



# **My Walk With Jesus Christ**

I am writing this so that some people might hear of the truth about my walk with God. Everyone is interested in who God is so I guess I've got your attention.

I am Australian and 54 years old and for the first 40 years of my life I did all kinds of things that didn't please me such as drugs, lots of sexual partners, putting money before friendship but I believed that this was the way I was naturally and could do nothing about it.

But all that changed when God knocked on the door of my life in November of 1998. I was living in Sheffield then, studying Japanese at Sheffield University when one of the girls I was studying with asked me if I wanted to go to a local church because the pastor was worth listening to and that he had the ability to explain the Bible passionately. The first night I went, the pastor said that those people who live their life without God, it was as if they were stumbling along in a desert with howling winds that never stop blowing. Something touched deep into my heart and I had a feeling of God telling me, 'he is

speaking about your life'. I wondered what had just happened as I had never felt anything like it before. He went on to say that when you accept Jesus into your life, you come into an oasis and the winds stop howling. At that point again, I had this same feeling of the Lord talking to me. I left the church with a strong awareness that the almighty God had spoken to me PERSONALLY and wanted to bring good changes into my life. It was my first definite encounter with the spiritual.

I will now take you back many years to when I was a small boy. My father died when I was four years old and in that time when boys really need their fathers (from about five to twelve years old) to teach them about being a man, there was no one there for me. As a result, my whole identity, especially masculine identity, stopped growing. I was very badly bullied at school, every single day, especially from 12 to 18 years old. As a result, I left school with a huge inferiority complex that crippled me in so many ways, such as no self-respect, inability to make friends, have loving relationships, it was the deep-seated cause of trouble at work and family troubles.

For the next 25 long years I was locked into the prison of inferiority but could not escape, didn't matter what I tried - the hurt, the pain and the damage was so deep rooted and had continued for so long. I tried to find relief in counselling, hypnosis and even joined a Buddhist group but all failed. One of the things about inferiority is the enormous fear of speaking in front of people. For me, the terror started the morning before I had to speak, even in front of a small group. Cold sweating, shaking, inability to speak loudly and blushing happened every time without exception.

After the experience at the church, I knew that God had touched me and He had drawn attention to Jesus Christ and His ability to change my life. It really appeared that God wanted to help me. God was not leading me to religious rituals but that He wanted to have a personal, one to one relationship with me. This was a new thing for me.

There was also a deep awareness of His power to change me. In any respect, I had nothing to lose and so I decided to see what God could do. I read

in the Bible where it said that if you seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, God will give you all the things you need (Matthew 6:33).

I had lots of doubts but I remember praying something like, "Lord Jesus, if you exist, there are many, many things wrong with me, please bring me your healing".

I had started to go to the same church and I learned very soon that the Bible is God's true word and it is all truth. I therefore decided that I should do what those verses say, that is, (1) I should seek the Kingdom of God and that (2) I should seek His righteousness. I continued going to the evangelical Baptist church every Sunday, I joined their Bible study group and I spent some time with Jesus every night talking about scripture I read and how it related to my life now. I also spoke about the things in my life, present and past and what I would like to do in the future. For the second thing, (seek His righteousness), I tried to stop doing the drugs and sexual liaisons, things that I knew were wrong. I asked Jesus to

help me stop them as I knew I would not have enough power on my own to stop them.

Some short time later when I was in a class at university, I was asked to stand up and speak in front of 15 people about some topic. Well, I stood up, spoke, then sat down - I was stunned and amazed because there was almost NO FEAR. Something had happened deep inside of me because there was a strength and courage that I had never known before. A feeling of joy filled me, was it possible that the Lord Jesus has started his healing? I told all my friends at church and they showed me that it was proof of the existence and power of God. It was also because I had faith in God and that I had tried to obey His laws.

I think about it like this, imagine you are sitting inside a room and looking at the leaves of a tree outside the window blowing in the wind. Inside the room, you cannot see the wind or feel the wind, yet, by looking at the leaves, you have proof that wind exists. Similarly, I could not see Jesus or ordinarily feel anything but the fact that deep healings occurred within me that have no

possible natural explanation, is proof that Jesus exists as it was to Him alone that I was praying and worshipping. I am not 90%, I am not 95%, I am not even 99%, I am 100% sure that God exists and that all that fullness of God exists in Jesus Christ.

