



“38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39

Each day when I rise I am immensely grateful for Christ's work on the cross. I know this person who has an amazing story of salvation. She will remain unnamed for the moment. I would like to share a little bit about this woman and her amazing story.

She did not have a “normal” childhood, although I am sure her family would disagree. Her heart has been broken many times and her high expectations of life had pretty much always come crashing down in the

most painful ways. People had often told her that her smile was contagious, however they failed to recognize the pain behind the smile. Many times through her youth she felt feelings of abandonment and lack of self esteem. It seemed as she got older these feelings worsened all behind that "contagious smile". There were those who had a slight idea that something was painfully "off" about this girl. In and out of psychiatrists offices and an abundance of diagnoses never seemed to "cure" this child of her discontent with family and life. It seemed out of the feelings of abandonment and people seeking a "quick fix" for whatever her condition was at the time spawned rage, anger and bitterness. Oh, but she was raised in a "Christian" family, yet never actually saw Christian values being lived out. This spawned cynicism and much bitterness, which led to a hard heart and even more sadness and loneliness behind that "contagious smile". She barely graduated from high school and desiring to run away she opted to join the military. Wearing that "contagious smile", she could fool just about anyone. Falling deeper and deeper into despair, she gave of herself in ways that went against her own conscience. Through these years she would have times of "spiritual revelation". She would attend church from time to time, and try to clean up her life, but couldn't seem to shake off the bitterness and cynicism that had hardened on her heart. Compromised relationships with family and friends only left her feeling more abandoned and lonely. She had witnessed God's miracles from time to time, but began to explain them away by using coincidence or just mere luck. While out of the country for a couple years she thought she had found love. The kind of love and understanding that she had longed for her entire life. In the end he would fall right in line with everyone else. Leaving her heart broken somehow she wasn't surprised by these events. She tried so hard to move on and tried to reach out to loved ones but time and time again became aware that no one was around. This time however, that "contagious smile" was no longer covering up the true nature of this young woman. It is safe to say that

everyone knew the truth about the drinking and the drugs. Everyone knew or had a good idea that this woman was spiraling out of control. It is sad to say, but at this point, this young woman with the "contagious smile" was empty. She was merely going through the motions of life all the while the one who broke her heart was still whispering words of hope. Until one day life, heartache, feelings of abandonment, loneliness, and despair took their toll. Not much this young woman remembers of this fateful day, except that she looked into the mirror and couldn't see her face. This woman with the "contagious smile" had disappeared completely, that not even the smile existed anymore. Where was God? Where was this Jesus? Why had He not rescued her long ago? Why is it that other's can proclaim His name, yet live their lives as though they do not know Him? So with empty pill bottles scattered on the floor, this woman with the "contagious smile" breathed no more.

This woman with the "contagious smile" is me. On October 10, 2004 I took my life into my own hands. There of course is more to the story about my upbringing and the rest of my life before this day. However, I feel that what is written depicts that which describes me without slandering others. This is my testimony of my conversion of accepting the ONE TRUE LORD JESUS CHRIST! I was of course found 4 hours or so after taking many many life threatening medications rushed to the ER, where my family was told to make funeral arrangements. October 10th in the year of 2004 was a Sunday. If my memory serves me right, I opened my eyes in ICU on a Wednesday morning. (Might have been Tuesday night, but it is all a bit blurry for me) I was actually talking about this with Malachi the other day trying so hard to remember that day. It is all still somewhat a blur, but one thing that I vividly remember is struggling within myself against something that I can't quite explain. It is like being on the edge of cliff, where your toes

are almost off causing you to fall off the side, but yet still enough on the ground that you won't fall. Later, I would come to realize the "struggle" I was having was like that of Jacob and the Angel. It seemed even when the very Person I longed to have save me was in the act of saving me, I inherently kept fighting against Him. This Person I would come to know as Jesus Christ. There is no medical or scientific explanation for why I survived. I had been on life support for about 3 days. I remember being told that in order to take me off the artificial breathing apparatus I would have to try to breathe on my own. I can say for certain this was the hardest task I have ever had to accomplish as I was still coming out of this coma like state it was a little hard to remember what it meant to breathe on my own. During this time, I finally submitted my will to the Lord. After being taken off life support, there were some hard challenges ahead. The only challenge I am even remotely concerned with speaking about is that of my salvation. Even though I submitted my will to the Lord, I still struggled with knowing Him. I was in such a vulnerable state that the enemy took his shots the entire time. Satan is an opportunist and this was made real to me during this time. Satan will use anyone to destroy you...anyone! They may not be aware they are being used by him, but I was definitely aware of his presence around me. It was at this time that I truly called upon the name of the Lord to rescue me. It was then that the Lord showed me that if He had allowed me to die that day I would have surely perished. The thought of this no longer strikes fear in me, but a true sense of what it means to be "saved". Salvation is not being saved from your sin. Salvation is being saved from the righteous wrath of God that is due us because we have sinned against an infinitely HOLY, RIGHTEOUS AND JUST GOD! I am truly thankful for the saving Grace and Mercy of the Lord. I can't even begin to explain what Jesus Christ means to me. He is my passion. He is my deliver in the truest purest sense of the word. He is the reason I believe in Him at

all! The Bible says that "no one seeks after God", "no one is or does good". This is exactly what scripture says about our true nature:

