



## My Life Testimony

I came to Christ at the age of 9. I sensed that a purpose was lacking in my life and I saw in others who were Christians that they had a high and noble sense of purpose in life. One of these Christians was a family member. The Bible says in Romans 3:23 *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”* That is the point...that we don’t measure up to what God has planned for our lives. But I like and feel relieved by the fact that God loved us while we were yet sinners which gives me encouragement and hope. Romans 5:8 says *“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Many people have told me that they think they are all right & going to heaven because they are good people. But if being a good person was all that was needed why did Jesus die? Galatians 2:21 says *“I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”* I think it is at this point that what the Bible is trying to say to us is missed ...that in and of ourselves we are sinners. We want to see ourselves from our own eyes but...God doesn’t see us through our eyes but through HIS eyes. I believe that according to the Bible that we are slaves to ourselves and always serve ourselves until we give our heart to Christ and even then we are not perfect but grow in Christ’s likeness.

The Bible leads us on to look beyond ourselves after that we see that we are sinners and to trust what Jesus did for us on the cross in that He died as a sacrifice for our sins. John 3:16 in the Bible says *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”* For a long time I tried to do the opposite of what John 3:16 says to do...to trust Jesus’ sacrifice for me alone. I tried to merit God’s forgiveness by conjuring up good feelings and doing certain things—everything but trust Christ and His work for me. I began my Christian life right which is by faith but ended up trusting myself at a certain point which lead me to a greater sense of emptiness than I had ever felt before. Many people feel good about themselves because they do or don’t do certain things (Be it few or many things). This “feeling good about ourselves” is not the way of faith that the Bible & the Holy Spirit leads us to have but is actually a disagreement with God that we are sinners in and of ourselves.

The way to peace with God and more peace with ourselves than we have ever known is to do what I finally did and that is to stop looking at ourselves and start looking at Jesus & His suffering for us on the Cross. His suffering tells me that I am a sinner because sin killed Him. It also tells me that I am loved. And finally His suffering, death & resurrection tells me I have a new life with Him as my Lord where I am forgiven and through this understanding I stop telling myself that I am good.

When I was at rock bottom in my life by trusting myself, I looked up and found Jesus, my Savior and my life. Have you looked “up” to Jesus yet? You can look up to Jesus in prayer by saying to Him:

- 1) **That you are a sinner.** *(Romans 3:23 quoted above)*
- 2) **That you believe that He died for you on His Cross personally.** *(Romans 5:8 quoted above)*
- 3) **Ask Him to change your life as your Lord and Savior.** Romans 10:13 says...*For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

In the Bible in Galatians 2:20 it says (Paul speaking) *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

*My testimony, Craig Cochran*