

# Hope Found

If you had asked me if I were a Christian, I would have answered, "yes, of course." After all, I believed in God and knew Jesus was his son. I was a good person and was kind to others. And, you could find me warming a pew on Easter, making crafts at Vacation Bible School or even winning the "Most Quiet" award in children's church after a spend the night party. Of course I was a Christian!

But, as I grew into an adult, I began to recognize that my life didn't seem to look very much like that of my Christian friends. I found myself in regular awe and wonder as I watched them do life with God. In them I saw joy. I saw community. I saw love and resilience and hope. The Lord called me to himself over and over through friends and family (and even a group of strangers). They showed me God's great love by sharing the gospel, by the words of their own testimony and by the manner in which they walked out their faith before me.

I wanted what they had, but still, I resisted.

I feared loss of freedom. I feared rejection. I feared change. I felt I was too late. I had missed too many Sunday School classes; how would I ever catch up? I felt I had messed up too bad. I had spent too long in my wandering; how could I ever measure up. I felt I had let God down. I had spent too many years with my back turned to him; how would I ever make it up?

There wasn't a singular moment of brokenness that led to my surrender. The knotted stomach and quickened heart became the norm whenever I visited a church or talked to someone about God. I knew all along that I wanted Jesus in my life and so one day I just decided that, in spite of all of my fears and failures, the time had come. And when my husband and I found our church, I could hardly wait to meet with the pastor and finally say yes to Jesus!

What a sweet moment it was to sit in our new church, with our new Pastor, holding my husband's hand as we both surrendered our hearts to Jesus. It's a moment I will never forget and a decision I will never regret.

I found hope that day in Jesus. The seeds of faith were planted and continue to blossom as I get to know my Savior more and more.