

MARK LENNARTZ—CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY

My name is Mark, and this is how I have become a Christian.

I was born and raised in a loving caring Catholic family. My parents raised me the best they knew how. They took me to church every Sunday and always told me that I had to go to church to learn about God and the Catholic faith.

On November 22, 1985, I married my wife, Rita, who was also Catholic. Sometime in March of 1990 she came to me and said that she turned her life over to Jesus Christ and she felt as she was now a whole new person and she knew she was going to heaven.

I thought to myself “good, maybe she will settle down a little” because she lived a more outgoing lifestyle than I did. She told me that she and her friend, Mary, were praying for me that I would do the same. I told her that I thought I was going to heaven because I was a good person. I was nice to people, went to church regularly, obeyed the Ten Commandments and I went to confession. Rita told me I was going about it all wrong. She said I needed a personal relationship with Jesus, so Rita and her friend, Mary, asked me if I would meet with the pastor at their church. The date was August 12, 1990. I agreed and during the meeting the pastor explained to me why I need Jesus in my life and what I needed to do to ask Jesus into my life. He told me I needed to admit that I was a sinner because the Bible says “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” *Romans 3:23*. The only way back to God is through Jesus Christ.

I needed to realize that being a good person wasn't enough. Because it is by God's grace and our faith that we are saved, and it is a gift of God: *Ephesians 2:8-9* “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.”

I needed to believe that Jesus died for us sinners: *Romans 5:8* “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” That our sin is forgiven by the shed blood of Jesus: *1 John 1:7* “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

I needed to put my faith in Jesus alone for my salvation: *Acts 16:31* “And they said, Believe, on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” and *John 14:6* “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”

After the pastor explained why I needed to do this, I prayed with him and accepted “Jesus as my Savior!”

Now the difference in my life is I know for sure I am going to heaven, instead of “I think so.” Now I want to go to church and read the bible, instead of “I have to.” Also, I want to be a good person because I am now a child of God.

Is life easier for me now? No, not really, but I know
that Jesus is with me during my life's journey and I know that I am going to heaven.

I also want to say that God gave me another chance. About 40 years ago I was in a very serious car accident and was the only survivor out of four people. My neighbor told me that God wasn't done with me yet. At the time I wasn't for sure what he meant by saying that, but now I understand. “The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” *2 Peter 3:9*. *Praise God!!*