

What God Has Done In My Life

Testimony of Mike Selvidge

Hi, I'm Mike Selvidge. I live in the Gibbs-Corryton area. My wife Christi and I have been married for 24 yrs. We have two children Adam 21 & Amanda 18. We go to CBC. I grew up in the Inskip area and went to Central High School. I've worked for UPS for 34 yrs. And worked for RTR for 3.5 yrs.

My testimony is definitely one of a prodigal son. I heard an evangelist who was at our church ask our Pastor's wife about her testimony. What kind of testimony did she have? She said it was kind of plain. Grew up in church, always followed the Lord etc. nothing special. He said no that's the best kind of testimony. I wish I had that kind of testimony. But mine has a gap of 15 yrs. where I didn't follow the Lord. Today I want to bring glory to God by telling you how He has changed me in the last 19 yrs that I have been following Him. My mom always took all us kids to church and my dad made sure we went even though he did not. I was saved at the age of 11 with the help of a RA teacher. After getting over the fear of going down in front of the church at the invitation I was really glad I had given my life to Christ. After making Jesus Lord of my life I was real excited about attending a new members class that the pastor lead. I thought I would learn more of what it meant to be a Christian and how to live a Christian life. The class turned out to be a big let down. We were giving a workbook we did on our own, and then went over the answers with the pastor without any personal discussion at all. Not a good start to my Christian life.

I kept going to church, really trying to be a good Christian but not growing or learning much at all. Even as a young teenager I could tell our church was just going through the motions. Anybody that was really on fire for the Lord usually left for another church. I knew exactly the form the pastor's sermon would take each Sunday. When he would read his first scripture, when he would tell his joke, when he would tell his true life story concerning the sermon, when he would read his second scripture, week in and week out.

When I turned sixteen I bought my first car, had a job, and was starting to make some of my own decisions, most of them the wrong ones. By the time I was around 17 I was out of church completely and going down hill fast morally. I was now god of my life. I didn't need anyone to tell me what to do especially a God I couldn't see and didn't know how to really have a relationship with. All I had basically learned at church so far was a bunch of do's and don'ts. But the one thing I had come away with was the Holy Spirit.

In 1984 @ the age of 26 I got married to my wife Christi. We were living in West Knoxville. I was still living a godless life, but every now and then the Holy Spirit would touch me, convict me of how I was living. Nothing bad would be going on, nothing unusual, just the Holy Spirit getting my attention. God was working! Subdivision life in west Knoxville was not what my wife and I wanted. She had always had horses so we started looking for some acreage in Powell or Karns. This is when God really started working. Our search for property kept moving north and east and in 1985 we bought 10 acres of land on Tazewell Pike. In Union County to build on in the future. We had our

first child Adam in 1987. We started planning to build on our new property in 1988. As we planned our move my wife suggested we find a church to attend when we moved. I said ok without really making any commitment. We moved to our new home in Oct. Of 1988. That's quite a move from west Knoxville to Union County. God was at work. Church didn't really come up much until a year later. My wife was now pregnant with our second child. In the fall of 1989 she started going to CBC without me. I was still wrestling with who would be god of my life. All I could think of was, if I get back in church how boring life would be and all the things I would have to give up. It had been 15 yrs. since I had been in church. I wanted my children to be exposed to church even though I didn't think there was anything for me there. But I decided to join my wife at Corryton Church a few weeks later. As that Sunday grew near I started thinking about my old church. It had some large wooden beams that ran across the ceiling. I was hoping CBC didn't have any beams like that. I was afraid if they did God would launch one of those beams right at me when I walked in the door. Now, it seems really silly for a grown man to be scared to go to church. But at the time it was very real. I didn't understand God was waiting for me with open loving arms just like the prodigal son passage in **Luke 15:11-31**. The first thing I did when I walk into the sanctuary was to look up at the ceiling to see if I needed to start ducking from a falling beam. I didn't know it at the time but I had found a safe place to find God all over again. God was working. He knew the kind of church I needed to be in. If I had landed in a church like I grew up in I would probably not be in church now, or just going so my kids would go. The people made me feel at home even though I had a very guilty conscience of how I had been living. The messages were relevant to my everyday life. I was taught how to have a relationship with God not just a history lesson with a bunch of do's and don'ts.

So what has the Lord done in my life? He has completely changed my thinking and me and is still changing me today. We became faithful attendees from day one. The Holy Spirit became alive in me again. Life has been anything but boring as I thought before. The Christian life is the most exciting life I could live. I personally know the King of the Universe. The creator of all. In fact I'm a child of His. WOW! Nothing could be more exciting! Well, I soon asked a man named Elden Nicely to mentor me and help me understand the Word of God. Elden was a very godly person and had great knowledge of the Bible. WE had Bible study every Tuesday night in his small office/pantry for years and years. We went through all kinds of books and material where I could ask questions and have the word of God explained to me. He mentored a godly everyday walk for me. Now God uses me to help mentor others by leading a Community Group at church. Also I can take the practical messages I hear from our pastor every Sunday and share the wisdom from them with those I come in contact with who are struggling in life.

Some who are Christians and some who are not. God has changed the way I think about everything in life. As our pastor so eloquently put it the other Sunday God has changed my want to doer. I want to do things that please Him not just to please myself with worldly things. To put it simply my life is now about Him and not me. It's what I can do for Him and others. God has become my joy, my peace, my hope and my security.

God has so blessed my life. I've been following Him whole heartily for 19 yrs now. Sometimes life can be hard even for a child of God. He never promised it wouldn't be. So to end up I want to give you a couple of personal examples of what God is doing in my life right now. One I still have a sin nature that I fight everyday. I've become pretty good

at controlling my outward sin but God is working on me on sins of the heart. Those bad thoughts and attitudes I have in my heart. Those selfish attitudes that want to make it about me. This bring me to **Romans 7:15-25**. So as I think about defeating sin in my life it's all about Him and what he's done. Second, many times as I would think about how blessed I am and how good God is to me and my family something would tell me I would have a big problem or crisis to face at some time in my life. I don't know if God was preparing me or if it was just my thinking. Well, about 3 yrs. ago the big one came. It's very painful and too personal to go into detail. It's something that I can't change, control, or fix. All I can do is try to influence where I can, pray daily, and leave it into God's hands. One Sunday morning I woke with this problem on my mind. As I was getting ready for church I really just got depressed about it. I just wanted to sit down and have a pity party for myself. I thought, I can't go to church like this; I've got to get in a different frame of mind. I thought I'd read **Rev. 5** one of my favorite chapters. But God told me to read where I had left off the day before which was **Isaiah 6**. So I went to Church worshipping and praising Him because it's all about Him and what He has done. So what has God done in my life? He is my joy, my peace, my hope, and my security. I now depend on Him not myself. I now live to please Him not the world. And if He can change me He can change anybody and any circumstance. **Thank you!**

Isaiah 6:1-7

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a throne high and lifted up and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim each one had 6 wings, with 2 he covered his face with 2 he covered his feet and with 2 he flew. And one cried to another and said, Holy "holy, holy" is the Lord of host. The whole earth is full of his glory! And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: Woe is me for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, for my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of Host. Then one of the seraphim flew to me having in his hand a live coal, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it and said, Behold this has touched your lips, your iniquity is taken away and your sin is purged.