

News and Current Events :: Which side of this debate do you stand on? Speak up now Let it be known!

Which side of this debate do you stand on? Speak up now Let it be known!, on: 2012/4/25 10:46

I asked for testimonies to be shared about conversions to Christ. It got viewed over 100 times. Only one person took the time/desire to share what God did in their life in transferring them from death to life. I know many of the "long time regulars" saw this and just thought nothing of it, not feeling compelled at all to share about the grace poured out on them. I know they viewed it based on "who's online now". Yet, many of these same people would immediately lay out a 10 paragraph discourse to argue a point if I started a new post on something political, a theological doctrine that people disagree on, etc.

Those here who are spiritual and who would consider themselves mature, why do you think that is? What's wrong with this? What do you think it means? God gave me a dream last night about competitiveness, pride, & humility. I think I know what it says. We are not as humble as we ought to be. I must confess, there is part of me that wonders - "if most of the posting crowd is chomping at the bit to "argue their stance" on a number of things, but not "chomping at the bit" to share their testimony about how Christ saved them from their sins, are some still delusional, trapped in their sins (just "religious" ones)?"

"They overcome him by the blood of the lamb, the word of our testimony, & that we love not our lives unto death". If we spend more time posting our arguments than we do in the presence of Christ, in the Word, & in prayer, our whole discussion becomes flesh is during from the bowels of natural men who know "about" God, but are distancing themselves from His Grace more daily. I'm not judging anyway. It was a test/warning/rebuke from the Lord just as much for me than anyone. Lord crush me into the powder of total humility, so that truly I can be used to bear real fruit for your kingdom, not just flesh giving birth to flesh, making me feel good about my religious stances. God forgive and forbid we go on in such manner!!!!

Re: Which side of this debate do you stand on? Speak up now Let it be known! - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2012/4/25 11:00

Brother, i saw your thread and did not reply or share, I can not speak for anyone else, but many of the "old timers" have back in the "archives" given their testimony, i suppose it would be beneficial when newer members ask for them to reply again and share how we came to repentance.

Re: Which side of this debate do you stand on? Speak up now Let it be known! - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/4/25 11:00

Greetings Jeff

You wrote: I asked for testimonies to be shared about conversions to Christ. It got viewed over 100 times. Only one person took the time/desire to share what God did in their life in transferring them from death to life. I know many of the "long time regulars" saw this and just thought nothing of it, not feeling compelled at all to share about the grace poured out on them. I know they viewed it based on "who's online now".

I understand what your saying here but you have included all of us on SI with what you said, and it honestly is just not true. I did see your other thread and thought to reply but then I felt the LORD stop me. I wondered why this might be and after much prayer I realize because my testimony is not fully finished yet. I have posted how I first came to JESUS several times in threads just like or similar to the one you started before and as I thought about posting it again the LORD quickened to my heart, but what about what I showed you two years after that day? what about the things I revealed to you yesterday? So I began to pray and seek what the LORD would have me post in response to your thread. I still can not say I have a full answer but I can say that I am seeking and in prayer about it. I know many here have posted their testimony when they came to JESUS as well as other significant times in their lives that JESUS touched them, but as mentioned there is benefit for new members of SI perhaps to post them again.

God Bless
mj

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 11:31

It was not and is not my attempt to assault or judge anyone in this. Just evaluate one statement and answer it:

Is there something wrong (in general) when everyone waits ready to jump in and argue "their stance" on some matter of politics, theological stance on non-essential doctrine, etc., but no one is eager to share their testimony? When a political thread has hundreds of posts, but a call for testimonies gets one response? In general, do you discern something is wrong with our heart/focus/place when that is true? Some posted in LENGTHY FASHION with endless paragraphs to defend our country and involvement in the political process as almost "an ordinance of scripture", but those same "posters" look at the call for sharing testimonies of conversion, & aren't drawn from within to type a single word to give God Glory for exactly what He did in their life to save them from hell? This is not a judgemental litmus test, so no one get defensive. Consider this a rhetorical question & meditate on what this means relative to our hearts, our witness, our focus, our pride and competitive fleshly nature of spiritual immaturity, etc. This isn't aimed at any ONE person. This is food for thought for ALL of US

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/4/25 12:14

Greetings Jeff

I realize you said that this was not aimed at any one person but I felt the need to come back and share that I truly did not mean to come across as defensive in my post to you. I am sorry if it seemed so, please forgive me. I was merely attempting to explain my own thought and heart as to why I did not post my testimony yet again in your new thread. I do see that it might have been helpful if I had just simply shared what was on my heart in the other thread. Lesson I earned.

As to what you say in this thread I understand and it is a good reminder to check and be sure that our hearts are in the right place when we post. Thank you.

God Bless
mj

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 12:37

MaryJane. No worries at all sister. I can tell by your response, humility, & gentleness that you are not the one in need of really hearing/heeding this warning to examine our motives and check our pride/humility. I know the Lord showed me this for me personally & for several others here on the site who haven't responded, but I pray the Lord uses it to work on their heart/mind to examine their motives/actions. Your kind spirit is clear & may the Lord do as He always does for your humility: "exalt you in due time". God Bless

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/4/25 13:43

hi, i grew up on the east coast of the us and never heard the gospel or met a christian for 24 years. i mocked Christ and was as tormented by demons daily to the point where i was always in trouble with the police even though my grandfather was the ex mayor of the city and my father was a police man. because of this my wife left me and moved to new orleans. she forgave me and i moved to n.o. to be with my family. i went to work at sears next to the baptist seminary where i was witnessed to every day for a year. after a year i went to bourbon street to see if bob harrington; aka the chaplain of bourbon street was for real or not and he led me to Jesus. i have not had demonic battles in my life since then and have not had the flu or a cold or a headache either. a year later in the same room i got saved in, i was praying and asking God for help with my sanctification process and telling God i was not a good christian and needed help, i was baptized in the Holy Spirit without ever being in a pentacostal church. that was 48 years ago and i have been serving the Lord in my heart since.
jimp

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 15:16

Jeff... your numbers may be a little skewed. You did not take into account that there are thousands of people world-wide who come to this website and view the forum but never join, and therefore never contribute to the conversation... but the website still counts their views.

So a controversial topic gets many many views, and that's a very natural thing, but I would not be too quick to judge the members here on that. I am sure more members will view a controversial topic, but the fact is that many of those views are not from members.

You cant really get a good feel for how many members are actually view one thread over another because of that.

As for me, I agree with the others... I dont have time to repeat myself.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 15:17

Praise God! I did a Marti Gras Mission Evangelism trip once and think I might have met that Bob guy. Anyways, I was born to a broken-hearted alcoholic rebel father in his 40's. He was other worldly intelligent and handsome, but his life was a tragedy cause he didn't have Christ. He married a beautiful young hippy-chick (she was like 18, he was like 45?). When the aorta valve to his heart exploded the morning after his birthday (& an all night drinking binge), she was left to deal with it all. On drugs, lost, young, & lost. She too was extremely bright, but wasted her youth on Hippie concerts, Acid trips, and hit hiking across the US. She was so naturally intelligent that she later went into the military, and wrote some secret code the CIA/Secret Service use today, if I understand it right.

So, she was too busy doing drugs and partying to take care of me, a baby. She left me with baby-sitters and didn't come back for days. Actually, not at all. My aunt came and got me and took care of me. I was adopted at age 2 or 3. At 3, at Casa View Baptist Church Mothers Day Out, a lady led those of us interested (me) in a prayer time to call upon the Lord. I totally forgot till I was born again at 23 of the experience, but I saw Christ on a throne point at me and say "you are mine". At 5-6 I found my brothers' porn mag collection and was totally confused, attacked, and oppressed through much of my childhood. I listened to their satanic ally themed music of the 70's and early 80's. I dealt with lots of abandonment issues a child because my real mother didn't want me.

As a child, I naturally had a high academic aptitude and did extremely well at all things scholastic pretty much without trying. I nearly aced achievement tests in minutes as a show of my own intellectual pride before most were off the first page or two. I believed in God, I wanted to be good, but I just always found myself drawn to things evil - sexual lust, rock music (became a very talented drummer), alcohol & drugs, etc.

I knew I was smarter than most of my teachers, so I played games with their tests and assignments & would openly debate them if they were wrong to make them look foolish in front of the class. I had a major problem with authority. My adopted dad had a MAJOR problem with anger so I was whipped pretty bad, but never hugged, told I was loved, or explained about God's purpose in discipline afterwards (he didn't know God, how could he teach me). I was so hard to deal with at times, my mom took me to the #1 Christian Psychologist in the country (wrote books with Moody Group is what I was told). He tested me and counseled me repeatedly and told my mom my intellect was better than 99% of the general population, but my motor skills were average. That difference caused behavioral issues, he said (Christian/worldly quasi-psychology missed the real issue). This just made me more proud of my "super-intellect". People always told me how smart I was, & unfortunately, I drank the Kool-Aid & suffered for it in my foolishness!!).

I drank alcohol by the gallon, had sex, & fought anyone who wanted to fight from 14-18. Then, in college, I wanted to "chill out" & grow-up, so I stopped drinking so much. Then I tried ecstasy!!! All that mattered from then on was getting as high as possible all the time. When "EX" wasn't available, I started to use cocaine, meth, etc. Then, I discovered Heroin! See, I wasn't the kid on the street corner you thought would end up in tons of trouble. I was a relatively good looking kid, smart, funny who's who among American High School students, Wittiest, Most Masculine, Most Attractive, lettered in 5 sports, etc. how did I end up addicted to heroin?

So, that only goes on so long or you die right-Heroin use! So, I left university, went home, and went through heroin withdrawals. Wow-they're really bad. I prayed for God to help me, got out my Bible and read the only chapter I knew - 1 Corinthians 13. I came out alive by God's grace. I had already had a gun stuck to my head and the trigger pulled (God jammed that bullet in the chamber!! I had already been in multiple car crashes that should have killed me. I had already done enough cocaine and heroin in one sitting to kill anyone and lived!!

I was always muscular, so when people starting saying how skinny I looked (175 for me looks skinny as I'm normally around 200+ in shape, working out). So, I hooked up with a buddy who partied, but did steroids and worked out and looked great! So, I headed out down another road. The Lord even warned me in my heart back then. My heart said "I don't do hard drugs anymore, get drunk, beat people up, or any of that stuff anymore. I'm doing good. I just want to keep doing steroids, enjoying pornography, & I'll get an education and do good in life. That's OK right?"

