

MY STORY - GOD'S GRACE

Back in the early 1990's I was beginning to tire of life's offerings - I had been involved in the usual- the girls - the drugs - the parties etc, but something was telling me there was much more out there - but I didn't know what it was. If someone had offered me Jesus at that time - I would have turned it down flat - it wasn't my scene - besides I didn't even know if GOD existed. I traveled for several months to various countries in my search for truth and then I tried to join the British army to get some discipline back in my life. Unfortunately, I turned up on the wrong day for the army interview, so I had to wait another month for the next one. In the meantime I joined a company as a stationery salesman and it was here that the boss told me about Jesus. He eventually asked if he could send me a book on the subject, which I agreed to but I was not that interested. When I left the company the book arrived at my home, and I started to read it. It was called 'the Cross and the Switchblade' It was about some American gangsters who had "seen the light" and turned to God. At the back of the book there was a name written in ink - it said Danny. This fellow was going to call me about the book and see what I thought about it. He was my age and a friend of the boss. When Danny tried to contact me by telephone I told my mother to block the calls. I did not want a religious nut bothering me. For 3 weeks he tried and failed to get through to me. My mum was doing a good job! Then the calls stopped - thank God I thought to myself. I went out one night to buy drugs from a two story house. The road was in Tottenham, London, the area I came from. I had never been down this road before in my life. The drug dealer who lived on the top floor was not in. The guy who lived below him answered the door. He turned out to be a Christian and he also tried to tell me about Jesus. I politely declined his conversation, but I did take a leaflet off him out of courtesy. It was obviously all about God and Jesus. I left the house and went back to my friend's car to depart the area. It was then something strange happened. I felt something inside me suggest that I should return to the house I had just came from. I couldn't make out what was really happening except I knew I had to go back. I duly went back and said to the Christian at the door, "Have we ever met before tonight?"

To cut a long story short.....it turned out to be Danny the same one who had been ringing me unsuccessfully for the past few weeks. A divine meeting had managed to take me to the very house that Danny had been calling me from! Soon after talking to Danny, I started reading the Bible for the first time and I made a move towards God. I asked Jesus to reveal Himself to me, and he did in a hotel room in Orlando, Florida whilst on holiday there. **SUDDENLY GOD SHOWED UP!**

It was June 8th 1991. **I had a wonderful visitation of God's Spirit and his glory filled the whole room. I know one thing; if you are sincere he is faithful to come, and he may come in a way you least expect. Jesus is real folks. He is calling all of us into a relationship with him. "You will seek me and you will find me when you search for me with ALL your heart" (Jeremiah 29v13) God rewards genuine intent. (Acts 17v27) (Hebrews 11v6) (Proverbs 8v17) (Proverbs 25v2) (Ezekiel 10v4).** If you want the real thing - it's available. Jesus can set you free from the selfishness of sin, false ideologies, dead religion, and worldly entanglements (lust, greed & pride). **Get Born Again & then allow the Holy Spirit to lead you (Romans 8v9-14).**

So what is this life REALLY all about?

The answer is found in Jesus Christ of the Bible - He is the source of life and love. You may stumble and fall, but He will pick you up and teach you His ways, because He loves you. He already knows your struggles, your weaknesses, and He won't judge you like people do. If you open the door of your heart you can have an encounter with the living God. He is challenging you to repent, turn back to God and abandon your way for His way. God can never be fully explained, but once you experience Him, you will know for yourself He is real **(Romans 8v16) (Acts 1v8) (Acts 2v17)**. The Bible is an amazing, divine, supernatural book that tells us about life. The book makes sense even if you're not sure you believe it. So, approach it with an open mind and see what God can do. Life is short, make it count. If you find the real Jesus I guarantee you will find life's purpose and joy in everything else you do. **God doesn't send anyone to a loveless Hell - we send ourselves there by rejecting his offer of salvation.**

Today is the day of Salvation - (inner healing, deliverance from sin and passport to eternal life).

"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved" (Acts 16v31)
"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other Name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4v12) JESUS LOVES YOU SO MUCH!

"I am the light of the world" - John 8v12
"Repent and believe the gospel" - Mark 1v15
"Love one another for love is from God" - 1 John 4v7

FINALLY, THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION.....

SO WHAT IS THIS LIFE REALLY ALL ABOUT?

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST
(with a true story inside)
God's great message of love

Initially, let us see what life isn't all about. JESUS said **'Life does not consist of accumulating material possessions' - (Luke 12v15)** - nor is it found in money, booze, drugs, relationships, sex, jobs, fame, holidays, sports, houses, cars, popularity, gambling or even friends and family. All those things come and go with varying degrees of pleasure but we often end up feeling disappointed, empty or let down. There is **no security** in them, basically nothing lasts. JESUS said however, **'Whoever drinks of the water that I offer you will NEVER thirst again' (John 4v14)**. You CAN find the answer to that important question - **what is this life really all about?** There is only ONE thing that can stop you and that is PRIDE! - thinking you can solve this 'puzzle' yourself. I have to sadly declare your own efforts will be doomed to failure. We have all been there and have found the song lyrics to be true - 'I can't get no LASTING satisfaction.' **The key to this answer is a spiritual one and is found in the Word of God.**

TRUE HAPPINESS AND JOY

"In your presence is the fullness of Joy" (Psalm 16v11)
Jesus wants you to be happy & full of Joy. Happiness that does not rely on our circumstances is a natural result of knowing God and experiencing his love. It takes time to know ourselves and it also takes time to know God. The Bible helps us understand his divine nature, so read on.

