

Welcome & Intro :: New guy in MN**New guy in MN - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/11 14:29**

Hi everyone,

My name is Keith and I live in Minnesota. I just found this website as I was searching for true teachings on the Truth. Six days ago I happened upon a video teaching of Brother Paul Washer. In that moment, everything I ever knew was gone and I haven't been able to think about anything else since.

Quick background: I said the "sinner's prayer" 24 years ago. Even though I've always loved the Lord and have endeavored to grow in Him over the years, I kept "backsliding and rededicating." I blindly fell into the Word of Faith movement and even though I knew in my spirit this couldn't be right, I stayed because, "How could I be right and all these thousands of people be wrong?" Finally, after suffering abuse in the church, I walked out and never returned to another church.

That was eight years ago. I never walked out on God, though. I tried to be a Christian on my own and I'm exhausted. In my heart, I knew there had to be more to Christianity than anything I'd experienced. I wasn't changed. I had knowledge but there was no change wrought within me. Now, after 24 years, I'm faced with the fact that I'm not really saved yet.

This is both terrifying and wonderful! Terrifying to think that I could have died at any time, thinking I was saved, and gone to hell! Wonderful because of God's mercy that that didn't happen! Wonderful to know that I'm FINALLY on the right path!

Everything else in my life has been put on hold until I know I'm saved. (Except my job, of course, which is where I am right now.)

I have been devouring more and more of Brother Paul's teaching and have been introduced to many other teachers that I've never known before. Ravenhill, MacArthur, Pink, Leiter, etc.,

Even though I'm seeking God with all my might right now, for my salvation, I've never been more excited in all my life! An employee at Heartcry Missionary Society helped me find a good church in my area, Bethlehem Baptist Church with Pastor John Piper. This Sunday will be my first Sunday back in church in years!

I'm looking forward to talking more with all of you. I do have a passion for Jesus and haven't had anyone around me I can talk to about him. (At least not until I get into that church!)

Thanks for taking the time to read my blabbering.

Re: New guy in MN - posted by MSeaman (), on: 2008/1/11 15:04

Keith,
Welcome to SI! I hope you are blessed by what you find here.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/1/11 15:09

Great to have you registered on the website. May the Lord bless you and encourage you as you seek more of Him. If you haven't yet do listen to these life-changing messages:

Reality in the Christian Life by Zac Poonen

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=4272>

Ten Shekels and a Shirt by Paris Reidhead

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=282>

An Interview with Leonard Ravenhill (video) by Leonard Ravenhill

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=1702>

Judgment Seat of Christ by Leonard Ravenhill

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/visit.php?lid=235>

Re: New guy in MN - posted by Tears_of_joy, on: 2008/1/11 15:16

Keith, this is very refreshing testimony! Thank you for sharing!

Besides Greg's recommendations, check also these:

Protection From Backslidding

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=4247>

Abide In Me (video)

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=4226>

Absolute Surrender

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=1833>

Be Ye Holy For I am Holy

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=1864>

My Godly Father

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=4227>

Finished with the World

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=1865>

If You Faced Death Right Now

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=4591>

Sermon On The Mount (video)

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=4230>

Prove Me Now... (video)

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=5301>

Personal Testimony

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=4228>

The Word of God

<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid=4633>

Re: New guy in MN - posted by ravenmolehil, on: 2008/1/11 15:30

AMEN

Glad to see you here, brother!!!

Glad to see your excitement & fire for the Lord!!!

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/11 16:18

Thank you all for taking the time to welcome me! Being able to talk to family in the Lord is so refreshing after all these years!

I really appreciate all of the teaching recommendations and will certainly watch and listen. Funny, because Ten Shekels and a Shirt first popped-up in my life last night. Since then, I've gone to three different sites online and it's mentioned on all of them! That will be my first teaching tonight!

