

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

SIX QUESTIONS . . . EXAMPLE PAGE

- *Solid bullet point: Sample responses reflect grew up with no spiritual background*
- ❖ *Star bullet point: Sample response indicate grew up in a Christian home with a biblical heritage*

PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR RESPONSES THAT FIT YOUR STORY ON THE BACK.

1. What was your early spiritual background, and how did it affect you as you grew up – your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships?

- Our family was superstitious. We based our beliefs on things like horoscopes, so I lacked any solid foundation for what to believe.
- My parents taught me that there was no God – so we thought we were on our own to figure out what our lives were all about and to decide right from wrong.
- We were a religious family, but all I remember were the rituals and the rules – so when I got to college I rejected the whole thing and went my own way.
- ❖ I grew up in a family where the Bible was taught, and can't remember ever not believing in God. So I grew up with sort of a simple belief in Him.

2. What caused you to begin to consider following Christ?

- A friend at school was a Christian, and she challenged me to look into the evidence of Christianity.
- I reached the point where I'd hit bottom. I know the only hope for me was God --- so I cried out to Him from help.
- I got to know this guy who was different – in a positive way – and I finally asked him why. He told me about his relationship with Jesus.
- ❖ Most of what I saw in my parents, teachers, and friends at church reinforced my confidence that what I was hearing about God was true.

3. What realization did you come to that finally motivated to receive Christ?

- After a long time of looking for help in the wrong places, I finally reached out to the God I sensed was there and asked him to come rescue me.
- My reading and interaction with Christians convinced me that the teachings of the Bible were true, and I just quit resisting.
- After years of spiritual ups and downs I realized how foolish it was to keep trying to run my own life.
- ❖ I don't know exactly when it happened, but along the way I understood that Jesus died to pay for my sins. Even though I hadn't led a wildly rebellious life I certainly knew I'd done things that needed forgiving.

4. Specifically, how did you receive Christ?

- I was at a concert where a guy explained that it wasn't enough to believe Jesus died for my sins – we need to ask him to apply that payment to our lives. So I went and prayed with some afterward, asking Jesus to give my sins and lead my life.
- After years of loneliness I learned that God wants to walk with me throughout my life. I asked him to remove my sins and be my best friend.
- It was hard to admit it, but I concluded that Jesus really is the way, the truth, and the life – and I asked him to forgive me and lead me.
- ❖ Even though I was quite young, I gradually realized I had done things that needed God's forgiveness. I began trusting Him and have been experiencing His forgiveness and leadership for many years.

5. How did your life begin to change after trusted Christ?

- It's hard to describe the difference God made in my life. It wasn't just external; it's like my heart was transformed. Overnight, desires changed.
- I can hardly put into words the release I felt. I knew my sins had been forgiven, and it was a huge weight off my shoulders. For the first time I felt true joy.
- My life isn't perfect. I still do things I regret. But my overall course has tuned from being self-centered, to really caring about God and the people in my life.
- ❖ Knowing Christ makes a difference every day of my life. I know myself well enough to realize the mess I'd be in if it weren't for God's guidance. And even with that I sometimes mess up. That's when I'm most thankful for His forgiveness and grace.

6. What other benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian?

- ❖ Following God has given me purpose – knowing I'm here for greater reasons than just working, eating, sleeping, and doing it all over again. God wants to use me.
- ❖ I used to live with fear and insecurity. While I still worry occasionally, that sense of despair has been replaced with a calm confidence that my life is in God's hands.
- ❖ God has replaced what I used to think of as fun in my life with a kind of joy and happiness that really lasts.
- ❖ I've always had some good friendships, but never with the depth I've found in some of our church family. Those people are closer to me than any friend ever was before.

SIX QUESTIONS . . . YOUR RESPONSES

1. What was your early spiritual background, and how did it affect you as you grew up – your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships?
2. What caused you to begin to consider following Christ?
3. What realization did you come to that finally motivated to receive Christ?
4. Specifically, how did you receive Christ?
5. How did your life begin to change after trusted Christ?
6. What other benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian?