

April 2004: My Testimony

by Aaron Greenway

It is not often that I am able to share my own personal testimony. God has done so many great things in my life that I couldn't share them all if I tried. He has saved and delivered me from so many things, and He continues to do so. The wonder of His love is beyond me. It seemed that the Enemy had it in for me from the beginning because I was born into a Christian home with a lot of problems. Well, at least, my mother was a Christian. My father, however, was a philandering, drug addict. On Christmas of 1974, he left my mother a note saying that he was leaving. Interestingly, he took all of his Christmas presents along with him too. My mother and I were left alone, but fortunately, we had my grandparents to help us. My mother soon remarried and soon after, came my sister, Jill. My step father (who I call my "dad") and I did not have a good relationship growing up. On top of this, I was constantly picked on and bullied in school. I can honestly tell you to this day that I would never return to my childhood even if I could. But at the same time, it was the abandonment, the abuse, and the difficulties that drove me to God.

In June 1987, my dad went on second shift for his job. Normally, he would come home on a Wednesday night and we would watch television or whatever. But since he had changed work hours, my mother decided to take us to church. Youth director, Ron Knapp, was there talking about the second coming of Christ. Immediately, I was convicted, wondering where my heart was with God. I thought back a few years before when I

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had seemed to have accepted Christ into my life. But, the doubt lingered, and I wasn't sure. So, immediately after the service, I approached Ron. I told him that I wasn't sure where I stood with the Lord. That night, we -made- sure. For the first time in my life I felt clean, forgiven, and genuinely loved. With Ron's help and the influence of a childhood friend, Matt, who had been converted a few months before me, I was purchased by Christ's blood that night.

Within a few months, God really started working in my life. I started reading the Bible, which I had never done before. But I didn't just read the Bible, I wrote pages and pages of notes, spending hours every night with God. Without a doubt, this is one of the most precious times in my life even though it was one of the most difficult times. The thing was that what God was pouring into me wouldn't remain there. It had to come out in some way. I found myself sharing my testimony with almost anyone who would listen. I still had problems and issues in my life, but I ran to God with it all. This is really how God called me into the ministry.

At first, I thought I was going to preach, to be a pastor. But, as God began honing my calling, I realized that all those years of singing, dancing, and acting in school and church plays were God's way of preparing me. After singing a couple of solos at the Christian Academy that I attended, churches began to call me, inviting me to come and sing for them. In 1990, the music ministry was born. Within five years, I recorded my first album "Heritage". In 1997 came "Restoration". And the latest "Urgent" was released in 2000.

Another significant date was 1995. I remember going to an evening service and listening to a group of teenagers get up and talk about their mission's trip to Jamaica. I had never considered missions before. In fact, whenever we had a missionary come, I was bored to tears. But, that night, I was driven to tears all the way up the aisle to the church altar, and to this day, I couldn't tell you why or how it happened, except that God had done something in my heart. The youth pastor, Mitch Olson, looked into my eyes and said to me, "You are being called, aren't you?" All I could do was nod my head.

These things may seem to be great victories, from the life of an abandoned child to a call to the

mission field. However, my greatest victory and joy has come and still comes from a daily walk with God. When these things fail, all of the rest of it loses its focus. God is still changing me, still sticking with me, and still showing His mercy. The more I have drawn close to Him, the more my life, my heart, and my motives have been exposed. The more I realize who I really am without Him. My life is meaningless without Jesus. And a life without His presence is a life of shame. His grace, His mercy, and His love are what make the music and the missions all worth while. His anointing is what gives all of that purpose. For how can we give what we do not really possess.

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