So, the Lord allowed me to go down that road full bore for several years. Before you know it, I was a MONSTER!! As much as 245 lbs, using drugs of all kinds daily (GHB, Meth, Rohyphnols, Valium, Nubain, and sometimes cocaine/heroin, etc.). I carried guns, moved shipments of drugs, beat people bloody for \$, moved stolen ATV's in volume, etc., etc. I was ruled by demonic forces daily!! I fought and won a "Toughman" contest (SAE Fight nights in Denton, TX) and I hadn't slept in 3 days!! I should have had a heart attack and died. I OD'd and ended up in the hospital on support, monitors, drinking drug absorbing "asphalt" multiple times! If someone looked at me wrong in a bar, I tried to kill them with my bare hands. I beat one guy up so bad I had to go to court and defend attempted murder/aggravated assault charges in a self defense trial.

I was already on probation for many things including possession of LSD. I knew I was being watched by the police but couldn't stop. I was in total bondage. The Lord began reaching into those places (doing drugs with friends!!) & calling out to me!! It was so wild how he Sovereignly orchestrated it all when I was in THAT PLACE I WAS IN!!

One day, I was about to smoke some meth in my apartment kitchen by myself. I just broke down crying and weeping and said "God, if you're real, I don't want to do this anymore, but I can't stop, please help me!!" I felt the room change!! It was a taste of the peace of God and a ray of hope!! It didn't last, it vanished when I decided I had to smoke that meth wa nt to or not.

About two hours later, 5 Agencies came knocking on my door!! Dallas Sheriffs Dept, North Texas Drug Task Force of D EA, Rockwall detectives authorities, Rowlett Detectives Authorities, & Mesquite PD! That's not all, you see, I used to lov e showing off my kicks. I had gotten messed up and kicked the door and hinges off a couple weeks before. When they s aid "Open up, ,,,,,,,," & hit the door with the battering ram, it NORMALLY would have knocked it open, swing on hinges. Since I had stuff piled in front of it, it just pushed the door/pile forward inch by inch. Thank God, see I was so messed up that at that sound, I pointed my Ruger P-90 .45 Caliber with laser sight engaged at the sight window mocking them. Nor mally, door flies open, police shoot me in the head, coroner arrangements. God had a plan you see for me. I finally realiz ed what happened, threw my gun down and dove on my wife. See we had been together since she was 14, but only mar ried 6 months when this happened, and oh yeah-she never did drugs nor hardly ever took a drink at all!!

So, in the parking lot, cops are ready for a "tough guy" who wants to fight. My reputation is well known in those parts b y then. I saw my wife, totally innocent, get cuffed and thrown in a car for my sins. The Lord used that to break me (& und erstand what he did for me). I wept like a little baby, broken under the weight of my sins. See, after they locked me up (a gain, I was one of the most popular kids for 3 counties as kid - the jailors and leutunants were all friends of mine growing up) I was coming down off of tons of drugs every day used for years, sleep deprived, etc. & I thought I heard my wife scr eaming for me that they were raping her (back then, in Rockwall County Jail, men's/women's cells were across hall from one another).

I flipped out and went nuts (I was being demonically oppressed and tormented hearing it all to the sound of Korn songs in my head)! Since they all knew me personally, They let me out to talk to me and calm me down. I got on the phone, cal led my mother, told her I was in jail, arrested for drugs, & jailors raped my wife!! Imagine getting that call!! They let me se e my wife and she told me she loved me but the drugs (& demons, now I know) had made me imagine it all! I went back to my cell and wept like a little baby for 2 days straight (keep in mind, I'm like 225 lbs with like 20 inch biceps).

A man started talking to me about Christ and the Bible. I'm not sure it wasn't an angel God sent to me. I don't know-Go d knows and I'll find out one day in Heaven. I began reading the Word of God for myself. No preacher. No church servic e. Just me, God, & His Word. I realized (as I started in the OT) this God was MUCH more serious about sin and unrighte ousness than any I knew about (I went to a private Christian school kid in 2,3,4th grade and attended church many times from Baptist, Methodist, Charidmaic, etc - usually where the prettiest girls went) & I knew nothing of this God. Then I rea d Proverbs. Oh Lord, as smart as I think I am, I know nothing at all but foolishness and vanity!!

I was facing up to 20 years in prison for Organized Crime under the R.I.C.O. Act originally for the Mob. Then, one day, reading scripture, fasting, & praying - I cried out in my solitary cell -"O God, my life isn't worth \$.25, but if uou'll take it, I s urrender and give it to you for the rest of my life regardless the cost". At that moment, it seemed like my cell lit up, my he art was flooded with peace and joy I had never known, and I was born again from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdo m of God!! Adopted again, this time a son of the Most High God who ransomed His own Som for me, a wretched, pitiful, proud, delusional sinner!!

