

Rachael's Testimony



My name is Rachael Minaway. I have been going to church all my life, but I was only just saved on November 8th 2009, which is a clear example that no matter how long you've been going to church, if you don't have faith in God, you don't have salvation.

From when I was born my family and my world was bible believing and God had His hand on us and we were blessed. From Sunday School I knew the basics of what being a Christian was, but as I grew up it became routine to be at church every Sunday.

When I reached my late teens things began to happen in my family that confirmed God was no longer the head and the devil was using his power greatly.

Because I was very family orientated, the problems that began to happen had real effects on me. My whole world was falling apart and I took refuge in the next closest things to me... my non-christian friends and lifestyles.

I sinned because I wanted to sin not because 'the devil made me do it'... and I thought I was happier being away from church than being apart of that 'boring' society, though I still thought of myself as a Christian... just not fanatic about it.

But unfortunately as circumstances got a lot worse and as a not-so-strong Christian I decided to blame the church and even the Christian people who tried unsuccessfully to help us. The further I decided to be away from God, the more I spent being apart of the world, and the more my heart was consumed by the devil.

As our family issues got worse I learnt to rely on myself and trust no one. The devil was really working hard in me, and unfortunately he succeeded.

In late 2007 and most of 2008 I was diagnosed with severe depression. I cut off communication with my friends, I wouldn't allow family close to me and I had no job and no life.

2 days before Christmas 2008, I was in hospital as a result of my depression. I thank God for that intense circumstance because had it not happened, I would have stayed with the world instead of deciding to take the step to turn my life around before it was too late. My life was going nowhere and I needed to change – and I thought only I could do that.

I began to live my life in a positive way... good works, good actions, good thoughts... anything that would help not only stop my depression but move my life forward. But this was no help because I was trying to use my own power, not God's, and I felt incomplete.

So the next step for me was Church. To be honest, my first intension was to use God's place to try and fill the hole in my heart. But the first day I came back to church, after a year of being away, it was clear that it was God's plan for me to be there.

I found myself actually listening to the messages! Not only that, but I began to WANT to be at church every service... and take notes so I didn't forget anything... and go home to read and remind myself of what God wants of me.

It wasn't initially what I wanted. It wasn't making sense. But God was tugging on my heart and all I wanted to do was please Him.

I began to lose my worldly friends one by one... whether it was my choice or not. But that didn't have an effect on me as much as I knew this was what is making God happy and this will bring me closer to Him.

I came to every service... I listened from my heart... I prayed and put my hand up for prayer more than I can even remember... I knew what was needed to fill the hole in my heart and I had no problem with it.

Incredibly in a short period of time my worldly desires were no longer an urge... God was manifesting Himself as the head of my life.

I didn't know where I was going or what I was doing from then on. I was too scared to ask for help from the church leaders because I had given myself such a bad name – and I didn't feel worthy of even approaching God's disciples. But God showed me that I knew little and I needed the help from the church to move forward.

After many weeks of raising my hand for prayer, pastor approached me. He asked me if I knew whether I was going to heaven or not – I said I didn't feel I was – he asked if I believed in God and that He sent Jesus to save me – I said I did.

Once I explained to pastor that I was feeling the urge to work for God, to please Him, and I wanted to surrender all to Him, we prayed together. I asked God to be the center of my life, to take control, to help me cut out all worldly things from my life and concentrate on glorifying Him.

To be honest on that day I wasn't happy at all. I cried, and they weren't happy tears. I went through waves of emotions all day.

The reason – I felt unworthy. I was so disappointed in myself for leaving His gift of salvation away for so long. I was scared. It was clear now that I have hurt God greatly over the years.

But incredibly I didn't want to give up. Still feeling unworthy I kept coming to church. By His power I kept reading His word and living my life the way He would want me to live.

I didn't like to share with people of my salvation. I felt like I was boasting about myself, and I really didn't want the attention. But as people started to see a change in me, I guess they began to question it.

Word got around that I had been saved. I didn't need to boast... God was boasting through my change. It was clear He was working in me to be an encouragement to others... and it was encouraging to see that not only people had noticed, but they were making the effort to share their happiness of my salvation with me.

At that point I understood – I'm not boasting about me – I'm boasting about God. And that's what I want to do – draw as much attention to Him as I can... so I began to share it with everyone!

When I got saved I was unhappy and confused. Unhappy because I've been coming to church my whole 23 years and I only decided to accept Him now. Confused because I thought I was supposed to cry happy tears on the day of my salvation and not feel so unworthy and embarrassed.

But God has shown me that these are just my feelings and if I'm going to rely on my heart and feelings I will fail. I need to have faith to rely on God and His power and purpose for me.

It doesn't matter how I'm feeling... even if I was to lose everything – my Christian friends and support... my family – I'll never stop serving Him because I understand now that everything is in God's hands so long as I surrender it to Him... and I have. Now all I will do is concentrate on glorifying Him and studying His word.

I've cut off all the things that will take my mind off Him – including my facebook account. I've been told that by sharing this with you, it may be an encouragement to others... so a few months ago I deleted my facebook account because God has shown me that if I'm beginning to have difficulties in finding the personal time for Him, then I should get rid of what it is that's making this happen.

God has a plan for my life – I don't know what it is – but I do know that if I'm not obeying Him and allowing Him to be the center of my life, then I'm only delaying his plan for me... and I've delayed it enough! So long as I continue to serve Him, he will take care of me and lead me through the right paths.

I know He wants me here, I know He has plans for my life, whether it be big or small... but for now all I want to do is continue to serve and grow closer to Him.

I made the decision of giving back my life to God and in return He has gifted me with salvation. It's the best most important decision I have ever had to make.

It's only been a couple months, but I have a growing sense of purpose, peace and fulfillment that I know has come from my growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ and not my own success.