

## Tricia's Testimony

I'm married to Dougie and I am a piano teacher.

My parents are both Christians, and they brought me up going to church. I went to Sunday School every week, and every year we went to a big Christian camp, which I loved. Although I knew there was a God and was taken to church and was included in family prayers, none of these things made me a Christian.

One year at a Christian camp, when I was still very young, I realised that I needed God to forgive me for all the wrong things I had done and for living my life my way and not under his rule. That day I asked Jesus to forgive my sins, save me and help me to live my life the way God wants us to live. I became a Christian.

Being a Christian isn't what a lot of people think it is – following rules and being a good person. It's about knowing the only good person who ever lived, the Lord Jesus.

When I decided to follow Him, He became the centre of my life. Everything is about Him. He has paid the ultimate price for my sin, so now I belong to Him. Jesus has restored my relationship with God, and I owe Him everything.

Practically, it's about trusting that He knows what's best for me, and letting Him be in charge of my life. That means coming to Him daily in prayer, depending on Him to meet my every need, and acknowledging that every good gift I have comes from Him. Sometimes, even though I pray, I don't get what I want, but I am learning to accept that His plans for me are good and right.

Following Jesus means involving Him in all my decisions, big and small, asking Him to show me which way to go, and asking Him for the strength I need when it's difficult. It's about getting to know who He is, His character, what He's like, by reading the Bible, and allowing Him to transform me to be more like Him by the Holy Spirit.

It's about having real hope, knowing that my future in Him is certain, that whatever happens to me in this life, there is the promise of the next. In my struggles it is such a comfort to be reminded of what God's kingdom will be like in the new creation.

Being a Christian is about living my life with Jesus at the centre, knowing that He watches my every step, knows every word I speak, every thought I think, and trying to do all of these things in a way that will please Him. It's not always easy, I do make mistakes, I'm not perfect, but He is willing and able to forgive me and set me back on the right road again.

Knowing Jesus means living to worship Him and bring Him glory, telling others the good news about Him, and being used by Him to grow His kingdom. It's also about knowing His love for me, experiencing His comfort, friendship and help, at my loneliest and lowest times, as well as in good times. He is always there, he promises never to leave us nor forsake us.

Baptism is something I've been thinking about for a while. After speaking a few times to one of the pastors here about it, and looking at the Bible passages on baptism and praying about it, I felt that God was prompting me to get baptised.

Jesus commands that His followers, having turned away from their sins, should be baptised. As one of His followers, I want to be obedient to that command and show that I'm living my life, faithfully following Him.