Something else I learned from Brother Washer is that Jesus is my first stop when I need something. The church world today runs to the pastor and friends and everyone else before they look in the Word or pray for themselves. (And that's if they even get around to doing that at all.)

I'm busting my buttons, even here at work! THIS is the life that I always knew had to be available to Christians! (And I'm not even saved yet, which feels very odd to say, coming from 24 years of American, seeker-friendly, ear-tickling religion. It's going to take awhile for those thought processes and the lingo to wear off of me.)

I quit watching television completely, just over 3 1/2 years ago. I noticed it took about 18 months for the effects of Hollywood, advertising and the media to wear off of me. Now, when I hear about a murder, I feel it in my heart again. I'm not hardened and dead to it. I'm not bombarded with "Make YOUR life easier! YOU deserve the best!" I don't find myself wanting "things" anymore. I really, really enjoy living very simply.

Sorry to gush so much, I'm just pretty excited. (Which is funny because I'm normally a pretty calm guy.)

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/11 16:31

Just a thought.

I dropped American Christianity for True Christianity the exact day I switched from Windows to Mac. Both are permanent changes

Coincidence? ;-)

Re: - posted by ravenmolehil, on: 2008/1/11 16:34

Quote:

SimpleLiving wrote:
Just a thought.

I dropped American Christianity for True Christianity the exact day I switched from Windows to Mac. Both are permanent changes

Coincidence? ;-)

AMEN

Re:, on: 2008/1/11 17:39

Welcome to SI, Keith! It's exciting to hear about the journey that you are on. Keep pressing forward and seeking God. He is faithful to His Word and promises to be found of those that seek after Him,

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

And I will be found of you, saith the LORD..." Jeremiah 29:11-14a

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There have been some really good sermon recommendations that you have already been given. I echoe Tears_of_Joy's list of messages from Keith Daniel, an evangelist from South Africa.

You might add this sermon by Paul Washer to your list:

(<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid12829&commentViewItemComments>) Examine Yourselves. It is a message that lays out so clearly what it is to be a Christian.

I'll be praying for you.

~Joy

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/11 17:51

Thank you, Joy, very much.

I've heard many of Paul Washer's teachings already. The first night I was up until 7am listening to them. The next night I was up until 3:30am. Since then, I've been up til midnight. (Not bad for someone who's used to going to bed at 9pm!)

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/13 20:18

I figured since this is a post about me, I'd keep it here so as to not clutter the forums.

I went to church today! First time in eight years! I went to Bethlehem Baptist Church (Pastor John Piper).

Talk about nervous! I was shaking in my boots when I walked in the front door. I was scared. It brought memories of being around Sunday Christians, Monday Gossips, and the abuse and heresy. As I was walking in, what's the first thing I see but scripture on a TV monitor. Joshua 1:9 "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Thank you, Father.

There was a table with name tags for visitors to put their name on. Then you put a red circle sticker on it to denote that you're a visitor. I don't want to stand out! But I did it. I wanted to comply with their wishes and experience their church the way they intended visitors to.

I hung up my coat and a lady at an information desk directed me towards some coffee. Too nervous to drink anything for fear of spilling all over myself (especially coffee), I thanked her and moved into the sanctuary and found a seat. Not in back. Not in front. In the middle. I prepared my offering, and my pounding heart, to go before the Lord. There's a section on the very detailed bulletin for visitors to fill out and drop off. OK, I thought. The full experience. I filled it out and waited.

I looked around. It's not nearly as big as I thought it would be. I found comfort in that. Their balcony is beautiful. On the platform I saw drums and an electric guitar and cringed. Performance music immediately came to mind. It's how the Word of Faith folks do things. I also saw horns. I prepared myself for loudness. I prayed again.

Suddenly, sweet, soft music filled the air as more people were finding their seats. It was the horns! I couldn't believe it! They weren't blaring! They were actually - how can I put this - worshipping God! Their music was honoring God. This hasn't been my experience with Christian music! I felt like I was being bathed in it. Anticipation was growing in me.

