



If you had asked me 10 years ago, what I thought of God I would have told you that he was for the weak minded, for people that could not find their way in life or did not have the power or the means, to help themselves.

I grew up in an average first generation South American home and though I attended a catholic school during my early childhood, God or the Bible was never mentioned at home and to be honest I never had the inclination to ask questions either.

My understanding of heaven was that all I needed to do was be a good person and to do good things to get there and my understanding of hell was that it was a clearly a place for sinners and for the wicked.

IT REALLY WAS THAT SIMPLE!

In my late teens I started to experiment with the things that the world had to offer, things that seemed to be fairly normal for a person my age to get into, harmless in the eyes of most people. What I didn't realise at the time was that these seemingly harmless seeds I was planting would eventually consume me and enslave me for the next 20 years.

I was introduced to Faith Baptist Church by my wife Aydah, who first encouraged me to walk through the front door. Sometimes I would attend willingly with an open heart and sadly at other times begrudgingly.

I felt like I was doing the Lord a big favor by being here. This is where the Lord started to chip away at me but I would not allow him into my heart.

6 years on and I was still in the same place spiritually.

I had a better understanding of Gods word, I'd said the sinners prayer a few times, I'd spoken at length with many of you, I'd prayed with you and even gone out soul winning with some of you.

I'd even made a public profession! but I still would not allow the Lord into my heart, I struggled with the notion of having to let go of my old ways.

Regrettably, late in 2010 life as I knew it was on the brink of collapse, my wife and I were going through a time of separation, I had dug myself in so deep that I couldn't see a way out, I couldn't hide alone in the dark any longer, I knew that I had no choice but to bring everything out into the light.

You see the truth was that I was living a completely defeated life, I was pursuing the things of this world, trying to find fulfillment and pleasure through them but when I had gone far further than I ever imagined I could go I realised that there was nothing there and the more I searched the less I found, no joy, no happiness just a deep dark empty void, my spirit felt dead.

GALATIANS 5:22-23 TELLS US!

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

When I was shown this verse I thought, how could I possibly be a saved Christian? I didn't have any of these things in my life but by the time I came to this realization it was too late, the consequences of my past were out of my control.

I acknowledged there and then, that the Lord wanted to take control of my future and this time I was not going to refuse him.

I remember coming before the Lord, so broken, so helpless I just wanted to put it all at his feet.

I said "Lord I know I can't go on another day as a slave to my sin, my way just isn't working, I just want to give my whole heart to you Lord".

That moment was when the holy spirit moved in, he picked me up, strengthened me, gave me a new heart even though I really didn't deserve it and just in case I had any reason to ever doubt his love for me... he displayed his mercy in the most incredible way.

The Lord showed his mercy to me through the one person that I deserved it from the very least. Only God himself could have done that.

Am I perfect? I don't think I'll ever be perfect but I can say that I am a new creature. I have new life a renewed marriage and I'm experiencing life in a

completely different way all because of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross. He paid the penalty for my sin!

It wasn't until I took the Lord at his word and put my faith in Jesus that he showed me who I really was, a sinner looking for a savior and who he really was, a savior looking to save a sinner.

All I needed to do was allow him into my heart.

THE BIBLE TELLS US IN 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”