

This Is My Story

By Kris Poling

I grew up in a Christian home and went to church and had gone to church all my life. Growing up, I had heard all the Bible stories and believed in God. I know that everyone is a sinner and I accepted that fact. When I was 13 I even made a profession of faith.

As the years went by I struggled with low self-worth, fear, anger and doubt. I thought I was saved and didn't understand why I was having so many problems. I began to doubt my salvation but I couldn't figure out what was missing. I would think about it for a time and then I would get tired of dealing with it and would try to ignore it. For a while I could ignore it but then things would come up and all the feelings would come over me again.

I tried to keep myself busy with activities. When you deep busy it's easy to put spiritual things to the back of your mind. After all, I was going to church and doing all the right things so I must be saved. But keeping busy will only mask the problem for so long.

My husband got orders for North Dakota and I was really excited to be moving. Looking back I can see that the Lord used this move to change my life.

We found a church to attend and got involved with doing things that "good" Christians do. As I heard the messages being preach week after week, the Lord started working on my heart. I began doubting my salvation again. I remembered praying and making a profession, wasn't that enough? I had heard the gospel story all my life, but something was missing and I wasn't sure what it was. I started praying and asking the Lord to show me what was missing. As I prayed and read my Bible the Lord began showing me things.

I realized that when I made my profession, I had never truly repented of my sins. I knew Jesus could save me, so faith wasn't the issue. I had never really wanted the Lord to have complete control of my life. I didn't mind going to church and giving of my time but the thought of giving the Lord everything was terrifying. I also realized that salvation is no a fire escape from hell. Sin was the root of the problem; hell was a consequence. (Rom. 3:23.) Even then I waited because I was embarrassed to let people know I wasn't truly saved. I didn't even tell my husband. It was a very miserable time.

One day, I came to the end of myself. I had asked the Lord to show me what was missing and He had shown me. Now I had a choice to make. I came to the point where I saw myself as the sinner I was and I didn't like what I saw. At that point, I was ready to turn from my sin. I realized that I had been a hypocrite for many years. I looked good on the outside and did all the right things but my heart was black with sin (Matt. 23:28) No wonder I had so many struggles and couldn't get the victory.

I asked the Lord to forgive me of my sins and I turned my back on them. I gave Him my will and my way. I didn't want to be in charge of my life anymore and I allowed the Lord to have control.

Since I have been saved, the Lord has made great changes in my life, Yes, I still go to church and continue to serve, but I have a brand new attitude. The Lord helps me conquer my fear and doubt. I want the Lord's will for my life and I have a joy that I never had before. Yes, I still have problems, but I now have a personal relationship with the One who has all the answers.