A very dear brother gave the welcome and announcements. He had a great look of peace and calm on him. His name, which made me smile, is David Livingstone.

We began to worship God with songs and it was, again, unlike anything I've ever experienced! They weren't songs about how great we were or how blessed we are. We didn't sing about God blessing us and enriching us and making us awesome people. (That is the only "worship" music I've known.) Instead, we sang praises and glory TO HIM! We actually glorified HIM, not ourselves! I couldn't control myself and I wept with my arms stretched out to Him. I didn't want it to end!

We read scripture together. It was so moving! The offering was taken without a word about it. No mini-sermon on give so you can receive. They didn't even announce the offering. Those heavenly horns just started playing again and quietly.

y, reverently, we worshipped GOD with our giving! No vending machine levers to pull to choose our own paybacks. No noting how much we've given to keep a running tally as to how much God "owed" us. It was worship, from the heart!

Then came the sermon. Are you ready for this? It was tailor-made for ME as if God Himself designed and orchestrated it. You know how I've been seeking Him for salvation and my regeneration. This is exactly what the sermon was about! It was about how GOD calls us and how we are not in control of saying a prayer to save ourselves. It's a work of God. He CALLS us. I devoured that sermon like it was a meal at the finest restaurant! Brother John Piper's heart was evident. I've never seen such a humble sincerity in the pulpit.

After the sermon, we worshipped in song and David Livingstone prayed with us and we were excused. I don't know why, but I suddenly felt an urgency to speak to him. I immediately went forward and poured my heart out to him, weeping. Now, it's always been my experience that, when speaking to an elder/pastor after a service, others rudely interrupt and pull them away. Though a few tried to speak with Brother David as we were speaking, he paid them no attention. Not even a "please wait a moment" nod. He showed me respect. He gave me his card and asked if I would give him the visitor card I filled out, instead of dropping it in a box on the way out. I thanked him for his time and went to get my coat.

I was welcomed by several people, who took the time to get to know me with a few questions. It wasn't the usual interrogation-type questions I was used to in other churches. They were sincere, inviting me to their small groups. The small groups at my other churches were the "Us Four and No More Clubs. Please wait until next July and try then, thank you."

I felt welcomed and wanted. People prayed with me and called me by name. I was with a body of believers who loved and worshipped the Lord for Who He is and not what He could do for them! I walked home very happy. (It's only about a mile and a half from where I live.)

So, that was my very first Sunday back in church in eight years. It felt like coming home to a home I didn't know I had.

Re: - posted by BrokenOne (), on: 2008/1/13 20:35

Dear Brother,

What a precious, precious testimony. There is such joy in my heart as I read of your experience today. After eight years

Praise God brother Keith. What more can I say?

Praise God!!

Danielle

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/13 20:56

Thank you, Danielle.

This has been the most emotional week of my life.

- Heard a sermon in which I realized I'm not saved after 24 years of believing I was.
- Grief stricken and panicked I seek Him.
- Experience hope when I find more teachings on The Truth, including this site.
- Exhaustion from trying to be a Christian by myself.
- Weeping and mourning over my sin and all those wasted years.
- Joy mixed in with the mourning, at the same time.

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- Listening and watching eye-opening sermons online. Shock, hope and excitement.
- Finding a new church (anxiety), facing old fears (horror), and experiencing the true church and fellowship (elation).

If it's possible to be exhausted and energized at the same time, I'm there.

The church even gave me one of John Piper's books (The Dangerous Duty of Delight), one of his CD teachings (Proclaiming Truth in an Age of Terror), a DesiringGod calendar and a whole bunch of pamphlets to learn more about the church.

This is one exciting journey.

Living simply - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/1/13 22:53

Dear brother ...

This is so tremendous. I had a similar out-coming if you will from like constructs and it was this very site that had me shouting Eureka! at the goldmine I had come upon. That was some 4 years ago now and the changes and challenges since, daily .. I could never tell it all.

