

has been watered by the Word of God and putting down deep roots. God is using my past for His glory! Humbly, I say that even when I was faithless, He was faithful. He knew that I would fall and that He would be there to pick me up, brush me off, and use me to minister to others; hurting women and men.

The only thing I brought to God was my will. I chose to be obedient. I chose to repent. I chose to confess my sins to another, as His Word commanded! In humility, I chose to believe His promises and risk everything. I couldn't have gotten any lower! I had nothing to lose!

The only way, for me to go, was up and He offered the Way! I had tried everything the world and religion had to offer. Then through the Gospel of the LORD Jesus Christ that said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand", I tried true repentance. I humbled myself; surrendering all; with no reservations. He is my Lord and I live now to serve Him. Because of what He did for me; healing me; delivering me; saving me; I willingly bow my knee.

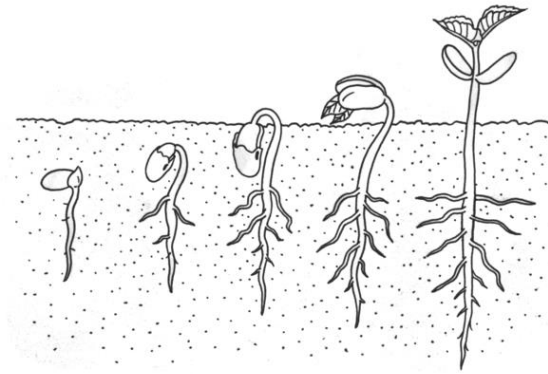
***"being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;" (Phillipians 1:6 NKJV)***

How can we say, "No, I won't!" to such a great salvation? **(Mark 10:21)** What have you got to lose?

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## The Gospel of No Repentance



### The Testimony of Connie B.

I had an encounter with the Lord, in a park in the early 70's, when a Jesus Freak came up to me and asked me if I knew Jesus. Though I had been in church all of my life, that very moment I knew, I didn't KNOW Jesus, I just knew "OF" Him. I said some words and from that moment on believed I was saved! I was invited to a Spirit Filled Church and for the first time, heard the congregation singing in tongues. Opening my eyes I expected to see ten foot angels all around me. I had never heard such a sweet sound.

I told my family about my conversion and they were convinced I was involved in a cult. So I took my grandmother to a service and her response to my family was, "even the early Methodist Church, (in which I had been raised) **had been** filled with The Spirit."

When I asked the pastor if I could join the church he told me I needed to get permission from my other pastor, as I was under submission. The other pastor, at the church

I'd been a member of all of my life, flat out said, "NO!"

I felt rejected by both! I backslid because I was hurt and angry.

**In the following years the only sin I didn't commit was bank robbery and murder.**

Nine years later, I came back to The LORD shortly after the birth of my daughter. By that time most of my family had come to know Jesus! My aunt brought me a garbage can full of baby clothes, from a woman who went to her church. That loving gesture, led me to visit a Spirit Filled Baptist Church! I started going to church, again, and two months later, was baptized. God delivered me from a 9-year drug addiction and from smoking! I attended a weekly Bible study for three years and even hosted a weekly prayer meeting in my home. That ended when I married a man I met in church.

During the next 3 years, my walk with The LORD was shaky at best. We moved to Tennessee and I never quite found a church that fit. My husband backslid and his controlling nature almost destroyed me. I started back smoking cigarettes and he brought pot back into my life. After 3 years of marriage I divorced him and moved to the hills of East Tennessee to hide. I remarried immediately looking for security and realized shortly thereafter, that I had gone from the frying pan into the fire. I'd traded a drug addict, for a drunk. After six months, I moved back to Middle TN, divorced, and with the help of my mother tried to regain my life. **Then the bottom truly fell out.** My mother and daughter were in a near fatal car

accident. As I drove to the hospital, I remember screaming the name of JESUS (over and over and over) at the top of my lungs. **JESUS - my only thought! JESUS - my only anchor!**

At that moment my life changed. My daughter was in the hospital, in traction for 30 days, coming home in a body cast for 6 weeks. My mother was in ICU for 72 days. The only bones not broken were her arms. From that point on, she was disabled and I became her primary caregiver until her death in 2007.

Right after the accident, I became friends with a very nice man from work who had moved here from Australia. After only knowing him a brief time, he told me he loved me and I told him not to love me. You see, I didn't like nice guys and I didn't want to hurt him. I even told him that I was one of those crazy, tongue-talking, born-again Christians (though backslidden and that someday I wouldn't be!) He wouldn't take no for an answer and made me fall in love with him by loving me. We have now been married for 26 years.