So much more I could say! I did 21 months in Texas prisons, preached to many there! I had my life threatened in there by the Aryan Brotherhood (cause I'm white, but not prejudice). I graduated with a Bachelors in Biblical Studies & spent y ears unlearning the mixture I learned there and going back to what the Lord taught me alone in His Word in Prison Cells! I've been blessed to travel to Myanmar with David Servant to serve orphans, had Andrew Strom and his family come an d stay in my home as he preached in my area, have wonderful fellowship with the Scott's now ("PreachingJesusChrist.C om"), etc. I'm still married to the same beautiful woman for 14 years now and we have 5 children! I've been blessed with success in sales and management everywhere I've went, though I'm an ex-felon!!

Let me say this and I'm done: I had fallen back asleep spiritually a few years ago, gotten comfortable with worldliness and temporal things, & the Lord woke me up! He revived me (some of if through the preaching of men like Leonard Rave nhill, David Wilkerson, Art Katz and others) & then sent me out to preach it to the "churches", the streets, etc. He spoke t o me in prison shortly after salvation He would do this & I just couldn't believe it at the time. "Lord, I'm an ex-criminal, wh y are "church-folk" and people who been pastoring all their life gonna listen to me to "WAKE UP AMERICA, JUDGEMEN T IS AT THE DOOR!"? He showed me because it's His heart, His calling, His Grace, His Power, His Work always - ITS NOT ABOUT US!

A couple years ago now, the Lord had us "sell all we had & get ready for what's coming in the days ahead". Prepare y our spiritual houses now folks for eternity is just around the corner for all of us and NOTHING ELSE WILL MATTER AT ALL in light of that! Don't sit on here arguing all day. Turn to the Lord. Seek Him while He may be found. If you are rebuk ed on here (or anywhere), don't get defensive in your pride and try to outsmart that argument with your witful comeback.

Pray. Ask the Lord, "Is this from your throne to me Lord? Is there something I am missing along the way?" search the scriptures, pray in the Holy Ghost, & seek Him with all your heart, mind, soul, & strength! He is worthy and He's coming back to exact revenge on His enemies & take His Bride without spot, wrinkle, or Blemish!! I still have much preparation like Ester before that happens, but no time to waste. How bout you? Redeem the time saints before time disappears!

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 15:43

Well... praise God. When He decides to save a man or woman He does so to the utter-most.

I'll go ahead and share my testimony, as long as we're all sharing.

I was lost, but He found me. I was blind, and He gave me sight. I was thirsty and He gave me living water.

Krispy

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 15:58

Amen! That's basically my story too, but i just feel the details in my life really go along way to show you:

- 1.) God is Sovereign
- 2.) Noone is too far gone for God's Grace to reach them!

Amen!

Re: - posted by lylewise, on: 2012/4/25 16:06

Jeffmar. I read your initial post last night. I must say that though there was an immediate desire to respond in testimony, something was a bit dissettling about the request. It may very well be that others were of the same mind in this. Not to judge motives, but you do understand that this is very Holy ground. Though we look for opportunity to share what God has done to us, there is also the concern that that which is considered so precious, be treated lightly as though it were just another topic of conversation or worse yet; entertainment. Once again this is not to judge anyone's motives but rather to offer a possible explanation of why some may have been reserved with such a request.

For the most part SI is comprised of believers and some reserve their testimony for the right moment in which to share with one of their fellow saints. Such testimonies I have been given by others here on SI and the impact has brought me to praise the Lord for His consideration of those who were lost, and were granted mercy that changed their life and as a result they would never be the same. MJ had a good point and one cannot discount the now in what is being shared. The saints testimony does not end at regeneration for it is a living testimony of the workings of Christ upon the believer.

With all this said, I will give you a shortened version of what God has done in my life.

I was led down a Roman road at 17 with the recitation of the sinners prayer. That night I was given assurance by my youth leader of my salvation. I would hold to it even up to five years ago. I had become a teacher and pillar in my church and God knows what else would have become me had I been left in such a deceived state.

The apostle Paul was just minding his own business, hunting down saints and having them imprisoned and killed when God interrupted his plans. Paul was not fit to untie the Master's sandals and I am not fit to untie Pauls. I am in no way comparing myself to Paul other than what is shared intervention of God. I considered myself as saved as one could be. The last thing in the world I was looking for was salvation. I was listening to Paul Washer teach on Marriage (so that I could change my wife who needed it). He was not speaking on marriage but rather on the sovereignty of God (something I had taught and thought I knew well. It was at that point that God lifted the veil ever so slightly so that I would be overwhelmed by His presence, though He be omnipresent, He can choose to reveal Himself to men in whatever measure He desires. I was speechless in His presence and in total awe. God showed me who He was and shortly thereafter, He set my eyes on myself. As all who have been saved can testify, it is a desperate and shameful experience to stand before the Living God and be exposed to yourself for the first time being shown who you really are. It was then that I saw the travesty of what Christ would bear because of me.

It would take me a long time to understand this work of God. Why me? Better yet, why me when I was not even looking to be saved? It is grace upon grace that saves and this is how I have come to know it. Though this experience came at some minor cost regarding the fellowship I was joined to, God never forgot me. Just as He promised in scripture, He is always faithful.

