

Sarah Stanyer's Testimony of Salvation

I was the second born child in a family with 6 siblings. I was raised on a farm back in the bush in west central Alberta.

Our parents made sure we did Sunday school by correspondence and we listened to Back to the Bible, Danny Orlis stories every Saturday morning on the radio.

Some how my parents instilled in me that the Bible was the word of God (because it is) for which I have always been thankful. I am not sure my parents were Christians, if they were they didn't practise what they believed. I had a bible verse plaque from a Grandmother that said THE LORD JESUS SAID " HIM THAT COMETH TO ME I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT" John 6 verse 37. I remember different times growing up reading that verse and thinking if only that was true.

I don't remember learning John 3 verse 16 obviously learned it very young.

Grew up in the world with all it offered, got married, moved to Hinton, Alberta. In 1973 we moved to Kamloops B.C. Our marriage was in trouble and I was struggling. (Now we believe the Lord moved us here to save us). In 1974 we were introduced to a multi level marketing scheme which had born again Christians that became our friends.

My friend spoke to me about the gospel and that we were all sinners in need of God's salvation. When she left she advised me to read the gospel of John 3 times then Romans which I did.

I could admit I'd sinned in the past but couldn't see myself as a sinner before God. Then I was talking to a saved sister and used the Lord's name in vain and it was like God put His finger on me and I knew I was guilty of sin before a Holy God. My friend who first spoke to me had left a name and phone number of Dave and Liz Richards if I wanted to talk to someone about spiritual matters.

I spent nearly a week knowing if something happened and I died I would end up in hell for all eternity and God would be right. I phoned the Richards, they came and talked to my husband and I. Shared God's word

with us and that God wanted all to be saved by believing in Jesus death on the cross to pay for our sins. Problem was I never doubted John 3 verse 16 “ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. I believed it in my head but not in my heart. These people had assurance that if they died they would go to heaven I didn’t have that, but I wanted that.

Then one Sunday evening listening to the hymn sing on my television, the song “Just as I am” and the words on the screen. I so wanted to be saved and know God had forgiven my sins which were many. When the song got to verse 5...

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve
Because thy promise I believe
O Lamb of God, I come.

The light broke through and I believed that Jesus would welcome, pardon, cleanse and receive me. I got down on my knees and cried, thanking the Lord Jesus for dying on the cross to pay for my sins.

And it became personal and for 40 plus years He has been my Saviour, Helper, Friend and Comforter in my life here and I look forward to spending eternity with Him because of His great love wherewith He loved me. He is not a disappointment.

Sarah Stanyer