Because of the accident; every day when my husband would leave for work, I would have him call me when he arrived, because I needed to know he had gotten there. I lived in such fear that whenever, a loved one left to go to work, go home, go on a trip (it didn't matter). I had to have a phone call from them, letting me know that they had arrived safely! The sound of sirens would send me into a panic; wanting to know where all of my loved ones were; to know they were safe.

When my mother died in 2007, I decided to go back to church. I knew my mother was in

heaven and nothing was going to stop me from seeing her again. The problem was, I didn't know where to go, so I decided to go to the church where my grandchildren attended.

In my first encounter God, He delivered me; so I knew He was capable of doing miracles! It was easy for me to believe that nothing was too big for Him.

I had now been addicted to cigarettes for over 20 years. I had tried to quit several times on my own, even taking medication that was supposed to make me not want to smoke. It wasn't until I was "so sick" that I couldn't make it on my own, that God reached down and delivered me, yet again!

## MESSAGE OF REPENTANCE

When I had my encounter with the Lord in that park, I was not told to repent; just invite Jesus to come into my heart. All those years in the church, I was never told to forgive those who had hurt me. Because of all of the sins that were hidden in my heart, it was unbelievable the chains and weights and sickness I had allowed myself to carry. And all of those years I believed I was SAVED! I was so deceived; a prisoner in the Promise Land.

A friend pointed me in the right directions with the following message: **"Ask God to examine your heart, and you make a list of all of the people that have hurt you, then a list of all of the people you have hurt, and any other sins you need to repent of!"**

I didn't like what he said, because I had read the scriptures many times, and thought I had been obedient. I had confessed my sins to

God, and thought I was good! That was all my church had required. But then my eyes were opened and I realized I had not obeyed the scriptures. I had done everything except, obey. Confessing my sins to another was a whole other ball game.

***"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* (James 5:14-16)**

In reading that scripture again, I realized I had to lay down my pride, humble myself and confess. Oh, I did not want to do that. My flesh fought it, but I was at the point of being willing to risk everything to get my healing.

I met with two precious brothers in the Lord and confessed my sins and sought forgiveness from God; and He met me in a mighty way! The buried pain He uncovered! I have repented for fear and for believing lies! I now know that I am not in control! As God illuminated the hidden corners of my heart, I realized I didn't know how to love or be loved. I had believed the lies of the enemy; that I was unlovable. Rejection and self-loathing had strong roots in me.

I forgave all the people that had hurt me, in my past, and repented for judging them for not loving me the way I thought I should be loved. I also repented for believing the

enemy's lies instead of believing God! When I did, the Love of God was shed into my heart and was made real to me in ways I could not have imagined. In my 20's I had been baptized; gone under a dry sinner and come up a wet sinner! After being obedient to the Word of God (confessing my sins and repenting), and knowing I was truly saved by God's grace, I was baptized again, but this time into Newness of Life! I buried my sins and was raised up with Christ!

I had been on an antidepressant for 16 years. God started talking to me about what a stronghold the enemy had over me with that drug and I felt convicted to come off. I had tried to discontinue the drug once before, and had been told that it was dangerous to attempt such a thing without "stepping down", under a physician's assistance. Because of that failed attempt, I determined to do it "cold turkey", relying on God alone. It took a week of me lying in bed, crying out to God, and I was off, with no ill effects. During that time, I also detoxed from an addiction to sugar. I saw my doctor the next week and he discontinued a drug I had been on for high blood sugar and two months later I was taken off medication for high blood pressure. I had been in such bondage, all of those years.

I had also suffered from Reflux. When the prescribed medications didn't work we bought an adjustable bed and I slept sitting up for 10 years. I now lay flat!!!! Later, I learned more about the spirit of fear and the spirit of rejection, and other spirits that have us bound; their roots beginning often in our childhood, and have subsequently received deliverance from many other issues that had

plagued me all of my life. In one year's time, God delivered and healed me, from the many strongholds, in which the enemy had me; high blood pressure, high blood sugar, depression, anxiety, ADHD, seasonal allergies, allergies to metals, acid reflux and dry eyes. I no longer require any of the 17 medications I had been prescribed, to cope with those infirmities. Layer by layer, God is delivering me and taking down, brick by brick, the walls I had built up, over the years from the many hurts and disappointments. He has given me such peace; a peace I have never had before; one that surpasses all understanding.

All those years that I sat in church, so deceived, being told I was saved, hosting bible studies in my home, speaking in tongues; I had the outward appearance of a Christian, but I really never had victory in my heart; so filled with worry and fear and other lusts of the flesh. Looking back, I now see I was that person who would stand before the Judge of the whole earth and would be told, "I never knew you!"

***"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord', shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* (Matthew 7:21-23)**

I recently told a friend I have been every kind of dirt, but now I am good dirt. **(Luke 8:5-8)** I am fertile ground; with seed which