

## Duane's Testimony- Short Version

Growing up, I was probably a lot like you. I was a good kid. Well, mostly good. I didn't lie (much), I didn't steal (a lot) and I went to church occasionally (ok, not that much). If you asked me if I was a Christian, I would have said 'Yes!' without hesitation. Problem was, I really didn't know what it meant to be a Christian. I thought to be a Christian just meant that I had to be a good person; do more 'good' than 'bad', and believe that there was a God. I was pretty good and I believed that there was a God who we should look up to and pray to when we need something. But that is not enough...

One day I was driving and a commercial came on the radio. Two guys were talking about what it meant to be a Christian. One guy said he was a Christian and the other asked him how he knew. The first guy said that he was a good person and that he believed there was a God. The second guy said that Satan believes there is a God. I thought, "That is me!". I immediately knew that I wasn't a Christian. After hearing that, what was I to do? I realized that just being a good person was not enough. I had to devote my life to the Lord. I had to follow the plan laid out in the Bible and the example given by Jesus Christ.

I didn't immediately give my life over to Christ but this event started me down a path where I eventually accepted Him as Lord and Savior 11/15/1998. On that night I said the sinner's prayer, *'Lord, I recognize that I am a sinner and that You came and died on the cross to take away my sins. Please forgive me of all my sins and come into my heart and my life this moment. I realize You are the only way to heaven and I want You to take control of my life and destiny. In Jesus name, Amen!'*

After that, my life changed. It wasn't automatic. It had to be intentional on my part to make the right choices because God gives us free will in our decision-making. But my hearts desires had changed. I no longer had the strong desire to do the sinful things I did previously. You see, when you give your heart over to the Lord, you are reborn, you are a new person. Christ will be there for you when you need Him; every step of the way. He will never fail you! If you've never accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, I pray that you will repeat the prayer in *italics* above. You don't have to get down on your hands and knees, though you may. You don't need formalities, you just need sincerity, you need to mean it. I pray you make this life-changing decision today and if you do, reach out to me and I'll be happy to pray with and for you! I'll try to answer your questions the best I can and guide you to where you can find a church home. You will never regret making this decision! Your eternity is at stake! Blessings...

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