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 16:20

Quote:
----- I know many of the "long time regulars" saw this and just thought nothing of it, not feeling compelled at all to share about the grace poured out on them. I know they viewed it based on "who's online now". Yet, many of these same people would immediately lay out a 10 paragraph discourse to argue a point if I started a new post on something political, a theological doctrine that people disagree on, etc.

You have the tenth gift called 'Assumptions'. It is to laugh. :-)

Sometimes I don't bother with testimony time or certain threads because they appear syrupy and personally I have a difficult time forming words to post anything in those threads. It depends on the introduction of the thread, the mood of the room, the sincerity. And yes, you are right in assuming that it's easy to cast ones vote when discussing political and theological matters, those subjects are the lure for great discussions than having testimony in the amen corner.

I find using life's examples that are wrapped around a testimony to be most beneficial than it is to talk generally about one's salvation, to me there is not much salt in that therefore I am not going to give much of a speech about my testimony. Let me give you an example.

A Christian brother of mine had found out that his wife was seeing another man. In great anger he was ready to do some damage. I was home in bed at the time and as I lay there talking to the Lord, I felt to get up and put my clothes on, get on the bus and go uptown. I had no idea why I was going I just did. When I got up there I started walking around and as I was approaching a street corner my friend who had fire in his eyes came around the corner, he was filled with rage. When I saw him I knew what the Lord wanted me to do. I walked with him and I listened to him rave on until his spirit quieted down til his sanity returned to him. I offered no advice, I was there to listen.

In this true account there is a testimony wrapped around a story. Personally, this is my mode of offering a testimony.

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 16:32

Praise God!

Just So you know, my motive was not one to profane the holy things of God, but to redirect the saints to remember what God has done, is doing, & will do. I would never even think of it as entertainment. In fact, what could lead one to misunderstand that is part/parcel of my whole point: the forum thread itself and discussions about the holy things of God - NONE of that should be viewed as, categorized with, or treated as entertainment! Too much arguing for the sake of entertainment like its a theater to battle it out (pride).

Also, as one who for many years did a fair amount of street evangelism I learned something. Some people know a lot ABOUT the Bible. Some know a lot ABOUT God. Some know a lot ABOUT the Gospel. But they don't KNOW HIM. They've never been regenerated and born again into the kingdom of God. They've never truly had their sons washed away and been set free from sin and seen themselves for what they really are.

What's the fastest way to make it obvious to one trying to minister the Gospel and to the person that's the case? When they have no testimony! Anyone who has spent any time on the street preaching/sharing the Gospel knows when someone believes themselves saved & you ask: What's your testimony: when you hear all about what church/denomination they attend or they struggle to answer, it's because they haven't apprehended the Gospel yet, turned to the Lord, repented of their sins, believed on the cross, and been born again.

Just want to clarify my motive-entertainment has zero to do with this thread and should have zero to do as a whole with this website and the forums as a whole. That's part of the problem. Moderators PLEASE correct me if I'm wrong.

Truth is, a couple of the responses I got on a couple of forum threads truly made me wonder: I wonder if that person even truly knows the Lord? We can't see each other. I don't know what your secret life is like? Your prayer life? How you treat your family? If you've truly been born again. I'm not saying a testimony written or not is a 100% litmus test (please no one argue against something I'm not saying - save that time), but most believers I know love to share their testimony because it gives Glory to Him, not man. Not them or any other man. Just to God's Sovereign Grace & Glory. That's all! Be blessed!!

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/4/25 17:25

hi, i have a friend who went to church to rob purses during the invitation and he was the first down at the altar.jimp

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 17:26

SERIOUSLY. are you for real? That's so funny to see how what the devil meant for bad, God could make for good! That's awesome!

Re: Which side of this debate do you stand on? Speak up now Let it be known! - posted by Trekker, on: 2012/4/25 18:25

Jeffmar, i understand why you think and say that, and it makes sense....in SOME cases. However, speaking for myself personally, I no longer share my testimony with people because hearts are too hard, even the hearts of church people, and i have encountered too much disbelief. Apparently my testimony is too much for many to believe. Just as the apostle Paul experienced when he gave his testimony and they said, "Paul, you are mad!!" And just as the Pharisees in Jesus day saw Him do miracles right in front of their face yet they did not believe, neither would the average American today. I am weary of hard hearted people.

Another (bigger) reason i dont give my testimony is it is so long and i am not good at "story telling"; i'm not good at laying out the details in an orderly, non-rambling fashion.Furthermore, much of it is dark and brings up a lot of pain. It is exhausting to think through let alone write it out or talk about the things that led up to it. And, like another poster on here, my testimony is not nearly finished.

In my experience the average church goer (often raised in a Christian home)has not experienced anything supernatural and so they are disbelieving when someone comes along who has. If i give my testimony again it will only be to a very broken person or to another Christian who has also experienced the supernatural. But even then, only if i can do so without being exhausted. Thank you for your testimony however...it is fascinating and wonderful to read.

