and for others. We all respected them as children and trusted in the belief system that they instilled in us.

After finishing college and working for a few years, I married a Catholic guy from a local town near our hometown. We were blessed with three wonderful children. We continued our Catholic faith by faithfully attending the Catholic Church and by enrolling our children in the local Catholic school. After living nine years at a thirty minute distance from my parents, we decided to buy property from my grandmother and build a home out in the country to be nearer my family. It was beautiful out in the country and meant a great deal to me to be close to my parents and to allow our kids to grow up with their grandparents living right down the road from them. Everything should have been perfect, right?

Well, the year was 1999. Y2K. People were running around telling others that

doom and gloom was lurking at the strike of midnight on December 31, 1999. Stories were circulating that electricity and phone service could cease and that food shortages could occur. I started to dwell on the what-ifs of the whole Y2K thing. I started to doubt our safety and became very scared for what the future would hold. Having just moved into our new house, I started to miss all of our old friends, our old neighbors, our old school and just all of the usual things that I had grown accustomed to at our old home. Deeply troubled over all of these things, I plunged into a state of depression. Any of you who have ever been through this will understand that it is a very difficult time. I was sad and simply could not tell anyone why it was that I was sad. What was I missing in my life? I had everything – a good job, a wonderful husband and family and a beautiful new home. Why should I be in such a state of sadness? I had never experienced anything like that before.

Remember that friend that I had mentioned? Well, you see the friend that I had been passing by my whole entire life, was calling me. He was calling so loudly this time that I finally heard him. My brother emailed me about this wonderful thing that had happened to him. He had found an Internet site addressing salvation through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. He sent me a simple prayer to pray asking Jesus to start a friendship with me. Being so desperate to dig myself out of the depression that I had been feeling, I humbled myself and cried out to God. I knew that there wasn't anything that I could do on my own to save myself and I asked God to do it for me.

The next day I woke up and I felt different than I did the day before. My depression was gone. I was happy again. It was simply incredible. To this day I can't even remember what it was like to be in that state of mind, but I am just thankful to the Lord for what he had done for me.

I met the Lord Jesus for the first time in my whole entire life. I could feel his warmth inside of me and the friend that I had been passing over all of these years was finally with me.

I had been taught to pray to God ever since I was a little girl. I prayed every day but never felt any response back when I prayed. Now, I finally understand the presence of the living God in my prayers. He had become my friend, my forever and eternal friend.

Are you missing that one true friendship that I had been missing? Maybe you are doing all of the right things as I had done, attending church every week, saying your prayers, trying to obey the ten commandments, and simply attempting to be a good person but you are missing something. Maybe you are attending church simply because it makes you feel good inside because you took the time to go to church. That's how I used to feel. My husband and I used to go to church on Saturday night so we could "get it out of the way" for the weekend. It was merely an obligation that we needed to fulfill every week like any other item on our "To Do" list.

Are you praying just because you were taught that that's what you are supposed to do? We always said the "Catholic Grace" before each and every meal. "Bless us O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen." I said that prayer so fast and without any meaning for so many years before meals. As I child, I never understood what "thy bounty" meant. It was just merely words spoken, done under obligation before we were to receive any food. Sadly enough, I continued this tradition into our own immediate family and was teaching them to pray out of obligation rather than giving honor to the Lord. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:7 "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words." Are you praying out of simply an obligation to pray or are you truly talking to the Lord in open communication?

We were taught that we were obligated to attend church, obligated to say our prayers and obligated to be the best person that we could be. What is an obligation? Webster defines an obligation as "something that binds one to a

course of action; a duty; an indebtedness". Isn't it true then that after the obligation is complete i.e. course of action completed or duty performed that you have satisfied the debt and do not need to do anything further? That's exactly how I felt. All I had to do was: attend church on Sundays and "Holy Days of Obligation", say my prayers and simply be the best person that I could be. By doing these things, I was satisfying the requirements and did need to do anything further.

I learned that if I performed the things that I had been told were religious obligations, that I would be secure in the eyes of the Lord and be in heaven forever. The problem was, how much was enough in the eyes of the Lord? Should I attend church more than I had been? Maybe I should have been attending daily mass. Maybe I needed to say more prayers. Maybe I needed to try and do more good things. Where would I draw the line? When would I do enough?