The law of God reveals what sin is (1 John 3v4)

You may think you're a good person by your own standards but a simple glance through God's law and especially his 10 commandments will reveal otherwise. If we are totally honest with ourselves we will soon realise we have broken many of these commandments. Lying, stealing, hating, lust, adultery, being greedy for what someone else has, making idols and worshipping things of this world, dishonoring our parents, abusing God's name and on it goes...No hiding from the facts...we are all sinners. The Bible teaches if we have sinned in just ONE of these areas we are guilty of them all. **"For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point is guilty of breaking all of it" - (James 2v10).** The Bible also teaches, **"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" - (Romans 3v10-23).** Sin is our factory default from birth (Psalm 51). We are all convicted by a righteous and Holy God, so if HE were to judge us by the 10 commandments alone, we would all be found guilty. So, if you were faced with the question, "where would you spend eternity, HEAVEN or HELL? What would your answer be? **The uncomfortable fact is, if you die in your sins you will go to Hell - which is eternal separation from the love of God.** You may object and say I'm not worse than anyone else, in fact I am much better than most people. In God's eyes this plea doesn't carry any weight in comparison to the standards he has set. He is a righteous judge. **"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."** (Revelation 21v8). The law of God convicts us of sin, The law is a moral framework necessary to make you aware of your condition. **Jesus sees your true heart! (Matthew 5-7).** **NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS - THIS IS WHAT THE GOSPEL IS.....** So you now find yourself in a court of law guilty of a crime that carries serious punishment, in this case Hell. Then somebody walks in stops the proceedings and says "I'll take the punishment for that person". How would you feel? How would you react towards that individual? Happy? Grateful? Ecstatic? Relieved? That is what Jesus did for us. He

paid our fine in all its entirety and we walked away totally free. Yes, **Jesus gave his life in order that we might live.** That's real unconditional love, That is the gospel message. **"But God demonstrates his own love towards us, in that whilst we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."** (Romans 5v8). **"For God so loved the world that he gave us his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life."** - (John 3v16). The Bible and history tells us JESUS died an excruciating death on a rugged cross for you and me, He took the sins of the whole world upon himself. He suffered on a scale never known before. He was ultimately crucified. By His love, grace and mercy He offered us salvation by rising from the dead and opening the doors to heaven to anyone who chooses to receive and believe in him - (John 1v12) (1 Cor 15v1-4).

The gift of eternal life is really good news ! Believe it !

GRACE - AN UNDESERVED FAVOUR

"For by grace we have been saved through faith. and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God, not as a result of our works, so that no man can boast." - (Ephesians 2v8). **He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and a new life through the Holy Spirit (Titus 3v5).**

We can add nothing to this fantastic act of grace - we can't save ourselves by our good works. Jesus wasn't beaten, tortured and murdered so we could take any credit and cheapen his sacrifice by trying to 'pay him back'. God gets all the glory. God alone is perfect. Does this mean we can now live as we please? Of course not (Romans 6v1-2) (Romans 6v15) (Ephesians 4v1). A proper understanding of grace will inspire us to show a deep appreciation of His great love by living a life worthy of His name. Learning to walk in humility, surrender, a renewed mind, and denying of self as we are gradually conformed into His image; Which is love. **GOD IS LOVE (1 John 4v8).** This is His divine nature.

AMAZING GRACE

ARE YOU READY TO MEET GOD?

If so, what you have to do now is ask Jesus to come into your life and to make this a reality pray this prayer sincerely with an open heart. **"Jesus my only saviour, I come to you recognising I am a sinner, I repent of those sins, and turn away from unbelief, wrong actions, attitudes and thoughts and put my faith and trust in you. I ask you to come and live in my heart by your Holy Spirit. I appreciate and thank you for forgiving and cleansing me of my sins."** Amen. You may now feel his presence for the first time., but in any case we are saved by faith not by our feelings. **"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your Salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Ephesians 1v13).** It is God himself who comes to live inside you by his Holy Spirit, The Bible calls this being 'born again' - and means you have now been made spiritually alive to God. (John 3v3-8). **"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."** - (Romans 5v5).

We all need this supernatural awakening from our spiritually dead state - (Ephesians 2v1-6). By God's grace you will start an amazing journey of discovery. God wants to develop a great relationship with you. He will be your best friend. He will guide you. You will hear his voice. **Life is never easy, but with JESUS it becomes meaningful !** Knowing Him intimately is discovering the true riches of life. You will have peace, joy and contentment. You will realise that **LIVING FOR HIM AND FOR OTHERS IS THE GREAT SECRET.** **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.. You shall ALSO love your neighbor as yourself."** (Mark 12v30-31)

Now start reading the Bible. That is primarily how God will speak to you, so that's very important. Start at John's Gospel. **Its by reading and applying Gods word that spiritual growth takes place.** Text or call Jimmy on 07572 580545 or Mario on 07860 421479 for advice or questions (We are friends of those who respect and love God-Psalms 119v63 - 'helping people find Spiritual life in Christ') alternatively Email - Jimmy.bedding@yahoo.co.uk