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 18:58

Just a note to all - when I say "share your testimony of your conversion" in this context, I'm referring to the events leading up to and including the new birth. I understand what you all are saying - "my testimony isn't over yet". Who's is this side of death/eternity? Mine certainly isn't. I can tell you much more of what God has done since, is doing now, and has put in my heart He's gonna do in the future. But, in this context, I'm not asking for everyone to share ALL of what they have ever done/gone/going through (unless they choose to do so), but their actual conversion experience. That's all I was asking for people to share. Just to clarify. God Bless

Re: , on: 2012/4/25 19:21

This was a good topic to bring up Jeff. I actually have been guilty of not reading some posts like this one in the past too. I have noticed that is the trend here, just look through old threads and see which ones have the least views or replies. Some of the most precious gems slip through the cracks. One day Lord willing we will share in person. Although there are many brethren I love on this forum, I am more lead to share in person or even by private blog.

-Jim

One forward, three back., on: 2012/4/25 22:10

Where the Spirit of the Lord is; There is Liberty. I saw this thread up in the start of it, and did not feel led to respond. I have a testimony of grace, that continues today.

I try and post when inspired, and in some way, felt that the invitation to testify became a demand, with a somewhat critical view of "regulars" that would defer to the "political, theological, or controversial", or "who's online now", rather than something as important as your thread on testimony.

"I know many of the "long time regulars" saw this and just thought nothing of it, not feeling compelled at all to share about the grace poured out on them. I know they viewed it based on "who's online now". Yet, many of these same people would immediately lay out a 10 paragraph discourse to argue a point if I started a new post on something political, a theological doctrine that people disagree on, etc."...Jeffmar

And add to that this, implying your assessment of the motive of our "stance oriented posts"..embedded in your religious prayer for us all....

"Lord crush me into the powder of total humility, so that truly I can be used to bear real fruit for your kingdom, not just flesh giving birth to flesh, making me feel good about my religious stances. God forgive and forbid WE go on in such manner!!!!" ..Jeffmar

So, as we stumble around in our religious bickering ordering "flesh giving birth to flesh", as we make ourselves "feel good about our religious stances", and our bearing no "real fruit" for the Kingdom, and you see it as something God may forbid us to go in.

The testimony thread of yours proves this, when we do not submit to the authority of it, as you have declared it. You may be surprised to know some of the history of the forum members, and I would counsel you that true fruit is never born in the idea realm. Often persona's are reinforced for one to believe so, but real fruit is born when we actually love others , and mercy others as Jesus emits Himself from our beings, to others.

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, "From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water!" ..Jesus

I have not been led to give my full testimony here, and may never do so, and here, I have the liberty to be led, or not. It is not wise to presume so much on others who may not , for many reasons, desire to post on something that you believe would prove spirituality by doing so, and brand "religious bickering" if they do not.

Just lay it out there, and give others the freedom to respond, and try to lay down this judgmental aspect of others who do not comply as you see fit. It doesn't work, and is presumptuous, and does not allow others grace to be led. When we point the finger.. there is three-fold pointing back.

Anyway, Grace on you Jeffmar. The testimony idea is a good one, and has been done before....Tom

Re: Which side of this debate do you stand on? Speak up now Let it be known! - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/4/28 2
Jeff,

Your testimony is inspiring, indeed. To go through the 'hell' of drug abuse and have the LORD snatch you out of this fire is very dramatic.

If one cares to know about me, my testimony, all they have to read are my posts. Other than that I do not feel compelled to write about how I came to the LORD. The fact that he had his hand on me and has called and led me is remarkable. For me it was more quiet and subdued, nothing dramatic.

Would you know, Jeff, that your testimony can be intimidating to those who did not have such a dramatic conversation experience? The devil can use it to tempt a person into thinking he does not know the LORD because of the lack of drama in his/her spiritual life. The devil can use it to entice some to taste gross sin so they will know what it means to be redeemed from the dregs of hell. Weird? No, it is wicked, but such is the nature of the devil.

Just saying... and I hope it will give you an insight how some are tempted and what they struggle with. In the meantime, I do appreciate your sharing your story. Having said this, mind if I ask you one or maybe two questions? Have you ever been tempted to fall back into drugs and immorality since your conversion? And if so, how did you respond?

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/4/28 22:30

The testimony of God's keeping power is just as wonderful as His saving/rescuing power.

My wife was saved at 13, I had to hit the lowest grate in hell first. I am amazed at her testimony and God's keeping power in her life. I would rather have her testimony than go through the things that I did. I am what I am by the grace of God and thankful for His love.

Pilgrim

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/4/28 23:13

i think a bit like brother tom regarding this topic

and the last topic that you posted , i feel was posted because of a preconceived notion you had about some of us who disagreed with your view on another subject

so i was not led to share my testimony in the last topic

but i will say god set me free from a life of drug addiction that began at regeneration.
and god led me to a second experience of a deeper sanctification through a baptism of the same spirit the regenerated me in the first ,,,with supernatural signs around me led up to this experience ,and without any church ,or real fellowship from any except one or two ,,,, he has led me into a strong bible believing faith based in the work of christ ,and his spirit

blessings

Re: , on: 2012/4/29 0:06

Ginnyrose,

I pray all is well with you. I have to be honest, no one has ever told me my "testimony might be intimidating to others (presumably believers)". It has never been expressed to me, nor has it ever crossed my mind. The Lord has used it to glorify His Grace, not any man (me nor anyone else) many times in Evangelism. I have never had a brother/sister in the Lord tell me that. The intention of my sharing my testimony is to bring glory to God, have believers praise God for what he has done in my life (& to further praise them for what He's done in theirs), to show lost people no one is beyond the reach of His grace, and to show believers to keep praying for that lost person they know who is far gone, but they feel led to pray for.