On that day in 1999, our Lord rescued me from the vicious cycle of "how much was enough?" My friend, our Lord Jesus Christ had already done everything that needed to be done for me already. 1 John 4:14 "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world." Jesus spoke his last words in John 19:30 "It is finished." The Father sent Jesus to save us from being eternally separated from Him. He endured the pain and bore our sins when he hung on the cross. He completed the obligation that the Father had sent him to do – to bear the sins of all mankind on the cross. When he completed that, his work was complete. All of the things that I had been doing in my "vicious cycle" did not lead me to my forever friend; but, rather lead me further away from him because I thought that I was eternally secure.

How can you be eternally secure? What does he ask of us to do? Jesus tells us in John 3:3, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." John 3:6, "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." We are born from our parent's flesh into a body made of flesh. The Holy

Spirit comes into our lives as a living spirit inside of us when we ask the Lord to come into our lives." We are born once physically. We are born again when we are born spiritually, i.e. when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Was I born again by attending church every Sunday, praying prayers and attempting to do good things? All I had gained my whole entire life was a "good feeling" inside from all of the things that I had done. I was spiritually dead. I did not have the Holy Spirit inside of me. How can you become born again and receive God's gift of the Holy Spirit?

1. 1.Recognize that you are a sinner. Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
2. 2.Admit that no matter how many times you go to church, how many prayers you pray or how many good things you do that it will not be enough in the eyes of the Lord. Romans 3:10 "There is no one righteous, not even one."
3. 3.Believe that the Lord Jesus was sent down from heaven by the Father, lived a perfect life, bore all of your sins on the cross, died and rose again on the third day. 1 Corinthians 15:3 "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."
4. 4.Confess your belief in what Jesus did for you on the cross. Trust in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. Romans 10:9-10 "That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Are you being led astray into thinking that being a member of a church will guarantee your ticket into heaven? If you agree with the spiritual truths that I have presented, I now ask you to pray a very simple prayer. This is the prayer that my brother gave me, a very simple prayer that gave me my eternal and

forever friend, Jesus Christ. Here is the prayer:

> God, I am a sinner. There is nothing that I can do on my own to make it to heaven. God, I accept the free offer that you make to me: Jesus' death on the cross for my sins. You sent your only Son Jesus down to Earth and he died as a substitute for our sins on the cross and then he rose from the dead and I know that he is going to return in glory. I accept this free offer; I want to be with you forever. I ask you to send the Holy Spirit to me. I open up my heart now to the Holy Spirit and welcome Him into my being. As I breathe in I ask the Holy Spirit to come into me and I ask the Holy Spirit to graciously make His presence known to me. I know that there is no amount of good deeds or clean living that could ever make me suitable for entrance into heaven. It is only your sacrifice that makes it possible. I give my life over to you. I ask you to forgive my sins and to guide me so that I can do what you want me to do on Earth. I am here for you now and ready to do your will and accept help from you. I know that through you, anything is possible. You are the most holy, the living God, the one that was, the one that is, and the one that will be. Amen.

Kettle Point



Since I came to faith in Jesus Christ I have had several milestone events happen in my life. One of those was a trip that I took in the summer of 2000. It was just after church on a breezy Sunday afternoon when I decided to travel to a place in Canada to do some windsurfing. Kettle Point was a place on the southern end of Lake Huron that was rather famous to windsurfers for having very large waves on windy days. This day was no exception and the waves were forecasted to be ten feet tall! Even though it was not normal for him, my brother decided to ride along to watch. In fact, I can never remember another day that he had gone windsurfing with me.

After the hour and a half journey there, I had an excellent day riding the large, smooth waves in the bay. Just before I was going to stop for the day, I came in for a brief rest. Then I decided to go out for one just more run. My brother was sitting in my truck reading due to the high wind and blowing sand. I had a very uneasy feeling as I was carrying the windsurf board back to the water. I was compelled to pray very hard for God to keep me safe on this final run of the day.

As I proceeded out into the bay where the largest waves were crashing into a bowl-shaped area to the east of the beach, I made a turn on the face of a very large wave. This was like heaven! Suddenly, my sail separated from the mast base on the board that sent my board flying one direction while my sail remained in my hands. Meanwhile the large wave that I had just finishing turning on crashed overtop of me with my sail! I let loose of my sail and soon realized that I was drowning. For a brief instant I hated to let go of my equipment, but quickly decided that the equipment was replaceable. Even though I was wearing a short wet suit, I was unable to float in the bubbly water caused by the constant crashing of the waves. I got very tired in my attempts to grab small amounts of air in between the waves. I knew that I was going to die right there, with my precious brother only a half a mile away on the shore. Once again, I began to pray.