Oh you are in such great company brother, all that is now going on with you is like a contagion, my heart rejoices with you .. was almost exhausted just reading of yours! ;-)

It must truly be something, my prayers brother.

Re: Living simply - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/14 11:15

Thank you crsschk,

Words seem inadequate when I try to tell what's going on inside me. (Heaven knows I've been using enough of them here to try! Sorry about the wordy posts.)

The passion that's growing inside me is taking on a life of its own. You know, I live up to my screen name. I enjoy living very simply. I live well below my means and I haven't watched television in almost four years. (That's not entertainment, it's legalized voyeurism and I refused to pay \$60/month for the two or three OK channels to watch.)

I only started listening to music within the last six months and it's from Christian music radio. Music was just never very important in my life. To be honest, I'm even questioning much of what's played on Christian radio after listening to Brother Keith Daniel.

I have a TV, but I use it for DVD's only. But still, now I question whether I even WANT the TV in the house. The TV isn't wrong or evil, I know that. But, especially lately, I find I haven't turned it on in a long time. I haven't even had the desire. Some would say, "Ok, fine. That's how you feel right NOW. But you'll want to watch something later on." I have my iMac computer if I really want to watch something. If it plays DVDs and that's all I watch, why have both? I have a one year old Sony Bravia 40" LCD TV and I don't want it anymore! I LOVE THAT! It's just a possible future distraction. I'm hungry for the Word and for His presence NOW and I don't want to become dull to that! I'm excited about getting rid of my TV and most of my DVD's, even though they may be fine. I'll keep a few of them, of course, but I don't want a collection of them.

Am I being extreme? Perhaps. But what Jesus did for me was extreme and I want to honor that. My desires are changing quickly and sincerely.

Can all this happen without being truly regenerated yet?

Re: Simple - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/1/14 15:50

Quote:
-----Can all this happen without being truly regenerated yet?

...

Forgetting all the theological brain puzzles for a moment ... Keith, there is an awful lot of similarity's here, perhaps my own testimony might give you something of the idea but if I had to codify it, my own was a rather odd and long .. salvation as far as a particular ... suddenness? Or a grand high moment, it just didn't come about that way.

Listen to your own words and explanations, you are describing the changes as they have happened and are happening, I don't think this is too difficult to ascertain. Nor is that even really all that necessary to say ... what do you know in your heart?

Quote:
-----Am I being extreme? Perhaps. But what Jesus did for me was extreme and I want to honor that. My desires are changing quickly and sincerely.

You might enjoy this brother;

(http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id685&forum35&post_id&refreshGo) Others may but you cannot

Re: - posted by LoveHim, on: 2008/1/14 16:23

Quote:
-----Others may but you cannot

thanks for that article link mike, excellent read.

that one will stay in my heart for a while, i can tell.

thanks,
phil

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/14 19:28

Forgive me, Mike. I might be dull of hearing, but I'm not sure I understand your second paragraph.

Quote:
-----Listen to your own words and explanations, you are describing the changes as they have happened and are happening, I don't think this is too difficult to ascertain. Nor is that even really all that necessary to say ... what do you know in your heart?

Maybe I'm not seeing clearly because I'm in the middle of the situation? What do I know in my heart? That I want to be saved and have every breath, thought, word and deed be pleasing and honorable, giving glory to the Father at whatever cost to me. Right now, that's all I know.

I tried to find your testimony on the forums, but I must be dull of seeing, too! Now that I'm home, I'll look again.

And thank you for posting that link. I printed a copy of it out. All at once it's a warning, a rebuke and a loving proclamation! It's timely for me. I want to be careful with my words so I will heed it.

Re: Living ... - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/1/14 21:09

Quote:
-----Maybe I'm not seeing clearly because I'm in the middle of the situation? What do I know in my heart? That I want to be saved and have every breath, thought, word and deed be pleasing and honorable, giving glory to the Father at whatever cost to me. Right now, that's all I know.