I'm a little confused about the part of my testimony being taken as "glorifying sin" & enticing people to want to sin? How? Is it the part of spending years alone in a prison cell that seems enticing. Being bound by drugs and demons unable to stop? If it was taken as "glamourizing sin to receive grace", it was not received clearly as it was sent.

Sinners are already bound by sin and know it when they are this far gone, so it gives them hope to turn to a God whose arm isn't too short to save. If so-called "believers" are tempted to try a life of drugs and crime to see if they can get away with it and get grace, rest assured by the testimony of Jesus, Paul, Peter, John & many others in the Word, my testimony was not the problem. They know not God and are looking for grace as a license to sin. They are not His with that mind-set and they will find an excuse to sin to their hearts content, but the excuse is just that - an excuse-but the root of the real problem is a heart of stone that loves sin.

No, I've never been tempted to go back to a life of crime, drugs, etc. I have had struggles, like we all do, & the Lord is doing amazing things in my life to kill sin, crucify the members of my flesh, etc. I'm a work in progress, but I'm born again and filled with God's Spirit, so I will overcome, because what He is faithful to finish what he starts.

I'm also a little confused about one more thing: if my testimony could somehow be a stumbling block to entice people to sin (or intimidate others with different testimonies), why'd your first response say you thought I should come preach where you are, before you knew I was white? And, what does that have to do with anything anyways? David Brainard, Felix and William Carey, Adoniram Judson, etc., etc. we're all men of caucasian descent who God used to reach China, India, Myanmar, Native American Indians, etc. God can use anyone of any color to do anything. Not sure what that has to do with preaching the Gospel and sharing a testimony?

Also, the three things Jesus said in Revelation the saints overcome Satan with are: 1.) the blood of the Lamb, 2.) the word of their testimony, & 3.) that they love not their lives into the death. I think a testimony is important. Paul persecuted and killed Christians. He had all the pedigree of a religious zealot and spelled it all out in the Word ("Hebrew of Hebrews, Pharisee, perfect in the Law, etc. , etc."). He shared what God brought Him out of, & didn't seem to consider if others might be tempted to try that route? Honestly, no one should ever be intimidated, nor hesitant to share how the Lord saved them, for any reason. People Jesus saved couldn't help but run and tell everyone about it! I'm sure you mean well and have graceful intentions, but unless the Lord Himself tells me not to, I will not stop sharing what the Lord has done in my life. Jesus told the demon delivered fellow to go and tell his family and friends what the Lord has done for him.

Anyways, blessings and grace to you!!

Re: One forward, three back., on: 2012/4/29 0:34

Brother,

You mistook me on a couple of accounts. My prayer for the Lord to crush me into the powder of humility was a genuine one. The way you seemed to handle what you presumed I was doing (while telling me not to presume on others) was proof to me not to post my heart open prayers on this forum anymore to be criticized by others. Look, I mean no harm, but if you or anyone else can honestly tell me that there's not something wrong when "Noone feels led" to share HOW GOD SAVED THEM when asked, but seemingly most all the same people apparently "Feel led" to argue/critique every political, theological non-essential, you name the subject, thread on SI.

Brother, just take that at face value and use discernment apart from your thoughts of my post (or anyone else's): NO ONE FEELS LED TO GIVE THEIR TESTIMONY (0 responses) & threads that dissolve into arguments and divisions can draw hundreds of posts. If you didn't care for the way I approached it, then that's OK, I meant not to harm, but to exhort. But the fact remains that it is what it is. I am going to pray about my posting at all anymore here on SI, cause I'm not sure how edifying it is when everything dissolves into strife and contention. Maybe it's just me brother, maybe it's just me.

I have been greatly blessed by a few of the brethren and posts on here. I really have. I have been greatly reached by some of the messages of Art Katz, David Wilkerson, Paul Washer, and others. I like reading some of the posts first posted, but do many seem to delineate into misunderstandings, over reactions, and some very false assumptions. You took what I did as such and I'm sorry for that brother. I did just call others to share their testimony. I just laid it out there - let people know what God did for you. The "Stand up and let your voice be heard" was hyperbole and a test of my own understanding to see how many views and responses that drew comparatively. No one (1 person) responded (or hardly viewed) that, but tons viewed and responded to something that looked like it started as a "confrontation/controversy". That's a "controversy" in itself. That was my point. I hoped/wished people would see that and be grieved as it made me, & I believe it makes the Lord.

Sure, iron sharpens iron and we all can discuss, disagree, etc., but when we can do that CONSTANTLY, but "don't feel led" to share what the Lord has done to save us, there's a problem. Doesn't take the gift of discernment to see that brother if we will just look at it objectively. Everyone feels led apparently to get caught up in all kinds of disputes, disagreements, contentions, theological non-essential salvation arguments, but NEVER "feels led" to just share a testimony?