I began to visualize my dead body washing up on the beach. This was very real, and is difficult for me to put into words. I visualized my body from a viewpoint some distance away, above me.

As I was fighting for my life in Lake Huron that day, I made the vivid realization that God was in control. He was the Lord of the universe! Somehow during the events of the past several years I missed that point. While I was drowning I surrendered my will to God. I accepted that He was the Lord of my life. I had accepted Jesus as my Savior, but I had never really surrendered my will to God as my Lord. This was made clear to me while I was dying that day at Kettle Point.

Somehow I came to realize that if I pulled on my wet suit, I could create a small air bubble in my chest area that slightly increased my buoyancy. Also, I saw a white flag on a small floating buoy a few yards away. And there were some jet skiers in the area. So somehow I managed to swim over to the buoy and break the fiberglass rod attaching the flag. This left me with a two-foot long mast with a flag attached. Between the huge waves I was able to wave the flag. After about five minutes of waving, I had still not moved any distance towards the shore, although my board and sail had long ago washed away. I continued to pray, and as one of the jet skis approached I was spotted and rescued. I walked back up the beach praising God to tell my brother the amazing story. My equipment washed up on the beach a few minutes later in perfect condition except for the broken mast base.

Later that evening at a restaurant in Sarnia, Ontario I had my first meal as a truly "born again" man. And although I am much more careful while windsurfing, I recognize now that God is in control of my life.

The Hospital



I remember the night quite well that I first really felt a real love for my twin brother. The night in 1984 began like any other. We were attending college at Western Michigan

University and together we had rented an apartment behind the K-Mart. I don't remember exactly what time he left, but at some point around dinner time he went over to the one of the stores on the main street to do some shopping. I was sitting in my bedroom doing homework when he burst in the door. He was bleeding, holding a cloth on his head and was very emotional, saying something like "I'm hurt, help me, I cut my head." A million thoughts ran through my head trying to determine who had hurt him. I ran over there to him and quickly decided that we needed to get to the emergency clinic immediately.

A sense of deep sadness and compassion came over me, a protectiveness that I have never felt enveloped my body and I began to grieve deeply for my brother. After I gained a bit of composure I quickly called my parents and told them that we were heading to the emergency room in a city nearby to them. I distinctly remember picking up a sense that this was kind of a bother, an inconvenience for them. Maybe such things became trivial to parents, they had their own set of problems. This was shocking to me, since I was grieving over this incident and would do anything to help my brother. The thought of prayer never even entered my mind. During the drive to the hospital, I got the remaining details on what had happened. He had been walking out of the store through the automatic door when it paused suddenly, causing him to ram his head into it. During this time the sense of compassion that I had for him began to get even stronger.

Many times, I have heard of criminals that were shot while fleeing the scene of a robbery, and after escaping, apparently become so afraid of death that they sought a hospital quite quickly even though they were almost certain to be confiscated there. I have watched movies in which similar things happened, but these failed to produce any of the feelings of deep sadness that I experienced when my brother was hurt. Somehow I always felt that while I was watching these movie scenes that such feelings should occur, but either due to the way in which the event was portrayed or the lack of closeness to the character, I never experienced any of the feelings I felt during my drive to the hospital with my brother.

As a sat here this evening contemplating this event, I wondered why my soul had been dead for so many years. Reflecting upon events in my childhood produced the answer, but as an adult I knew better than to dwell upon the happenings of years gone by. I remember the vast changes that have occurred since my brother and I became Christians. I have a powerful sense of peace and hope that was absent during this event. Without Jesus, we were actually no better than the man that robbed the bank. We were hopeless to save ourselves. Years of faithful attendance of mass at our local Roman Catholic Church didn't do it. Calling an ambulance to take us to the hospital would not have solved our problem, like it did for the bank robber. No, this was a problem that only God could solve. Both of us were hopeless without the actions of God through his Holy Spirit to call us to repent of our sins and trust in

Jesus as our Savior and Lord. For this, we will be eternally grateful.