

Testimony of Liz Dyson

As a child my brothers and I grew up in an abusive home. I never knew what true love was and what it was like to feel safe in my own home, I had no one to speak to. My Mum tried her best in this situation, she could only do so much to try and keep me and my brothers safe and I had to hold it together for my mum and my brothers.

I remember as a child running away to sit at the doors of the church I went to with my family. This was day after day, I would talk to God and cry to Him, after I had done so I felt comfort and peace within me to carry on with my day. I was only about 7 years old at the time. I confessed to many people growing up that God is real but never had the true knowledge of Who He is and what He had done to save us from our sins. I always believed that I was a Christian and that I would automatically go straight to heaven, but I was so so wrong. I never knew God and I never had a relationship with Him and I didn't know I had to repent of my sins and ask for forgiveness. Over the years I used to run away from home to the church and I used to feel safe and at home there. Now I know why I felt so safe and not alone.

My family stopped going to the Church of England and we had to move miles away, and that's when I felt lost and had no safe place to go, as I didn't know God is everywhere and that you don't need to be at a church to find Him, you can be anywhere and He is with you where you go. But due to not knowing this I ended up feeling completely lost within myself and lonely.

I went through life being bullied, abused, not fitting in and not being good enough.

When I started secondary school things got worse, and people laughed at me because I got excited to do Religious Studies as I thought we were going to learn about Jesus, but when it came to lessons, they said we were going to learn about Hinduism and other religions. My conscience did not let me sit through any of Religious Studies, and my conscience was so strong in telling me this is wrong.

As time went on, I was trying to fit in, I followed the crowd just to fit in, and they took advantage of me. They were never my friends. Also, I was rebelling against the teachers and my parents. I was bunking school, lying, smoking on school property, not a care in the world about God, blackmailing the teachers. I had been lost in the crowd on the path of destruction. But in all this God was always there waiting, doing His work behind the scenes.

I always came across neighbours that happened to be Christians, also I always remember the difference in atmosphere walking into their house compared to my home life atmosphere.

By seeing scripture on their walls and the way they were, just reminded me of Church and reminded me of God, the vicar preaching and standing there, being with my mum – we both love singing to the hymns (one of the happy moments me and my mum shared outside of the abuse). Then I got distracted again with the world and my wants and lusts. In 2017 I lost several of my family members throughout the year, everyone I was ever close to throughout life had died or left me. I was so broken I wanted to go back to church but didn't know whereas my conscience was telling there are many dodgy churches out there. Because of this I drifted away again. I ended up by God's Grace moving to Southampton in 2016 where my pilgrim journey begins. Saved through Grace and not of ourselves. God had His hand on me, gently leading me to His Rock of Salvation, my resting place and my home with Him.

In 2017 my uncle died suddenly and unexpectedly. At his funeral my auntie said that he was going to meet up with the priest to ask and find out why family and life is the way it is, and where do you go, and that had me asking the same question and wanting to seek for the answers but not knowing where to go, and then yet again distracted by the world. I went from relationship to relationship, alcohol and smoked a little drugs here and there, which made me very ill and I also attempted suicide and was caught up in the LGBTQ, being convinced that I was bisexual as I was never finding the peace and happiness I was looking for. I even tried to read my Bible, but never could understand it and my friends would laugh at me and scorn me for trying to read it.

During this time in 2016 dear Frances Fountain, a very loving caring godly lady, came along every day on her walks to and from church, and stopped and spoke to me, asking me if I believed in God and if I would consider going to church. She asked every time I saw her, I promised her that I would, but yet again was too busy for God and distracted for him, even though at the back of my mind I wanted to go back to church as I did as a child, but that wasn't a strong enough desire and I yet again got distracted and cleaved to the world.

Then in 2021 the Lord brought me to my knees I was finally completely broken, not able to eat for 30 or more days or even drink, I was so distraught. My partner had left me with nothing, I just wanted to die and I cried out to the Lord, "Please HELP ME I can't bear this way of life anymore. I desire a new way." That is when He heard me and He called me to Spring Road Evangelical. I messaged Mark Stocker and attended that Sunday, and this is when I realised with Teresa and Lizzie's guidance, I am not as I thought I was and as good as I thought I was. I was just trying to be a thief trying to get into the kingdom of Heaven, and also I was told I was Bisexual by the LGBTQ Friends of Mine. But despite all this God still loved me and had a purpose for me even though I was still in the sin of my choices and ways and rejecting Him. As I was reading through [*1 Corinthians 6v9*](#)

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts, Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God?"

This hit me hard and I really had to think about eternity and relationship with God, or eternity in Hell. Weighing up the cost,

1. Looking back, God had always been with me: He never left me nor forsook me, brought me peace and comfort in my trial times.
2. Carry on as I was in misery and torment no peace.

I thought to myself, I cried and begged for a change in desires and the way I was living. So, I prayed and prayed, and counting the cost I clung to Jesus and laid my life in His hands. By doing so I have felt so much peace and I came to realise and have peace and assurance from God for the promise of *1 Corinthians 6v11*

“and such were some of you. But you were washed “

Amen. I am not perfect, only God is, I cried and repented every night for disobeying Him, rejecting Him, and my filthy disgusting Sins.

I cried and begged Him for a sign that I was saved, I just wanted this heavy burden gone from me and one morning I woke up with a shout of joy” I AM A TRUE CHRISTIAN”, my burden was lifted and I felt peace like I have never known before.

I realised also that I don't need to have all the knowledge of God to walk with Him, I just needed to know His likes and dislikes to walk with Him, as if getting to know another human being. The more I read the Bible, the more I prayed for God to open my ears to hear His word and open my eyes, so I may not be blind. And sure enough with time the veil was slowly opening a crack at a time to His Glory, and my desires for the things of this world were slowly disappearing. He was slowly giving me a heart of flesh and new desires. I lost friends and family stopped talking to me, but that didn't matter anymore to me as God gave me peace that surpasses all understanding, and also He stuck with me as a brother and He never left me nor forsakes me though it all.

The confirmation I had from God that spoke to me the most is:

Psalm 103:4

"who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with Loving-kindness and tender Mercies"

Isaiah 43:1

"Fear not, for I am with you, I have called you by your name, you are mine"

Pslam34:4-7

"I sought the Lord, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant and their faces not ashamed. This poor man cried out and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him and delivers them"