



HE FOUND ME

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY



At the age of 30 my whole life fell apart when my husband and I divorced. All my dreams were shattered and I found myself in a very dark and lonely place that lasted for about 3 years. I had made some serious mistakes in my

relationships and felt very bad about it and about myself. I

also felt that nobody understood me and nobody loved me. I felt unappreciated and that I didn't fit in anywhere. I grew up in a christian home, but it was dysfunctional and I never

knew God's love as a child. I had some re-occurring health

issues (thought I was under a curse) and explored alternative health practices which developed into a spiritual search. I explored different spiritual paths but was disappointed again and again when I discovered that in every religion or spiritual path, there was always a master/controlling entity/god whom one had to submit to. The new age philosophies seemed to make sense because there I could be my own master, was free to make my own decisions and choices.



I could also take from every religion, philosophy or spiritual path what made sense to me and apply it in my life. Outwardly I seemed fine, yet I wasn't coping with life, deep inside I was very hurt, didn't trust anyone and had lost hope. By this time I was very desperate; all my efforts to find inner peace and healing through the different practices weren't helping and I had very little income and was unable to keep a job due to the depression and nervous breakdowns I had.

In the informal new age community where my daughter (aged 10) and I lived, someone told me that one of the other residents, Ruth, is a christian. Immediately after I met her, I felt comfortable and accepted by her. A friendship developed and after some time she invited me to a mother's day service at their church. I had no intention of becoming a christian, I was not interested in christianity, but because I was lonely and because she was so kind and nice, I accepted the invitation. From when I stepped foot in the little hall where these people were gathering, the warm loving atmosphere was very overwhelming. When they started singing, the tears started flowing freely (very unusual for me).

The pastor's message was centred around mothers, how precious they are and how much they appreciate us. Something amazing was taking place. It wasn't only just his words, it wasn't just him as a person or just this particular group of people, I became aware of the tangible Presence of Someone so loving and gentle yet All knowing, addressing my my

deepest needs. I so longed for that appreciation as a mother and as a person. It's not that my family didn't appreciate me, it's just that I couldn't receive it. I just cried and cried. There was absolutely no judgement or condemnation, only unconditional love and grace.



In the days which followed, I had some significant interactions with Christians who prayed with me and I started noticing very tangible positive events happening to me. I took serious note of this. I was attracted to the love and good things which were happening to me, but at the same time I was scared and confused. Which one of these spiritual paths were the right one? I took my daughter's Bible and opened it randomly and started reading. It was speaking very directly into my situation!



I asked one of the Christians some questions to clear up my confusion and she took her Bible and answered them with passages from the Bible. The same thing which happened at the mother's day service, happened again. God was speaking to me directly through those passages and it cleared up all my confusion. I realized that the Bible is the truth and I wanted to follow Jesus. I saw in the Bible that there were things that I had done and things I had been involved with which were not pleasing to Him but as soon as I acknowledged it, He forgave me! I felt so loved that I didn't want to do anything which would hurt His heart. I experienced His wonderful peace in my heart. I could talk to Him and not only felt completely understood, but I knew He would help me with my problems. I was able to write to everyone I had wronged and apologize. When I did this, such a sweet peace came into my heart. That was the beginning of an amazing journey which is still going on after 25 years. My health started improving dramatically. I have experienced His miraculous healing in my hip which was causing me a lot of pain because it was twisting in the socket regularly. I haven't had any problems with my hip ever since. I have a genetic eye condition, for which there is no medical cure and it leads to blindness later on in life, and at the same time the Lord strengthened my eyes. In time all my chronic ailments disappeared as I became more willing to open my heart for the Lord to heal the deep-rooted hurts from my childhood!

My daughter and I moved from that community and now shared a house with a Christian friend and colleague. She had her own business and she employed me. I now prayed and read the Bible daily. I now had a direct connection with God; I spoke to Him and He spoke to me through the Bible. But I still had many emotional issues. An evangelist visited the church I was now attending. The following words he said, just hit home. He said "If our God is an angry, stern and distant God, then you and I are not serving the same God. He was talking about a wonderful and loving Heavenly Father and I could see he had this loving relationship with Him! That's exactly what I was looking for. I loved my dad but had several hurtful disappointments with him where after I closed my heart completely. I couldn't risk getting hurt any longer. This spilled over into my relationships with men which basically went the same way... Now I didn't want to take the risk of getting hurt again, yet I was so longing to be loved and be in a relationship. The evangelist also said that sometimes worries, guilt or the busyness of life hinders us from coming to the Lord, but we can come just as we are. Later, alone in my room, I tried it. I said: "Lord, I come to you just as I am." I went to sleep and had this dream:

I am standing inside an empty room. The walls are thick and white, with a door opening like an archway against the one wall and a window opening along the other wall, like an unfinished building. The next moment a beautiful Figure moved passed the outside of the door opening, in a long white robe. I very hesitantly asked:

"Are you Jesus?" No verbal reply, yet the most indescribable love is flowing towards me, which affirmed that I was correct in my guess. I am very overwhelmed and very fearfully curled up into a little ball in the corner of the room.... I woke up with the word **REJECTION**. He knew me much better than I ever knew myself! No wonder I could not receive any love, I had suffered rejection from my mother's womb, right through childhood. Wounds upon wounds! The detail of this He revealed later. But the love which flowed through Him lifted me up so high, I felt I was riding on the crest of an enormous wave. I felt that I could face anything or anybody! Many of my everyday problems were still there, but life had a completely different colour! "I am loved, I am loved" my heart sang! He really is not this angry and stern God I thought Him to be!



About 6 months later, I came face to face with a very delicate issue. I felt it would please the Lord if I would go back to my husband. I tried to ignore it, but it wouldn't go away. I was wrestling with so many unresolved issues in my heart. There were so many misunderstandings between us, which caused us both heartaches and the love we had for each other seemed to grow cold. There were times in our marriage that I felt like a bird in a cage. Finally I poured out my heart in prayer before my Lord. Although being divorced was very painful and not the solution, I realized that I was under the illusion of freedom, but now the Lord expected me to go back into the cage! I was scared and confused.

I opened my Bible to find out what more the Lord would say to me. It fell open at the book Revelation ... the heading of the passage said: "The Rider on the white horse". Instantly my confusion was cleared up and it made so much sense. I had a very limited idea of marriage and an unrealistic expectation of my husband. I expected him to fill my spiritual void too! A prince who would come and sweep me away, rescue me from all my fears and worries, understand and love me just as I am. But the description in that passage in the Bible is about Jesus Christ in His glory on a white horse. I felt the Lord saying, that if I would like to, He would love to be that Prince for me. But the choice lies with me. He would revive the love again. Well, with the love I have tasted so far, I was willing to take the risk. Now I had hope to go back to my husband. With the help of the Lord, we would now be able to deal with our conflict. 6 months later we remarried. I could get to know him anew as a patient, loving gentleman, things which my pain blinded me to and which I took for granted. This happened 25 years ago. As I allowed the Lord to heal my heart, it became easier to deal with conflict. I have come to know through the Word that he is sanctified by my faith and I still have the privilege of praying for him!



Many more wonderful things happened, the Lord healed my hip, all my chronic ailments disappeared as He healed my emotional wounds and He has strengthened my eyesight on 3 occasions already. But my life has definitely not been without hardships and problems. But this I can say with assurance, there has not been a problem which the Lord didn't solve. He has been there for me ALL the way. I am eternally grateful for all His love, faithfulness and wonderful grace towards me.

Isaiah 43:1 But now says the Lord who formed you and He who made you: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I called you by your name; you are Mine.

