

I never took God seriously

I was raised up in a Roman Catholic home, going to church every Sunday but without being taught the word of God. My Mum and Dad were strong members of the church and led the choir. My Dad died followed by my Mum and then my two elder brothers all with a short interval and that was so painful to me. I decided to travel to Europe.

When I left Africa for Europe I first went to Holland and then came to England. This was as a result of me praying and fasting and the Lord provided the money through someone I met.

When I look back I realise that although I was praying every day, I never took God seriously. In fact, I spent two years in England drinking and partying with friends. I got to the stage where I was drinking a lot. I could easily consume 24 cans of beer a day and smoke lots of cigarettes as well. Then one day I started thinking about my life and remembered how I came to be in England. At that point I took my Bible in my room and started reading it.

I asked God to teach me. I started reading the Bible every day and God started revealing a lot to me. I was really shocked at what I was discovering as there were many discrepancies between what the Bible said and what was happening in the church I went to at the time. For example, after reading the word of God I realised that child sprinkling (sometimes called "infant baptism" or "christening") is a deception as it is not mentioned in the Bible and was not practised by the church of the New Testament. I realised that Jesus called adults to repent and be baptised so I started going to two different churches because I wanted to be baptised. Unfortunately in both churches I was given appointments but I knew it was urgent so I prayed and asked God to lead me to the truth, that is to His true church, to people who believe the word of God.

One day I decided to go into our main shopping centre in town to buy a Bible with the words of Jesus written in red. On my way I saw someone preaching and people handing out leaflets about Jesus. I couldn't get what I wanted in town so I took the leaflet back to my shop and started reading it. I said to myself "These might be the people" so I called the pastor who by this time had gone home but he left his house straight away and came to see me. We sat down and talked about the leaflet and being born again. Later that same day I was baptised in a local swimming pool and also filled with Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues.

I stopped drinking and smoking and have peace in my life even though I have difficult circumstances to cope with. Praise God! Now I want other people to see that the truth is contained in the Bible and that we must repent and be baptised as Jesus said.

God has given me the confidence now to preach in the open air, in the shopping centre where I first heard the preaching. I would not have had the confidence to do this before I was born again but all fear has gone. I want others to know that sprinkling will not take you to heaven. You need to repent and be baptised by full emersion and then continue walking with Jesus if you want to inherit eternal life.

I will bless the Lord at all times in Jesus name!

Emmanuel