

My
Quest
for
Spiritual
Truth

by former nun
Helene Hart

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As I look back over the years I realize now how the grace of God was evident in my life. I'm the oldest of 11 children. Although there wasn't much money, our daily needs were always met by loving and supportive parents. Being a close family, we often spent the evenings playing games and enjoying one another's company. There was always enough warmth and love for everyone.

As a family, we believed in God and tried our best to please him with our sincerity and good deeds. Also, praying the rosary daily was a vital part of our lives. However, Bible reading was never stressed at home or in church.

At age 14, I entered a boarding school exclusively for girls. During this time, I realized I wanted to become a nun. At age 17, I entered the convent and one year later was teaching first grade. My first ten years in the convent were happy and exciting and I felt I couldn't do enough for the Lord. There was never an idle moment. My time was filled with praying, teaching, counseling and visiting the sick. Every day of convent life was busy and challenging. Eventually I was promoted to principal and taught seventh and eighth grade. I felt that God was very pleased with all my good deeds.

During this time, however, God used the young people in my religious education class to challenge me by asking questions about the Catholic faith which I could not answer. I began to search for answers; but there was no one to help me. As a result, I began questioning some of the Catholic Church's doctrines and teachings. I had particular difficulty accepting ecclesiastical dogmas which could change with the passing of time. I'm speaking of man-made church laws that could send a person to Hell (mortal sin) that subsequently may be rescinded. The lingering question that always surfaced in my mind was what happened to all the souls that died during the dispensation of this ordinance? Was this God's justice? It didn't seem fair to me. Additionally, I had serious problems confessing my sins to a priest when I believed in my heart I could go straight to the Lord. Moreover, I reasoned why pray to Mary and the saints when it was God who answered prayers.

Having no one to confide in and help me with my quest for spiritual truth, I became increasingly upset and confused. Consequently, I was very unhappy and officially asked to leave convent life.

The church responded by insisting I see a psychiatrist and spend some time in the convent infirmary. I couldn't accept this. So, after 18 years, I left the community life only after being told I would lose my soul and go to Hell. I was disillusioned, confused and very angry with the

church that I had given my entire life to.

In 1971, I met a man who eventually became my husband. He was the first person I had ever dated. He was a caring and understanding man who helped me through the emotional traumas I had experienced. Five years after we were married we had a beautiful baby girl. However, several months later my doctors informed me I would have to have brain surgery. The operation was a success and once again I knew there was a wonderful God who loved and cared for me.

Things began to change in my life when I met a neighbor who was a born again Christian. I was invited to attend a weekly Bible study. The lingering questions; the doubts and fears I had over the years were beginning to be answered through the Bible. During one of these visits, I realized I needed to put all of my faith and trust in Jesus Christ and in His completed work of salvation on the cross of Calvary. In John 3:16, the Scripture states, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." And in I Peter 3:18, "For Christ also hath one suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..." That day I gave my heart to Jesus and was saved! For the first time in my life I was completely trusting Christ for my salvation and not my religious works or merits. God revealed from His Word in Ephesians 2:8-9 this was what He wanted me to do. It says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

After I was saved, problems surfaced in our marriage. My husband resented me being saved and attending a Bible believing church. For the next three years, the situation was extremely tense and difficult. However, the Holy Spirit began dealing with my husband's heart. While I attended church services on Sunday evenings, he began watching Gospel services on television. God revealed to him what He had made clear to me through the Scriptures...personal salvation is in Jesus Christ and not in a church. Soon thereafter my husband also called upon Jesus to save him.

Once we were both saved God began to heal our marriage. Moreover, the roadblocks preventing true peace of mind and happiness in our marriage were eventually replaced with the things of God. Today, there is love, peace and joy in my life with a wonderful husband and daughter. We are serving the Lord together and have a happy family life. Daily we spend time together in prayer and Bible reading. The Lord has blessed us abundantly and I give Him all the praise, honor and glory! Since I've been saved and born again I have claimed Jeremiah 33:3 as my life's verse. "Call upon me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

The many questions I pondered as a nun, have all been answered from the Scriptures. I trust that by my testimony your eyes will be opened to the truth of God's Word. As we read through the New Testament we notice Jesus commands His disciples to preach the Gospel of salvation. All the Gospel writers affirm the Jesus stated our faith must be firmly placed in Him. He never instructed anyone to have faith in a church. No church is able to take sins away. As a Catholic, I

was spiritually lost because I was trusting in my church and good deeds to help me earn salvation and merit the favor of God. I had never trusted Christ to be my old sufficient Saviour. As Christians, our trust is grounded not in what we are doing for Jesus, but in what He has done for us. When Jesus died on Calvary, He said, "It is finished." For there His redemptive work was completed. It is true that He died for the whole world. The staggering reality is that He died for you; He die for me! God accepted the redemption of Calvary as payment for your sins, Jesus, my friend, is willing and able to save you TODAY!

You have read the testimony of a lady that spent a good portion of her life dedicated to the teachings and traditions of a church. However, she discovered true peace, joy and love comes only through having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship begins by acknowledging and trusting Christ's preeminent work on the cross of Calvary for personal forgiveness and for divine power to live the Christian life.

Dear friend, realize and accept that Christ came into the world specifically to die for your sins and that He paid the full price for all your sins; past, present and future (II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24).

Will you by faith receive Christ as Saviour and Lord of your life? The choice is yours. He is:

The only One who can bring you to God...

"Christ...once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God,"
(I Peter 3:18).

The only One who can give true peace...

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth" (John 14:27).

The only One who can give everlasting life...

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

Please feel free to contact us regarding your decision for Christ or if you have unanswered questions concerning your personal salvation. Write to us:

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