[Romans 3: 10-18](#)

"10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; 11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; 12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE." 13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS"; 14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS"; 15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, 16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, 17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN." 18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

The Apostle Paul is quoting passages from the Psalms and Isaiah. Specifically from Psalms 14:1-3, Psalms 53: 1-3, Psalms 5:9, Psalms, 140:3, Psalms 10:7, Isaiah 59:7 and Psalms 36:1. This is our true nature, our fallen nature and doesn't it sound exactly as I described the life I lived before my radical conversion? This does not in any way surprise me now. There is nothing in us that causes the Lord to chose to save us. I cannot take any credit for my salvation. My salvation is not obtained by my works, but by the Awesome work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. Even the faith I have in the Lord is not of myself. The Bible says the Lord gives to each man a measure of faith.

[Romans 12:3](#)

“For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”

This shows that there is nothing about me that causes the Lord to chose me for salvation and it also shows me that even the faith I place in Him is from Him alone. I also have the promise of being eternally secure in this salvation that the Lord chose me for.

[Ephesians 1: 13-14](#)

“13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Scripture says that we are chosen before the foundations of the world for salvation. I understand this in not always a popular belief, however, scripture is pretty clear on this position of “predestination”. The topic of predestination has caused many a theological debate, however this is not my intention. The idea of predestination really aggravates our sense of control. This is what causes the debate. The Lord showed me these passages and they cause my heart to take comfort in that God was actively involved in my life, even when I was not actively involved with Him. How sweet a thought that the Lord would think of me! Who am I, except a filthy sinner that cannot choose to do good in and of myself? These next few verses are ones that have greatly encouraged me in knowing that the Lord has been ever present in my life.

Romans 8: 29-30

“29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.” (Emphasis mine)

Ephesians 1:5-6

“5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.” (Emphasis mine)

During this process of my recovery I was placed in a psychiatric facility for observation and treatment. This is where the Lord introduced me to my husband Malachi. Of course this is not how I would have planned it, but the Lord knows best! Malachi worked as a psychiatric technician and was sought out by a female nurse to speak with me on my very first night in this strange place. Malachi was very kind and encouraging. He went through much scripture with me and listened to my entire life's story from 11pm that evening until 5am the next morning. For the days and weeks that followed Malachi made it a point to come into the clinic to check in on me. He brought books and letters filled with encouraging words from the scriptures. The Lord used Malachi to minister to my heart. I was transferred to the State Hospital for reasons that I will keep to myself, as not to slander anyone. The Lord used every minute of this time for my good and His glory. I was assigned a panel of care providers that would determine

how long I would stay at the State Hospital and any possible treatment thereafter. I was blessed with an entire panel of Christian doctors, nurses, social workers and other staff. It was in their professional opinion that I was NOT crazy! Malachi made the four hour drive to visit me on the weekends and continued with letters of comfort and encouragement from the scriptures. I have a folder of over one hundred letters that were written between the two of us during this time. The Lord revealed to us that His purpose for our untraditional introduction was again for our good and His glory. I was released from the State Hospital with a clean bill of health shortly before Thanksgiving. Shortly after this, Malachi proposed and we were married with the blessing of the Lord on 20 December 2004.

This is the account of my radical conversion! The Lord be Praised and Glorified for all that HE has done in my life! There are many that are still baffled by this radical conversion, including myself!. I have come to know true, unconditional, long suffering, patient, selfless love through the Lord Jesus Christ. I will not allow anyone to take credit for my salvation or my relationship with the Lord except Jesus Christ. It was Him and Him alone that sought to save me. When this world let me down time and time again, the Lord rescued me! I was baptized by my husband on my birthday, 4 July 2005 with the blessings of the Lord upon me. My life has never and will never be the same. I am a radical believer in the Lord. Do not confuse me with a nominal Christian. I do not merely sit in the pews anymore. I run this race to win and bring Glory to the Lord. What you see before you is a life forever changed by the Awesome Power of a Mighty and Merciful God!

Jesus I love you with all that I am!

[Psalms 51: 10-13](#)

“10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. 13 {Then} I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.”

Serving God and My Family,
Crystal <>< (SAHM)

Rest in peace my papa, I love you!