

My Testimony

On the outside I looked great. Both my parents were active in the church, so I was at church whenever the doors were open. On top of this I had an overactive conscious, so I was always way too nervous to join in with the “bad things” that my friends did sometimes. All things considered, I was a decent kid who did the right thing most of the time and went to church a lot. I had this idea that God was happy with me because I was good. Eventually I started going to a private school (I was homeschooled before this, which if you have met me it probably shows) where I first had the idea that my life “looked better” better than the rest of my friends who called themselves Christians. This led to pride that made me think that God loved me more because I acted better. Ironically, I started dealing with sin at that time. Lust, pride, and anger at my parents all became struggles for me. Because of my view of God I thought my actions lead him to no longer be happy with me. I worked very hard to right myself of these wrongs, I tried praying and reading my Bible more. Something happened though, when I prayed it felt like no one was listening, when I read all I could see was words, nothing sank in. At this point I doubted if my faith was real, I saw other people who had experienced God, but I doubted if I had ever experienced Him myself. I struggled for a while till I finally gave up. I realized that no effort of my own could make me be what I wanted to be. For the first time I really recognized the depth of my own sin. Though it hurt, and took me too long to recognize, it helped me understand a very powerful reality- I needed a savior. Jesus, who I had learned about all of my life finally became real to me. Once I got over my self-righteousness, I understood what being a follower of Christ really meant. I had given my life to Christ many years earlier, but that night, in a truck with my dad I rededicated my life to Christ. I still struggle with trying to justify my life with my works and “being good enough”. Through this there is a verse that has brought so much peace to my life though, it is Lamentations 3: 22-23 “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning, great is Thy faithfulness.” This may be harsh, but if you think you can win the favor of God, realize that He sent His son Jesus to take all of your sin and die on a cross because you can’t be good enough. Please take it from me it is not worth trying to be good enough, believe in Jesus, and let His grace change you from the inside out.