The fact is that my healing after 25 years of suffering started just a short time after I started to believe and obey. I knew that (1) Jesus exists and He started to heal me (2) the Bible is God's Word and is all true and (3) a head knowledge about God is NOT enough, we must walk with Him daily in a personal relationship.

I decided to respond to the call of Jesus that I give all of my life to Him. That is, instead of me making all the major decisions in my life, I let Him do it. As an analogy, it is like getting out of the driver's seat and letting God drive. You can suggest ways to go to the driver but it is the driver that ultimately decides. With Him driving, there will be no more 'dead ends' in life when I would have go back and start again after a failure. He would be there to guide me though all of the

hard times in life. At that time, I asked Jesus to be my Lord and saviour, to forgive all my sins. I then had the feeling of being intensely loved by God, I knew I was safe, I knew I was connected to God by an everlasting bond that would last through all the ages. This is what being born again meant. New life in Christ for all eternity. Interestingly, before I was born again, I was spiritually dead but I didn't know it! After I was born again though, I sure knew that I had been spiritually dead before.

One day, a few years later when I was walking along a beach, I repeated my vow to Jesus in saying "There is no reason why I cannot give you my whole life". Immediately, I heard a voice reply but not with my ears, indeed, there was no one nearby. I heard it inside my head, it was a man's voice, of no particular regional accent and it said, "No my son, none". I knew it was the voice of Jesus and He called me His son because when I was born again, I became a child of God (Bible, John 1: 12-13).

Time after time, I have felt the love of God

around me, a perfect peace, and a great protection against evil. As time passed, Jesus continued his healing. For example, the desire to use drugs reappeared (the bad things of our old life does not disappear instantly). I stepped outside of the house to go and buy some and at that time, I felt God saying, "You don't have to do that". In reply I said, "Help me then". Instantly, I felt a moral strength arise that was STRONGER than the desire to sin and I simply walked back inside the house. The same thing happened again and again I asked God to help me. He did and again, I walked back inside. I never used drugs again.

The next major point is, because Jesus revealed himself to me in things that I could see, things that proved the truth of His promises in the Bible, I could believe Him in His promises about the things that I *could not see*, such as what happens after death. I could say this because when you think about the absolute enormity of who God is, it is absolutely out of the question that He would tell the truth in some things and lie in others. I am totally prepared to believe His promise that

only through believing in Jesus and asking Jesus to be your Lord, can you go to heaven and live with God forever, as the Bible says that “there is no other way to God except through His Son, Jesus Christ”. Also, for those who have refused to accept His offer of life in heaven forever, there is damnation in hell forever because God is also judgement. Make no mistake, Jesus often referred to hell, it is a real place of unending, unspeakable torment. The thing about hell is that once you go in you never come out and for me, that was a really sobering thought.

### **A word on other religions**

There are many religions in the world and I think many people are put off by each one claiming to be the truth. I will illustrate my point using Buddhism which I spent about a year being involved in. It was started by Gautama in the sixth century B.C. Judging by his teachings, I could imagine he was a very good philosopher with profound insight on human life. BUT, he was only a man - born of a man and woman as we all. Therefore, I can say his teaching on life after death is no more certain to be the truth than

any other person's. Be they ever so learned, they are still only conjecture. Let's compare this with Jesus Christ. He equated Himself with God. In John 8:58, He says, "before Abraham was, I am". He is declaring that before Abraham (who lived many centuries before Jesus), He existed and by inference, with no beginning. The only One who has had no beginning and has always been is God. The “I am” is also a reference to God's words to Moses at the famous burning bush scene (Exodus 3:14). When being asked by Moses who His name was, He said, “I am who I am”. Jesus proved His divinity by instantly healing ALL people who came to Him, raised the dead to life and did many other miracles. Jesus is still in the business of healing people in 2011 as He did with me.

Now this Jesus, unlike Gautama, *is* in a position to speak with truth and accuracy on life after death as He is God. He said very clearly, “No one goes to God the Father (i.e. go to heaven) except through me”. Essentially, in no other religion, do we see God coming down to earth and speaking to us about eternal matters and with

the real and visible authority to speak truth on these matters. In a nutshell, I could say, do you prefer man's wisdom (Buddhism) or God's wisdom (the Bible)?