Sorry brother if I made a muddle of this. Maybe I am just puzzled at where or what state you find yourself in.

"*what doth hinder me*" ? Acts 8:27

Also apologize for sending you on a goose chase, it can be found under my profile, that was very poor of me ...

Edit: About midway down ...

(http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id438&forum44&post_id&refreshGo) When Jesus came into my life.

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/17 14:51

Quote:
-----Sorry brother if I made a muddle of this. Maybe I am just puzzled at where or what state you find yourself in.

I'm sure you didn't make a muddle of the situation, Mike. I'm certain it was me. This new life has been so overwhelming . Its been accompanied by different overflowing emotions that it was difficult to see anything very clearly at first. Joy and mourning at the same time? That's difficult to process!

When I recognized this, I slowed down to breathe, taking more time to be in prayer. I don't want to be flighty or careless so I'm taking the time to allow the Holy Spirit to work in me.

As great as much of the teaching I find here is, I don't want to get so involved in it that it becomes an idol in my life, replacing time spent reading the Word *for myself* and being in actual fellowship with the Father, instead of just hearing about Him from a teacher.

I think many Americans have a tendency to hold the teacher up higher than *The Teacher*. I never want to grow dull or lose the direction of my focus. I don't want the sermons to become the object of my affection, instead of the Father.

One day at a time, right?

Thank you for the link to your testimony. We didn't have a similar childhood, (I was abused and the naive goody-two-shoes.) But the long process of our being saved does have its similarities. Your testimony shows the abundance of grace God has shown you! I've never done drugs and I can't imagine how difficult that lifestyle is to break free from. I see His hand on you throughout your life. Now, *that's* love! Thanks again, Mike.

Re:, on: 2008/1/21 22:38

How's the journey, brother?

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Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/22 0:29

Quote:

-----by Roniya on 2008/1/21 21:38:06

How's the journey, brother?

Thank you for asking, sister! I'm so eager to talk about it but I have posted so much already that I'm afraid of being a nuisance.

I feel very strange. Like the person who I was in the past is gone. I *feel* new. Like I just woke up from a horrible dream or, at least, a long nap!

I feel like time is now speeding by so quickly. Too quickly. I can't get enough of the Word. Like I said before, I just want to chew it and swallow it and get fat on it, making it a part of me.

I'm listening/watching about six sermons a day here and on Sermon Audio. Paul Washer, Keith Daniel, Leonard Ravenhill, A.W. Tozer, and many of the "saints of old." What life was I living before? How could I not have known of these men 20 years ago?

My desires have changed, my tastes have changed, my thoughts have changed, my relationships have changed... even my relationship with sin has changed! I get so angry with sin! There's a hatred that burns in me for it! I never thought sin was a good thing, but to be so passionate about it that it burns with hatred is new.

I weep. A lot. My sins. Society today. The state of the church. Christian persecution. My own comfort. Missionaries. I weep for them all. Mixed in with those tears are tears of joy! I weep in praise to Him. I weep in Worship. I weep over a brother or sister's victory. I weep for sheer joy.

Going to work is foreign to me now. It feels complacent. How can things just continue as they are when so many people are going to hell? How can things just stroll along as if Jesus' return wasn't around the corner? The work itself seems so meaningless. But, I know the people are not.

The day before I found my first Paul Washer teaching (which is what led me down this road of Truth), I wanted nothing more than to move to the mountains of Montana, build a log cabin in the middle of nowhere and make a living from my writing. No more cities, no more technology, no more crowds and noise. And now, I don't care what happens to me. I want my life to be completely spent when it's over. I want to complete the call God's placed on my life. I don't care where He leads me to live or what He leads me to do because I know that He will be there and give me the grace and the strength to complete the task. I trust His timing.

I've started going to a church again after eight years of mistrust, abuse and deception. It's a whole new experience. I see people differently now.

