

## My Testimony

I was brought up in a loving Christian home and went regularly to church and attended its many groups and activities. I would listen to the sermons and would occasionally use Bible reading notes at home. I'd be very enthusiastic when starting a new book of notes, just like I would a new diary or school exercise book – it would start off neat and I'd feel very good about answering the questions. However, whether it be a sermon or Bible readings, none of it meant anything to me personally.

Once my friends moved away to university it was clear that my main reason for attending church was to socialise and not to develop a relationship with God.

By the age of twenty I had stopped going to church at all. For the next ten years I spent my life with me at the centre, doing what I liked. Another reason for not attending church was that if I didn't go I wouldn't hear that the things I was doing were wrong. I ran away from God.

I've learnt that Satan is good at what he does, sin can be fun. But God is better at what He does and far more powerful. I began to think about God more often, my conscience was being challenged. I now know this was the Holy Spirit working in me.

When my sister invited me to Christianity Explored I knew I couldn't, and didn't want to, ignore God any more and I accepted the invitation.

When I read or heard the Bible it was no longer just a history lesson but God speaking to me. It was at this time I repented and asked Jesus into my heart as my Lord and Saviour. It was, and will continue, to be very humbling that Jesus, as perfect as He was and is went through so much suffering for a sinner like me.

Since becoming a Christian Jesus is now the centre of my life. This is not easy as Satan puts temptation and distraction in my way. But I've learnt to trust in Jesus and not rely on my own strength but that of God. I thank the Lord for not giving up on me and pray that with his help I will grow as a Christian and get ever closer to Him, until the day comes that I meet my Saviour.

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