### **I'd like to say something very important now:**

**You now have a vital decision to make:** God did not create us as puppets where He pulls the strings and we then move, He gives all people free will. So, you are free to keep on going the way you have been, living your life away from God, **OR**, you can take on board what I have said and come in search of God and if you do that, God has promised that if you look for Him, He will reveal Himself to you and His blessings will be yours. Sounds good? Keep on reading!

### **What to do? 3 Things:**

**Know** that you have sinned and you need to ask God for His forgiveness and repent of your sins, that is, to turn away from them. On your own, turning away from sin is impossible, but when you become born again, God actually comes to live inside you and this alone makes it possible. Some people think that being ‘a good person’ is

enough. It is not. If it was, God would not have had to send His only Son to earth to save you and me by paying for our sins Himself on the cross, a prophet or an angel could have done the job.

Even though God had to watch His Son die, it was the only way that His sense of judgement with respect to our sins could be appeased. That is how much God loves us and how seriously He takes sins! Think about it, could you really say that you have never told a lie, gossiped about someone, cheated on your tax and so on? The truth is that *everyone* has sinned and unless we accept Jesus' offer of purifying us from all our sins, we cannot go to heaven. This was His main purpose (our salvation) that Jesus came into this world. It seems to me that some people think that God is a killjoy - the Bible says that you can't do this and you can't do that. What He is in fact saying is that, like any good father, He wants to protect you from the things that He knows will harm you. God created people and knows that, for example, if you get drunk you will harm yourself so drunkenness is a sin, and if you have sex outside of marriage, it will eventually cause jealousy, fears and instability, and so, it too, is a

sin. Judging by the huge amount of brokenness that you see in relationships in Britain today, I'd say He is right.

**Believe** that God loves you very much and that He wants to have a personal relationship with you. Whatever your spiritual background, Protestant, Roman Catholic, another faith or none at all, you need to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Spend time** with Jesus by talking to Him and reading the Bible. As in any relationship, the more time you spend with Him, the richer and more meaningful your relationship with God will become. He welcomes you to come as you are.

#### **How do you start?**

Well, as in any relationship, you start with telling a bit about yourself, so talk (pray) to Jesus about the things going on in your life, your fears, troubles, plans and hopes – then, in return, God wants you to get to know a bit about Him and you do that by reading His Word, the Bible. When reading the Bible, I, and many other

Christians have had the experience of some words or a line standing out against the text, or being lifted up and emphasised. These words were very relevant to some situation in my life and after thinking about them, I knew that God was teaching me or guiding me in that area. They really encouraged me to read the Bible and confirmed in my mind that the Bible really is God's Word for us (if God Himself uses it, it has to be true!). This is exactly the spirituality that God wants us to have and is normal for believers. It is the loving Father wanting to talk to and guide His child just as a human loving father would want to talk to and guide his child and **it is not hard, difficult or complicated.**

**Read** the Bible as this is the pathway for you to get to know the Lord and for Him to speak to you. Get a modern translation such as the ESV or New King James (with a commentary to help you understand) so you can get to know God's character and His promises. Start with the New Testament book of John as it contains many essential truths. It is not a race, read slowly and **THINK ABOUT WHAT GOD IS SAYING AND**

## HOW IT APPLIES TO YOUR LIFE.

Finally, at the end of the day, it comes back to the timeless truth that God never changes. He has ALL power and ALL authority and is at the very centre of the universe. He will judge all people impartially according to His laws, whether they acknowledge them now or not.

A word about going to church, just as you go to sports training if you hope to physically improve, you will need to go to a church so that you can spiritually improve, grow stronger, be corrected if you go off on the wrong track and be encouraged by others in the faith. You never tire of hearing how God has turned around totally broken lives and gives them a good life of meaning and purpose.

### ***I totally recommend doing an Alpha Course***

This is one of God's powerful success stories. The once a week for 10 week course lets you ask ANY questions.

### **How about giving God a year of your life and**

**get to know Him personally, one to one.** You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. If you are hurting, He will bring His healing to you as He did to me.

I regularly attend the Inverness Christian Fellowship Church on Sunday mornings and produce this pamphlet under their authority. I also have a small coffee roasting/cafe business at 110 Church Street, Inverness (town centre). Be good to meet you.

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