This has been a lot to go through in just 10 short days! Can you see why it feels like time is speeding up for me? :-? This is so much to happen in such a short time! My head is spinning. But, I finally have peace.

Re:, on: 2008/1/22 1:31

Quote:

-----SimpleLiving wrote:

...I don't want to get so involved in it that it becomes an idol in my life, replacing time spent reading the Word for myself and being in actual fellowship with the Father, instead of just hearing about Him from a teacher.

This is wisdom Brother. When He Himself can speak to you with His Own Voice. Very Good!

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/22 13:30

Quote:

-----by HE_Reigns on 2008/1/22 0:31:35

Quote:

SimpleLiving wrote:

...I don't want to get so involved in it that it becomes an idol in my life, replacing time spent reading the Word for myself and being in actual fellowship with the Father, instead of just hearing about Him from a teacher.

This is wisdom Brother. When He Himself can speak to you with His Own Voice. Very Good!

Thank you for the encouragement, Sister. I want to say some things and I hope people will know that they come from my heart and not out of any false sense of humility, pride or anything else.

I have such a hunger for the Word right now that the only "distraction" to me is being on this site and listening to sermon s. I'm working on balance, but, because I'm so new to this, I can't seem to get enough of these marvelous preachers!

But, I'm weak and scared. I've come to fully realize that I can't do anything without Him. I *know* this. But I'm having a very difficult time forming new habits. I'm still automatically doing things the way I used to do them without stopping and asking for His help. I don't want to do that!

When I'm praying or reading the Word, my flesh wants to hop on this site and listen to a sermon because I seem to learn more quickly here. When I'm reading the Word, which I do enjoy, I'm afraid the old Word of Faith information will kick in again and I'll continue being deceived. (That's why I prefer the sermons here.) How do I rid my brain of years of that teaching, knowing what to keep and what to toss? It's not easy. It's ingrained in me.

I'm also having a hard time praying. Frankly, praying scares me because I don't want to be disrespectful. I'm afraid I'll approach Him incorrectly, without the honor and respect He deserves. But I also don't want to get legalistic.

I'm scared to just be me. He's so holy and I'm the farthest thing from being holy. I don't know anyone who deserves His forgiveness less than I do. I just can't comprehend that kind of love being available for me. I came from an abusive home and don't ever remember hearing "I love you." I know He loves me but I don't know how to talk to Him. Have I confessed everything? Am I missing anything? etc., I just want to be made more like Jesus. I'm scared of my prayers becoming "me" centered.

I've been listening to as many sermons on the Word and prayer as I can find but eventually, it comes down to me and just doing it. This is very difficult for me because I'm not worthy to even think about Him, much less approach Him. I'm NOT trying to be humble or fake by saying this. This is a huge obstacle for me to overcome! I feel like I'm taking up His time.

The funny thing is, I know better. I know He loves me more than I'll ever comprehend and that I've been made righteous in His eyes. I know He wants nothing more than to spend as much time with me as I'll give Him. I know He wants to lavish me with His love, comfort and even His gifts. I believe this is true, but it's just head knowledge right now and not heart knowledge. I just don't know how to accept this mercy. It's undeserved and it hurts me unbearably to know that I've ever hurt such a holy and loving God! That if I ever comprehend the scope of my wretchedness that I'll break down and never recover from the hell of it.

I know what I need to do. I really do. It's a matter of my overcoming the fear and just doing it. To trust Him as I know He's worthy to be trusted and believed. Why is this so difficult for me? It doesn't make any sense!

If anyone is so inclined, please pray for me. I value prayers more than riches. Forgive me for my long posts. I don't intend to be long-winded.

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Re:, on: 2008/1/22 15:56

Quote:

SimpleLiving wrote:

If anyone is so inclined, please pray for me. I value prayers more than riches. Forgive me for my long posts. I don't intend to be long-winded.

