

# ***MY TESTIMONY***

***Passing from darkness into the eternal light of Jesus Christ***

***By Gary Binford***

*I thought I was on the stairway to Heaven. But, in reality, I was slipping into darkness.*

*Most of us seek to follow the same formula for worldly success. We investigate and put a lot of thought into factors such as the college to attend, the person to marry, the job to take, the house to buy, the community to live in, how and where to invest our money. We don't make these decisions with our heads in the sand. Yet, when it comes to looking at the condition of our soul and our relationship to God, our Creator, many people don't examine that under the same microscope, although it is of the utmost importance.*

*God created us to be with Him forever, in Heaven. He created us to glorify Him, to be loved by Him and to love Him. He does not want any of us to perish and He has provided the only way for us not to do so, through His Son, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*I really didn't grasp this for many years of my life. Growing up, I thought going to church made me a good person, punching my ticket into Heaven. I was baptized at age 12 in a Baptist church in Summit, NJ. I played the piano for the Sunday school, worked in the church nursery and thought I knew the Lord. But I didn't know the real Jesus or that being a Christian involves a change of life from the inside out. Then I went away to college in Ohio, where I learned about other religions as if they all were true.*

*A pretty straight-laced kid throughout my teen years, I fell into numerous vices (sin) in college and thereafter in the guise of "having a good time." I still went to church occasionally and considered myself to be a Christian, but I didn't have the slightest clue what was in the Bible and I certainly didn't know who Jesus is.*

*To me, God was a cosmic genie in the sky to call upon whenever I needed something. My life centered on pursuing two professional careers—first sports writing for Newsday and the New York Daily News, then as the personal manager to DManns Music contemporary jazz recording artist Dwayne Kerr. I indulged in alcohol, recreational drugs and pornography. A party person who chased fame and fortune, I also was egotistical, selfish and self-centered. In my delusion, I didn't see much difference between myself and other people. I thought I was normal, a good person.*

*Then my life began to unravel in 1993. Over a period of time, God allowed me to lose pretty much everything I considered precious to me. I hit rock bottom. And it was there where I found Jesus.*

*I began to read the Bible. I listened daily to radio broadcasts from fundamental Christian preachers such as Roderick Caesar, Tony Evans, Jim Gent, Hank Hanegraaff, the late D. James Kennedy, Greg Laurie, John MacArthur, the late Adrian Rogers, R.C. Sproul, Charles Stanley and Chuck Swindoll. Two mentors became instrumental in my spiritual development—a friend, Kenny Harmon, and Kerr, who had become a Christian.*

*I came to realize my lifestyle was unacceptable to a Holy God. I learned it takes only one sin—one lie, one time stealing, one burst of anger, one lustful look—to separate us from God forever, because He cannot be around sin; it's against His Holy nature. Yet we all sin in a variety of different ways each and every day.*

*The collapse of my secular existence led to me giving my life to Jesus Christ in 1997. I am saved, born again, my sins forgiven. The Christian life is a daily journey as the flesh and its desires remain, which is why our earthly bodies must go back into the ground from whence they came. But now I have an advocate in Jesus to fight these battles with me, for He conquered all sin and death on the cross.*

*God picked me up and cleaned me up. He told me He loves me. He changed my heart. He changed my thinking. He gave me a new talk, a new walk and the real purpose for living. He delivered me from a lifestyle of sin. He gave me His peace and He gave me His joy. Most of all, He gave me His Son, who gave me His salvation!*

***“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father [God] except through Me.” –John 14: 6***

*Jesus’ identity is the most important decision every person has to decide upon. Nothing can surpass it! Jesus, the only sinless person ever to walk on this earth, either is telling the truth or He was the biggest liar/deceiver all of time and every Bible should be burned, destroyed forever! We can decide Jesus is Deity or we can decide He was a devil, but we cannot ignore His claim. There are no other options.*

*I unequivocally can tell you I could not have made these changes on my own. This only occurs by the Holy Spirit reclaiming your soul and giving you a new nature. No person can be saved without undergoing this life-altering procedure. Many people say “Show us, Jesus, and we’ll believe.” Jesus says to believe and He’ll show us. I believed and He showed me. He delivers as He promises.*

*I do pray that we all seriously will examine our lives. Only born again people are acceptable to a Holy God. For those who aren’t, only Jesus can change that. He is the only way. And the great new is He’s only a prayer away!*

***“If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.  
The scripture says, “No one who believes in Him will be put to shame.” –Romans 10: 9-11***

*God bless you.*

*With the love of Christ,*

*gary binford*

Earnest questions and dialog welcomed: garybinford@yahoo.com