

My Damascus Road Story

I was raised in a Christian family. In high school I even become one of the leaders of the high school's Christian fellowship. After high school, however, when I moved to the U.S. to study, under various influences, I turned away from my Christian upbringing and I conveniently took up Eastern philosophies that allowed me to live a playboy lifestyle that was without reference to God or to the will of God, and that was a rejection of my Christian upbringing.

By the amazing grace of God, many, many years later, one evening, through reading one single sentence in a book written by Norman Anderson, a British Christian leader, I had my Damascus Road experience; I found myself almost involuntarily falling on my knees and praying a real prayer of genuine repentance, and I miraculously experienced new birth in Christ. The following morning when I woke up, I realized that something very radical had happened to me that was very different from my earlier childhood and high school Christian experience. There was an immediate, complete, and dramatic change in my life, my priorities, and my interests. Everything changed. I was never the same again. Like Paul, my repentance turned me into a true follower of Jesus Christ, and I have never looked back.

This is one of the amazing things about becoming a Christian; one minute you're not a Christian, you're not born again, you're not saved, but as soon as you respond to God in genuine biblical repentance and place your faith in the work of Christ on the cross for you, the next minute, you are a Christian. There's no long-drawn out process. Listen to how Fanny Crosby, the great American Christian hymn writer of the 19th century, describes this in her hymn, *To God Be The Glory: O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To every believer, the promise of God, The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.* That moment, you see, that moment, God forgives you, and He receives you as His own!

Let me add this. During those years when I was away from the Lord, doing my own thing and carrying on in that life, my mother had never stopped praying for me to return to the faith. So, to all the parents here this morning that are praying for their young people who have walked away from the faith in which they were raised, please don't give up. The Lord is listening to you, and in the same way that He listened and responded to my mother's prayers for me, I encourage you to believe that the Lord will do the same for you.