You have my prayers, brother. And don't worry about long posts or being afraid of sharing about your journey. It is *exciting* to hear what GOD is doing in your life! It's more than exciting, it's *awesome*! The mighty workings of God in the lives of human beings always leaves me in awe of His mighty power and tender love for a race that is so desperately needy and unworthy of His love. Oh, hallelujah!

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are **the sons of God.***

*15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.***

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 ¶ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Romans 8

What an amazing privilege to call this holy and mighty God, Father!

Brother, there is a young preacher who has a few messages here on SI that has exhibited the most child-like trust in His heavenly Father both in his preaching, praying and life. The one thing I so appreciate about Roy Daniel (son of Keith Daniel) is the confidence He has in his heavenly Father. I know you are probably swamped with all these wonderful sermon recommendations but you might want to slip one of

(<http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid367>) Roy's sermons in there. His message on faith is really good, and the one on prayer is...it's Roy. And his series on spiritual growth are excellent.

But of course, don't neglect the Word of God for the words of men. ;-)

Re: - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2008/1/31 18:33

Quote:

-----What an amazing privilege to call this holy and mighty God, Father!

Amen! Amen! Amen! He is holy!

I'm grateful to be able to share how my life is being so transformed. I've experienced so much that it's difficult to not show it from the housetops! I want to make sure that I share it here, rather than in the forums. This way, only those who are really interested will read it, instead of subjecting everyone else to it. Maybe others who find themselves in my position can glean some hope from it. To God be the glory!

When I posted my prayer request, God was answering my prayers already and I didn't even know it. I love when He does that! I have such confidence now, knowing that He knows my needs before I present them. That's an amazing comfort!

The Holy Spirit showed me what the Father was working out of me. I came from an abusive family background where I needed to perform to be accepted. I came from the abusive Word of Faith background where people are expected to perform in order to be accepted. I had *absolutely no clue* that I had become a performance-motivated individual. It makes sense because I'm that way at work, too. It was so ingrained in me that I didn't question it. It's all I knew. Without realizing it, I thought that, to be loved, I thought I had to earn it and work for it. This never registered with me before. I thought I had accepted God's love by faith, but I was deceived! No wonder I never had any peace or rest!

The things I posted in my

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(http://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id21892&forum44&post_id&refreshGo) prayer request were sincere and came from my heart. It wasn't a show. I was wrestling with God. At that moment, the only thing I knew was that I had to drop everything and seek Him only. No internet, no nothing. (Frankly, I didn't even answer my phone.) I know, now, what it means to seek Him like a desperate, starving man; to require Him as vital.

In this time, unbeknownst to me, I was being transformed in my mind and habits. I still am (and always will be). He let me know that this is how He wants to keep me - desperately seeking and requiring Him as vital.

A wonderful side-effect that this purging had/has includes my own desires. It's almost as if anything I ever wanted for myself before seems so low a thing to aim for. I was very careful of what movies I watched. But now, I don't have any desire for movies whatsoever. I'm not being legalistic. I know watching a decent movie is not an evil thing. But my desire to do this *really* has changed! I don't seek to be entertained in any way anymore.

Once I *experienced* His love, and it went from head knowledge down into my heart, it changed me. No more anxiety or restlessness. Just peace and an eagerness for more of Him.

Now, *please* don't misunderstand me. I'm not trying to boast or be "super-Christian." Frankly, I'd like for the "me" in all of this to disappear completely so its only God that's seen! This is all God and God *alone*. I'm fully aware that this desire is planted in me by Him and I can't help but respond. On my own, I couldn't have the desire or endurance to do anything of this. I say all of this to say how utterly happy and joyful I am! What an Awesome and Merciful God we serve! I don't want to live any other way! I *need* to put this much time into His Word just to make it through a single day! Everything else seems so trivial compared to being transformed into the image of Christ and living wholly (and holy) for Him.

