

Growing By Grace

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When I was a child, my parents would take me and my siblings to church on Sundays but they themselves would not attend. There were pictures on the wall of Jesus' journey to the cross and I guess I heard about Jesus but I don't remember being impacted by what I heard.

One day the janitor at our high school told me about Jesus and what His death on the cross was about. He made it personal to me and I remember being stunned by the news. I made my way to the desert, behind the cemetery in my town and knelt down in a big hole in the ground, prayed and accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. I felt a weight lift off my shoulders but I didn't know what it all meant. Years later I started reading the bible and couldn't get enough. Things were good for a while.

As time went on, I never got into a bible teaching church because I was critical of them all. Slowly but surely I stopped reading the Word of God and slid into drinking and partying and just living any old way I wanted to. The whole time I felt the Lord wooing me back to Himself. I would get into trouble time and again, finding myself locked up. It was there the Lord would get my attention again and draw me to Himself.

Alcohol had been a problem for me throughout the years. Why the Lord puts up with me is evidence of His loving kindness and patience with me. I wouldn't put up with someone like myself but God is so much greater than me and I am very thankful.

God has, time and again, shown himself powerful on my behalf and delivered me from sinful habits. Even placing me in the ministry to share his goodness with others. Once more I got away from God's Word and fellowshiping with His people and ended up in Salt Lake City. I believe the Lord has me here at the Salt Lake City Mission for a reason but I'm not exactly sure what it is yet.

I thank God He has this ministry available for men like me because I realize how important the Word of God is and how vital it is for believers to support and encourage each other. I was never really disciplined in the importance of the Word of God and fellowship when I first got saved. At the Mission this is top priority and exactly what I need to get and stay strong in the Lord. - February 2011