I don't think these forums are for me brother. True Body Fellowship, time in the Word & prayer, the ministry God has called me to, etc. - I think those are what God is telling me to spend my time on. Forgive me if I came across wrong - probably the fruit of "I should have been spending that time in the Word & Prayer" anyway. So please forgive me!! God Bless you!!

Re: - posted by pilgrim777, on: 2012/4/29 0:55

Jeff,

Thanks for your testimony. It blessed me, greatly.

Please consider dropping by once in awhile. But I do understand that real fellowship and ministry happens face to face and we can waste many hours online.

I have never been intimidated by someone who the Lord has kept from sin or someone who was saved from a terrible life. I rejoice in both (Rejoice with those that rejoice). To not rejoice is to have either a competitive or insecure spirit. We should not adjust our testimonies for the crowd.

Pilgrim

Re: , on: 2012/4/29 2:01

Just wanted to say, Pilgrim, that much of your posting has been a blessing to read.

God Bless - Jeff

Re: - posted by onemite, on: 2012/4/29 2:51

Jeffmar-

There are some lovely testimonies here. I count it a privelege to read over them. God is so merciful in his dealings with man!

When I see what God has done in the lives of others and when I recount what He has done in my life, awe and gratitude well up from within me. It is very good for me to recount and when I start to become dull, it renews my faith.

I know that not everyone has dramatic things happen that lead up to their being born again but this life on earth brings every person their share of adversity, and the Lord means to use them to transform His children with the same kinds of dramatic results.

Like most who give their testimonies, I can only touch on mine. I have had a few pivilot times in my life where God brought me out of something in a miraculous way. I won't go into detail, but tell you I grew up in a small church sitting next to my mother. I loved God- what I knew about him but I grew away from the truth and as I got older I got into things that I knew were wrong.

Eventually, I married a muslim and moved to the mid-east, and rejected the Truth. I had children, and spent a lot of time alone. Culture shock, lack of sleep, evil dreams and a host of other pressures were on me. I had fits of rage that fed my guilt. All my thoughts were suicidal but the remembrance of the God of miracles that I found comfort in as a kid kept enough of a spark of hope in me to cause me to seek Truth. Things got very bad for me. I could feel the battle for my mind and knew that I was on the edge of insanity. I would laugh and cry out of nowhere, and I could feel the pull to just go with it. I had scoured the kuran for help and knew it offered no remedy for what was ailing me, and (miraculously) I had recently met a woman who gave me a bible, so I prayerfully began reading it from page one. I remember I said "God, I know you are real. I just don't know how you want me to worship. I don't know which book is real. If this book hasn't been changed and Jesus is your son, cause me to see it. If it's all a hoax, then I will see that too." and I prayed this prayer every time I opened to read. I was so bad off that hourly it seemed, I would ask for God's help when I would feel myself losing control of my emotions and body. Without knowing what I was formally doing, I was repenting of various things until one day I was so tormented that I used the name of Jesus and He honored my usage of it and I learned that His name was a shield to me. One night He so set me free. All that was tormenting me fled away. In my zeal I told everyone I knew that the Kingdom of God had come upon me and that my name was written in the book of life! Of course they all said I had lost my mind and when I came back to the states, that was the response from many leaders in the churches I talked to. It remains though, that I have been free of those things that once had me so bound. He also freed me from a great deal of fears and emotional things which later came up and that deliverance came more gradually as I grew in the Lord. Jesus defeated satan on the cross and God has seated him at His right hand far above all principalities and dominion. His name is above every name- and every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord! Amen!

I am thankful that He who began a good work in us all will carry it on to the day of completion in Christ Jesus.

Jeff, your contribution here is valuable because the spirit it comes in as true with many others. I hope that you do not leave the forums altogether, although all of us must do whatever necessary for us to keep our heart pure from strife, pride or bitterness.

As for me, once again I have posted at the end of a long thread. I hope that someone comes and posts something after me so that I don't have to look at my name on the wall for very long :)

In Christ,

Onemite.

Re: , on: 2012/4/29 9:52

Wow!! Thanks for sharing OneMite! See, that testimony every bit is just as

Amazing as mine or any other!! It's always amazing that God saves us and how He does it for each of us where we are. I mean, I was bound by drugs and had a murderous spirit, but you were married to a Muslim (from whom I believe the Man of Sin shall come), living in the mid-east (the current "seat of Satan"), demonically oppressed by what sounds like a spirit that would have tried to get you to take your life or someone else's eventually. The Spirit behind Islam is strong and evil. To hear how the Lord brought you out of that into the truth is awesome!! Praise the Lord!!! Thank you for sharing. What an encouragement for those with Muslim friends, family, or co-workers who they may be praying for to come to the Cross!!

Re: - posted by onemite, on: 2012/4/29 11:50

Jeff, I've never thought of it that way. I dont blame islam. All life without Jesus is death. Darkness is darkness and every one who does not have Jesus is in darkness, no matter what form it takes and my oppression and bondage began much before that time. When I turned my back on the truth is when my heart really let in all kinds of bitterness and evil. Nobody is immune. I dont know why some are held by evil spirits and some are not. Perhaps God just allowed me spiritual eyes to better help motivate me to want to resist. Whatever the case, God is the one who frees us through the blood of Jesus.

Re: , on: 2012/4/29 11:59

Amen! Lord bless you!