So, I'm just going to rest in, obey, and trust in Him. This is where I'm at right now and this is enough. He's enough. I'll continue as I am until directed otherwise. I don't have to *do* anything! Just be. Be His child and accept Him at His Word. What a gift! What a burden to be freed from! It must be somewhat like what a slave would feel like if someone told him his freedom has been purchased from an evil master. He would be free to leave and do whatever he wanted to, but he freely chooses to follow the one who freed him and serve him with joy.

I think this is part of the problem with Christians today. We've forgotten exactly who this God we serve is and what He is able to do. Also, who we *truly* are in Him - because of Him - and what promises and resources He makes available to us if we'll only believe and obey Him. Utterly remarkable!

Re: New guy in MN, on: 2008/4/7 13:40

Hi Keith,

It took me a while to notice your absence, but I'm missing you now - :-?

So.... if you're reading this, could you drop me a line please, at my email? I don't mean to ask for details you can't give, but, if there is something to pray for, or rejoice with you over, it would be encouraging to share in it with you.

Please know you became part of what goes on here, and whatever God is doing in you also has an impact on us - as vice versa. I hope you still laying hold of the faithfulness of God. May He get all the glory.

God bless you abundantly.

Re: - posted by Nellie, on: 2008/4/7 14:09

This is a wonderful, encouraging Testimony.
Thank-you Keith, for sharing what God is doing for and in you.
May He bless you abundantly.
We all need to be encouraged.
Jesus is our ever present Help.
Nellie

Re: New guy in MN - posted by SimpleLiving (), on: 2011/6/30 23:31

Great mercies, has it really been three years?

I don't know if anyone will remember me after all this time. I decided to post here, in my old "Welcome" thread, after reading it again as one might re-read an old journal. It feels like ages ago, when the world was a different place. When I was different.

I just wanted to re-introduce myself again. I'll post more about my absence, and my return, another time. Right now, it's time for bed. I had no intention to post this evening but had a strong urge to before I signed off.

God's blessings to the family.
Much love,
Keith

Re: - posted by HeartSong, on: 2011/7/1 1:13

KEITH!

Welcome back brother! I was thinking of you not long ago, and now your "New guy in MN" appeared out of no where. I am looking forward to hearing about your journey.

Oh happy day!

Re: - posted by gazzar, on: 2011/7/3 7:41

wow you put a big smile on my face and tears in my eyes when you talked about your first time back in church ,,,,,,,and how blessed are you brother ,for god to draw you into his church ,where john piper teaches ,,im jealous,,,,,you blessed you ,,,,,,,,sounds like god spirit is working over time in your soul

paul washer was one of the first preachers i ever heard ,apart from benjamin and creffo dollar

he had quite an effect on my soul as well
tho i was already born again ,still effected me in a great way

may god fill you with his spirit through his baptism

great to hear your testimony loved reading it

bless you ,,,,,,,,brother gary

Re: - posted by gazzar, on: 2011/7/3 8:12

i just read the rest of your posts ,laughing and crying with you joy

i am not sure if i missed something ,,but brother you are born again ,and you are saved ,,,,

all your emotions and experiences you described are that of one who is born again ,,,,,,,,your testimony has given me much joy ,,thank you for that

i love to hear stories of people who come into the presence of god

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all i can say is what i do start downloding sermons and bible reading ,or do you own bible readings on a voice recorder , and keep drinking his word ,,and get rid of that tv if it makes you feel better

keith daniel has some great sermons wher he memorises the bible ,and speaks the unadultrated writtern word of god

pure bible from that man

there are some of his sermons in the rivivle section of the video sermons on this web site ,

also cater conlon has some good sermons with some verry pwerfull praying ,,,,also some of his are in the rivile meeting s sections of the video sermons on this web site

bless you brother ,,jesus said my sheep hear my voice and i know them ,and they follow me ,and i give to them eternal li fe ,and they shal not perish ,and no man shal pluck them out of my hand