

# Salvation Testimony

**Kyrstyn Thompson**

I don't remember the specific day that I was saved. I grew up occasionally going to church and participating in my small county's local AWANA program and eventually high school youth group. I heard the story of the Gospel many times, although it never gripped me or grabbed my attention in any way. I would sit and listen to the sermons, but they seemed boring and dull, and I couldn't wait to be able to talk to my friends again. I had no desire to read my Bible or even contemplate the things of God, and I felt very little to no guilt for the things that I watched, talked about, thought about, and the general attitudes that I had. I remember feeling like my thinking was cloudy and unclear, and I couldn't see the right way to go in many situations. However, on the outside I tried to appear like a sweet, unassuming girl that went to church and cared about those around her. It is only now that I can see how selfish and manipulative I truly was, and that I never cared for anyone or anything other than myself and my sin.

This all changed early in 2015, when two major life events forced me to stop and think about my life. I thought about the choices I was making and the people that I was spending my time with. By God's grace I cut those relationships off and things started to change. The sermons at youth group grabbed my attention more than they had in previous years. One in particular, about how to study the Bible, struck a chord with me, giving me a small spark of desire to read my Bible, which had once seemed like an impossible chore. Many times before in my life I had gone through high moments where I felt very close to the Lord and I felt a strong drive to read my Bible, but all of these feelings had faded away within a few months time. This time it was different; this small spark of desire for God's Word grew as I began to read my Bible once again, but with a new sense of interest. The words seemed to jump off of the pages and into my mind, and I began to feel a mental clarity that I had never felt before. Then in the fall of 2015, I had the opportunity to go to Hartstone Bible Camp as a volunteer. It was then that I met Dave and Julie, and we stayed up late many nights talking about the Bible. They talked about "doctrine" and "theology" which I had never heard of before. My soul hungered for more and more truths of the Word, and passages I had once not understood at all were made clear as Dave and Julie used scripture to interpret scripture. The Lord opened my mind and heart to Himself and taught me about loving Him and loving others, and what it truly meant to be saved. I learned about the Gospel with a fresh heart, hearing as if for the first time about my sinful nature and deep need for the cleansing blood that Jesus Christ shed on the cross that I may be saved, and His resurrection three days later that I might have life and a hope in heaven.

God wove my story together little by little, until I realized that the things I once found fun or intriguing were now horrifying and unthinkable to do once more. There is no specific day that I can remember committing my life to the Lord, rather a series of events and small moments that I can now look back on and point to as the sovereign hand of God guiding my heart towards Himself. He is still teaching me and guiding me in many ways every day, and while my growth now may not be as fast or dramatic as my growth in those first few months of salvation, He is constantly faithful to prune my heart through deep convictions and through the piercing words of the Bible. Though I still have so many moments of sinful attitudes and selfishness, He is faithful to correct me in every way. I know from His Word that I, though still so imperfect and sinful, can hope in His sanctification throughout my whole life and that I will be brought before Him one day in glory. Jude 24-25 reminds me that God alone can do this and that He alone is worthy of praise, saying, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."