

FRANCESCA'S STORY

“WITH TEARS I ASKED
JESUS TO FORGIVE ME...”



Hi, my name is Francesca and I grew up with my sister, mother, and father who loved me and comfortably provided all my needs. I was brought up in the Catholic religion where I learned from a young age that there is a God, but even though I believed in God, I never really thought much about Him. I was not popular in my school years because I was always the larger girl and I didn't have many close friends. However, in year 10, I lost a lot of weight and started to become more popular. At this time I began making friends who had a different upbringing. They had different values and morals and they peer-pressured me into a lot of things. I always had a curious spirit and wanted to experience to the fullest what life had to offer. I developed a rebellious heart and bad attitude thinking that I knew everything and was in control of my life. I began smoking cigarettes and drinking under-age. By the age of 17, I tried my first drug and loved the feeling that it gave me.

Gradually my first drug turned into a weekly party, as I got into the nightclub scene. Up to this point, I was just having fun, but I found that I wanted more. I met my husband who was also into the same scene, so we started going out together. We frequently went out clubbing but got to a point where our fun weekly habit became a weekly dependency, and within 6 months, it became a daily dependency. We lost our jobs, used all of our savings and I even stooped to stealing - we had lost control. It was funny to think that when we first started, we felt like kings, but now we were really unfulfilled sinners who were lost and had nothing, living a lie.

We wanted to get out of this cycle of sin and dependency, but our bodies and minds were too weak. This was the lowest point in my life. My husband and I isolated ourselves from our friends and loved ones. One night, we received a call from my husband's friends who asked if they could come over and see us, and for some reason my husband agreed. When they met with us they began sharing how Jesus died on the cross and saved them from their sins. They shared that if they died at that moment, they knew 100% they would be in heaven with their Saviour Jesus Christ. When they confronted us with the question of our eternal destination, I knew that if I died then, I was not going to heaven. They also shared about Jesus' death on the cross and that they experienced no greater love before, and if we accepted Jesus as our personal Saviour, we would be saved from our sin and would be in heaven with Him for eternity. When we heard this, we thought they were nuts, but we knew there was truth to it. Even though we didn't fully understand, something made sense to us. We thought we'd try it, try going to church to fix our lives up.

One Friday night, I could not make it to church so my husband went by himself; I received an overjoyed call from him that night saying that he heard a message about salvation through Jesus Christ. He heard that we are all sinners and we all need a Saviour and that there was no other way to God except through Jesus. He told me he prayed and accepted Jesus as his Saviour. It clicked to me that Jesus died for me, that He loved me greatly and that there was hope. I then prayed on the phone to God and accepted what Jesus did for me on that cross. I just told God that I was sorry, but I meant it with my whole heart. ; I told Him that I wanted to turn from the wrong I was doing and asked him to change me. After I knew I was a child of God, I had the best night's sleep ever. That assurance I had that if I died I would be in heaven with my Saviour gave me so much peace. I experienced real love and fulfilment through Jesus Christ that night and I have never looked back.

I'm not going to lie, it was hard to break my habits and I did have withdrawals, but God really gave me strength through those times. I allowed him to carry me through those storms in my life and clung onto his Word to strengthen me. Verses like Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. God has truly blessed me abundantly; I

have a husband, children, my health. And even though life brings trials, I know Jesus is always with me and I have His promise of salvation.

Read the full version of Fran's story at www.eternal.org.au

✓ Have you ever considered what happens to the thousands of people that step into eternity?

Please take a moment to consider your Eternal Destiny!!!

1. LIFE IS BUT FOR A MOMENT

The Word of God compares our life to the mist or the fog that comes in the morning; it appears and then vanishes away.

James 4:14 "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Look around you. There are elderly, sicknesses, accidents, war and earthquakes. These no doubt prove to us that life is but for a moment. Have you been to a cemetery lately? Death is not a respecter of persons; all age groups appear on the tombstones.

Psalm 103:15-16 "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. vs.16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more."

Let's face it. You and I are not getting any younger, and none of us have the power to avoid harmful things happening to us. Time is running out for you and for me!

2. TOMORROW MAY NOT COME

Many people live their life without giving any thought to the after life. They live carelessly, as if they are never going to die. They give more thought to their physical fitness than to their spiritual health. Tomorrow may not come, but Eternity is coming for sure. Time is running out!

Proverbs 27:1 *Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*

Hebrew 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Everyone has one thing in common; they will each die one day and stand before a Holy God. Are you prepared to meet your maker? **Amos 4:12b** "...prepare to meet thy God..."

Please, turn over the page →

3. LIVING WITH PURPOSE

Have you ever wondered about your existence? Have you ever asked the questions like: What is the purpose of life?

Colossians 1:16 “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”

You were created *by* the Creator and *for* the Creator. Life was given to you by God, and life was intended to be spent *with* God. He is the “Purpose to Life”

Psalms 100:3a “Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves...”

If you stop to think, you may realise that there must be more to life than just working, eating, sleeping, marriage, having children and then death. Well, there is. (God loves you and desires an intimate relationship with you!)

Matthews 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

4. TIME IS RUNNING OUT

God gave us life, and God takes life away. Many people continue to live without God and His Word (The Bible), as if they have plenty of time ahead. Look at the next verse, and see God’s attitude to that kind of person.

Luke 12:19-20 “*And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. vs.20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*”

This person is living for self and is in sin, rebelling against God. He is thinking about his retirement, and how to better his life without God in it. God calls him a fool because he didn’t consider that his life could be taken at anytime.

God’s desire is for every person in the world to be with Him in Heaven. God loved the world so much He didn’t want to see anyone go to Hell and perish, including you. The reason people die and go to Hell is because they reject the gift of God – Jesus Christ dying in their place. God became a man to die for you on the Cross. You are a sinner, guilty and living in rebellion, but God took your place and became sin (a criminal) for you that you might be free from the judgement to come and that you could be made right with God in His eyes.

John 3:36 “*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*”

Hope you can make the right decision like Fran - Repent & Trust Christ

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