



General Topics :: When I say, "I am a Christian".

When I say, "I am a Christian"., on: 2010/1/11 10:45

I'm sure many of you have read this before, but I hadn't until now...

When I say that 'I am a Christian,' I am not shouting that 'I am clean living.'

I'm whispering 'I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven.'

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I don't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I'm not trying to be strong.

I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I'm not bragging of success.

I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I'm not claiming to be perfect.

My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I still feel the sting of pain.

I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I'm not holier than thou,
I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!

Re: When I say, "I am a Christian". - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/1/11 22:29

Hi Brian,

I appreciate what you've shared here. I am thinking that you would agree that that a Christian is one who is living to a much higher standard than the lost are; a standard governed by the 'law of love' that the Holy Spirit has placed in his/her heart. And yet, as this poem points out, we are not those who have arrived. We are not perfect. We are ones who are glad to confess that we are weak and not strong, and are constantly in need of Christ for strength and wisdom. When a person moves close to a light source, they are made to see any dirt and imperfections on their clothes, though they had not previously seen these things, when standing in the shadows. In a similar way, when we draw near to Christ, we become illuminated to the condition of our sinfulness, though it has been there all along.

I believe that 'brokenness' will be a defining characteristic of us when we draw close to Christ. You see this brokenness manifested in the lives of saints throughout the ages, including many who experienced a powerful move of God, during the fires of revival. I love that simple prayer that Evan Roberts was known to pray, 'Bend me, oh bend me Lord'.

I was interested to know what some specific experiences my brothers and sisters in Christ have gone through, which you feel have brought about a brokenness in your life, at certain points in your life. What 'tools' does God use to bring about this quality in our lives, or the lives of others we know ?

In Jesus,
John

Re: - posted by Areadymind (), on: 2010/1/12 0:47

Quote:
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Since you asked, I have had a few crises as a Christian that have caused me to have much greater dependence upon Him. Part of it can be read here (<http://www.newberegians.com/2009/12/03/gratitude-for-fathers/>) on my blog it was a dark time in my life where I doubted the Christian faith to the point of almost apostasizing. That was my senior year of High School, however after that God strengthened my faith to where now there is not ever a doubt about the faith once delivered to the saints.

The second difficulty I went through was years of spiritual apathy, where I sort of desisted in caring much about my walk as a Christian. About three-ish years ago I was delivered from this as God called me to go on long walks every morning for about six months and I was stuck in the book of Jude, I could not leave it for some reason. It was like every morning I would go to pray and I would just open to Jude and memorize it and pray through all the issues it brought up. I was started from reading this book and thinking about all the things it said so much that I was forced to consider the possibility that I had allowed deception to creep into my life. The area I felt dramatically convicted about was that my faith was more in my confession of faith than it was the real "Faith once delivered to the Saints." I began to understand the nature of Deception and how only doing "That which is natural," is brutish and beastly just like when Nebuchadnezzar was turned on the outside what he already was in the inside.

I began to note how there was little real likeness of Christ in my behavior and disposition. I then began praying that God would show me how to be more like Him. This then led me into study after study of the book of Galatians, and I can say that little by little, every new week I am finding that Jesus is giving me little victories, and big victories, but I can say that now I finally hate sin, and see it for what it is, and I am beginning to understand just what the Grace of God is capable of doing in the life of a believer.

For a while though I was starting to think that some of my studies and conclusions about being a "real" Christian were off

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because I never heard anyone really preach along the lines I felt I was being lead. Then about two or so years later I ran into this website and heard Paul Washer, Ravenhill, Tozer, David Legge, and Art Katz, and I realized that I was probably not crazy.

-In Jesus

Jeremiah

Re: - posted by Richard365, on: 2010/1/14 3:34

I've been a convert for about 20 years living a rollercoaster type of Christian life. I don't remember the actual event that caused my conversion, but the earliest memory was attending the "Heaven's Gate, Hell's Flames" drama at my church. I was young and didn't know, but I was scared into accepting Christ. After that I was up and down over the years never really understanding nor seeking myself. I was a very shallow Christian...and very defeated. My biggest sin to my knowledge at that time was internet pornography. Satan had my number and I was calling. I could never break the addiction on my own. I could go a month or so without, but then I'd be back to it. My marriage was suffering and why she never left me was by the grace of God.

The Lord led me to a place of brokenness and victory and now I've been porn free for almost two years. The Lord then led me to a series of people that would become true Brothers and Sisters. I finally found out what I was missing. That I need to be a disciple, not just a convert. Through the Lord and Brother Zac Poonen's messages, more and more light has been shed on so many areas of my life. I've come to understand the truth and in many areas I've been set free. I know that God has only peeled one layer of the onion that causes me to be unholy...but I am persevering to press onto perfection. I want to be broken in every area of my life that is not Christ-like.

That is just a small description of me and my life with Christ. Maybe I'm not the only like myself. God Bless all who seek holiness.