Nathan's Testimony

Hi my name is Nathan Bird and I would like to tell you a bit about myself, and how I came to trust Jesus as my Saviour.

I was born in country Victoria into a Christian family. I remember from an early age going to church every week with my family and being taught to do the right thing.

When I was about three years old, I remember my mum sitting me down and telling me the Gospel. I don't remember exactly what she said but I'm sure she would have told me how that we are all sinners and that we have all disobeyed God, and how that the punishment for our sins is eternal death. She also would have told me how that God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, into the world and how that He was crucified on a cross, was buried and rose from the dead. She would have told me that if I admitted that I was sinner, and believed that Jesus took the punishment for my sin on the cross, and asked Him to save me, I would be saved.

Although I don't remember exactly what my mum did say that day, I remember coming to the realisation that there is a God and that I was accountable to Him. This may have been the time that I first trusted Jesus as my Saviour, but I don't remember for sure as it was a long time ago.

When I was five years old, my parents separated, and my mum, sister, and I left home and moved up to Sydney. It was a big change for all of us, leaving our home in country Victoria and moving to a city in another state. My mum decided we would move to Sydney as she knew of a good church there and a good Christian school for my sister and me to attend.

I attended Condell Park Christian School from Kinder to Year 12. Although I learnt all the normal things one would learn at this school, I was also taught every day from God's Word the Bible. Many times I heard the Gospel story again: how that we are all sinners, how that we deserve to go to hell for our rebellion against God, and how that God provided a way that we might be saved through trusting in what Jesus did on the cross.

When people asked me when I was saved, I would tell them that I trusted in Jesus to save me that time when I was three. But deep down I was unsure whether I had asked Jesus into my heart or not, I couldn't remember. You see, I knew the Gospel very well. I knew I was a sinner and I knew God's plan to save me but I wasn't sure that I was saved and on my way to Heaven.

Over the next few years as a child, I remember many times confessing my sins to God, asking Him to forgive me, and asking Him to be my Saviour. Whenever an invitation was given at church or school to be saved, I would doubt whether I was saved, and just ask Jesus to save me again just in case.

One day, I finally came to the realisation that if I was trusting in Jesus and His work on the cross to save me from the penalty of my sins and take me to Heaven; that was all that mattered: I was saved.

The Bible says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but HAVE everlasting life." And 1 John 5:11-13 says, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life."

Although I cannot tell you the exact date or time I was saved, I know I am saved because I am trusting in Jesus alone for my salvation. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. And John 11:25, Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Another reason I know I am saved is because I have the Holy Spirit in my life convicting me of sin and leading me. For those that have trusted in Jesus to save them, Jesus has promised to send His Holy Spirit to live inside them and guide them. In John 14:16,17 Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Because I sense the Holy Spirit convicting me of my sin and leading me, I know He is living in me, and I know I am saved.

Over the years when I was a child, I went through times of being quite angry and bitter against both my mum and my dad for separating and splitting up our family. Finally one day when I was about 10 or 11 years old, I prayed to God and asked Him to forgive me for being bitter against my parents and I left the whole situation with Him. I remember the weight of the bitterness being lifted off me. God tells us in the Bible to give all our cares to Him, because He cares for us. I am so glad that God loves me and He has taken my bitterness towards my parents away.

At that time also, I was being convicted about being baptised. So when I was 11 years old, I was baptised. In being baptised, I was obeying God's command to be baptised, but also showing a picture of Jesus' death, His burial, and His resurrection.

I continued in school at Condell Park Christian School in Sydney until Year 12. I met my wife Joanna at school, and a couple of years after school finished we were engaged and then we were married in 2010.

At the start of this year, God led us to move up here to Newcastle to serve Him in whatever way He chooses.

Over my years as a Christian, I have not always followed God in every way. There is a constant battle going on with my old sin nature and my new life in Christ. When I do follow God, I always find that God's way is best. Although I often fail in doing what is right and being faithful to God, He is always faithful to me; and when I come to Him and ask for forgiveness, He always forgives me and gives me peace and joy in following Him. In John 1:9 we read, "If we confess our sins, he (Jesus) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

I thank God for saving me from Hell and from the power of sin, and giving me a home in Heaven when I die. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."