

My Testimony

by Leslie Knipe



I love listening to and reading testimonies of how God intervened in people's lives to deliver them from sin and bring them to faith in Christ.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share my testimony with you and how I came to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour.

Genesis 1:1 begins with the words: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". This poses an interesting question. One would think this was the first thing He did, but was it? In Ephesians 1:4 we read: "God chose us in Christ **BEFORE** the foundation of the world".

One of the joys I have is walking and driving through the mountains. In 2009 I spent a holiday in British Columbia. As I drove through the Rockies and saw God's handiwork, I was reminded that God's priority was not to create those majestic mountains, but it was to choose me for Himself. Isn't that thrilling!

Revelation chapter 13 informs us that Jesus was the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". He was slain for you and me, not because we deserved it, but because of His love for us. What a joy and comfort that brings.

I was brought up on the family farm in Co Armagh, Northern Ireland, the second of four children. Both my parents were christians. When my father was a young man an evangelist came to his area to conduct a gospel mission. While refusing to accept an invitation to the meetings, he did make his way round to the back of the hall and heard the gospel being preached. As a result, he accepted Christ as his Saviour.

As a child my parents taught me by example and by precept what it meant to be a christian. I, as an individual, needed to put my personal faith in Christ and His finished work, not one given me from my parents or the church.

I was 9 years old when I asked Jesus Christ to take away my sin and make me His child. There were a number of things which God used to bring me to Himself that night. First of all, I was afraid that God would stop speaking to me and this was perhaps my last opportunity to be saved. The Holy Spirit says: "today if you will hear His voice harden not your hearts" (Heb. 3:7-8). I had been taught that Jesus Christ would return again and all who are saved would be caught up to meet Him in the air (1 Thess. 4:16-17). I knew I wasn't ready, and if He came, I would be left behind for judgement. I will always remember the peace that came to me, for I knew that God had heard my prayer and had forgiven me my sin.

As I moved into my teens I became rather careless in my christian life. Then I began to doubt if I was really saved. These doubts were dispelled one Sunday in bible class as the leader quoted John 1:12: "To all who received Him (Jesus), to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God". That settled it for me!

I have never regretted making that decision as a nine year boy. Down through the years He has helped and guided me in so many different ways. Christians are not immune from trials and sorrow, but I have a Saviour who has been with me in every situation. He gives me "grace to help in time of need". This was particularly true in 2008 when my wife June passed away. I was so aware of His comfort and support. I felt I was standing on the solid rock of His strength and security. It's good to know there is One in God's presence who cares for us.

One verse which brings great comfort to me is Hebrews 9:24. "For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands . . . He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God **ON OUR BEHALF**."

The night I received Christ He became my Saviour, God became my Father, and The Holy Spirit became my indweller. Because I earned it? No. Because I deserved it? No. "He saved us, not because of the righteous things we have done, but because of **HIS** mercy." (Titus 3:5)

He's a wonderful Saviour, He's the only Saviour

I trust and pray that if you don't know Him as your Saviour you soon will. He himself said:

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me."
John 14:6*