

YOU CHOOSE

"Life or Death?"

You probably don't know me, but that's okay because by me talking to someone I didn't know, my life was saved.

I always thought I knew God. As a child I knelt by my bed every night and prayed. I attended church on a regular basis until age five. At sixteen I went to an evening service and felt God pulling at my heart. I went up front and said a prayer. "Jesus I know I'm a sinner, forgive me and b my Lord." With a list of don'ts attached. I was overwhelmed and fell away.

In 1976 I married Jeff. We went on a honeymoon ending up in a small town out West. One evening while walking, we came across a band playing in the park. We were drawn there, I thought it was curiosity, but it wasn't. I immediately knew this band was different, they were Christians! The singer spoke out over the crowd, "You want Jesus!" she said. I looked around... they were talking to us. Before I could run away, the band quit playing and ran out to us. They hugged us and prayed with us. I knew it was of God.

The next week we went inner tubing. We ran into a whirlpool and I was sucked in. I knew I was dead because I could see myself. I was above my body. The next thing I knew I popped up and was floating down the river. Two men grabbed me and took me to shore. This was it. I knew God had spared my life. I decided to change, but I couldn't.

I needed someone to show me how to serve God, my heart cried for help. In 1978 a woman approached me. She said, "Jesus wants me to talk to you." I was surprised, but thrilled that God was interested in me. She showed me scriptures, John 3:16 and Romans 10:9-10. I read them over and over. This wasn't enough to deliver me from alcohol, drugs, and many of my other weaknesses, I needed more.

In June of 1980, my life was a mess. I began to spend time with my Aunt. She invited me to a church in January of 1981. This church was different than the one I was raised in. You could sense God's presence. You could sense His love. For the first time, I realized God loved me just the way I was with all my imperfections. I said, "Jesus come into my life, forgive me for my sins, especially my sin of unbelief." I needed to be planted in a church to grow in God, among God's children.

You can't grow in God and live your old life. Everyone knows that one green bean plant doesn't grow good alone, the more plants the more beans. That's how God works too.

Now, I ask you, do you want to waste years like I did? Or do you want to accept Jesus today and get involved in a church and be happy? God gives you the choice. In Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life! Accept Jesus today. (II Corinthians 6:2)... now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation.

~ Diane Grapentin