

Real Life Stories
Grandpa's Conversion to God - by James Dyck

My name is James Dyck and this is my story of how God's salvation came in to our family. It is the story of my grandfather.

Grandfather Dyck was a hard working farmer who smoked like a chimney, and liked the feel of the bottle in his hand. He was religiously active at church, believed that God only hears and speaks in German, and had a family of eight children, six rambunctious boys and two little girls that were too young to tell what they are going to be like. He had a Christian neighbour that prayed for God to show grandpa that he could go to heaven, for grandfather was scared to die and meet God. That was my grandpa before he came to understand what he knows now about God.

The neighbour really annoyed grandpa because he prayed for him all the time, but not only that, grandpa thought that he lived a "holier" life than his Christian neighbour because he didn't have a TV or radio like his Christian neighbour. It was a religious thing that the church taught. The church taught that the individual had to live a good life, stay away from the world, don't do anything bad, and God will put your good stuff and your bad stuff on a balance, and if the good outweighs the bad, then God will let you into heaven.

One summer grandpa was making hay bales along with his praying neighbour. For some reason the Christian got angry and grandpa thought to himself, "Told you I was better". However, a short while later grandpa couldn't find him and he went looking for him. He found his praying neighbour behind the stack of bales on his knees crying out to God for forgiveness. This time Pa thought, "This man knows God". It was that day that had grandpa thinking about God and his sins.

Not long afterward the praying neighbour died and grandpa went to the funeral. For the first time in his life he heard a preacher talk about God loving so much that he sent His only Son to die to pay for grandpa's sin. Grandpa came out of the church and had a cigarette while standing with a group of his drinking buddies. One of whom grandpa thought was the worst, spoke up and said: "If you want the truth the preacher preached it today". Grandpa slipped away from the group and went home without being able to stop thinking about what he had heard.

At the funeral service the preacher said that there would be some special nightly services to which all were welcome. After talking it over with grandma, they both decided to go and hear the preacher. A few nights later the preacher opened his Bible to [John 19:30](#) which says: "IT IS FINISHED". He went on to explain that Jesus paid for the sin of all who believe when he died on the cross. Neither grandpa nor Ma talked to each other, but they were thinking that they would go home and check and see what the German bible said.

Grandpa climbed upstairs, sat down on the old bench at the kitchen table with the wood stove off to one side, opened up the big old German bible, and read the same thing in German. He understood for the first time in his life that Christ paid for all sin and that all who believe can go to heaven!

Ma went down to the basement, read the same thing in German, and came to the same understanding that Grandpa did upstairs. Grandpa was heading down to tell Grandma what he had understood and she was heading up to tell Grandpa. They found each other on the stairs with a smile on their faces and told each other that God had forgiven their sins, because the Bible says so, German or English.

Grandpa quit drink'n, quit smoking, bought shoes for his kids, always had enough food for his eight kids and wife, and to this day, it is real hard to find him without a smile on his old face with big long white eyebrows, and white hair slicked back over his head.