Saved From Darkness

Four12 25 June 2019



It's difficult for me to try and write a short testimony of what the Lord has done in my life since I gave my life to Him on the 4th December 2016, due to the immeasurable number of mountains He has levelled and the massive giants He has slain for me since.

I arrived at my current hometown in a spiritual mess, after leaving a very dark life behind in Johannesburg. A life full of drugs, violence and one where I'd been a main player in a criminal syndicate that distributed drugs to many Johannesburg night clubs. I had been arrested multiple times for reasons ranging from assault to drugs...even attempted murder. However, I do not want to go into too much detail about my past life, as that is not important anymore.

> The warning of my life being in the balance hit home and I began to listen!

Many people had been trying to speak into my life over the years, trying desperately to get me out of the life I had chosen, but it went in one ear and out the other. I was in too deep, and besides, I admittedly loved the feeling of power and fear I produced in people. But then one day, God miraculously sent someone to me with a clear word of warning, one that concerned my very life. The warning of my life being in the balance hit home and I began to listen! I packed my bags, left my apartment with everything in it, and left Johannesburg without telling anyone.

November 2015, I arrived at my mom's home with nothing other than a suitcase, a drug addiction and many demons to fight in the months to come. It was then that the suffering felt like it really

started. I was coming off drugs and starting life again at 31 years of age. It was a rough few months, living with no hope and no motivation to do anything other than sleep (when the tranquillizers kicked in to silence the tormenting voices in my mind).

> One day, a few months in, I got the strong urge…to load a Bible App on my phone.

One day, a few months in, I got the strong urge (I say urge, but I know God was behind it) to load a Bible App on my phone. I still remember loading it and wondering what I was doing, but I started reading it anyway, reading from Matthew through to Revelation. When I had completed it, I read it all over again. The Word of God hooked me so deeply, from the first word to the last – I couldn't stop reading it.

During this time, I also started going to church, I gave my life to Jesus, and got baptized on the 4th of December 2016. I started exercising again, I tossed the sleeping tablets, and started to enjoy the best sleep I'd ever had. Most of all, I had become very excited about starting a new life, I was "amped" (excited) to get started. I tried starting my own consulting/ brokering company but it fell flat. Incredibly, that did not get me down, as I was running on the Holy Spirit's enabling and He kept me through that disappointment. Around that time, I began hearing the words, 'New church, new church' in my mind. I remember being so confused and asking the Lord, 'Am I supposed to be a pastor now and start a new church? How is that even possible, what's up with that Lord?'

> From then on, we started hanging out and I started helping him wherever I could in planting the new church.

Thankfully, the Lord soon showed me the answer. At my local gym, I kept seeing a couple 'hanging around', but I could never really figure them out. I didn't think that they were locals, as I had been born there and knew most people. One day, the guy from the couple walked up to me (which I was very apprehensive about and honestly was annoyed at him possibly interrupting my training), he opened his mouth and introduced himself with the following words, 'Hi, I have moved here from Cape Town with my wife, and we are here to plant a new church'. When he said that same phrase I'd been hearing, 'new church', I knew this was something of God. Those words brought down every wall and barrier I had erected, and I opened up to him about my life. I told him I loved Jesus and told him why I had left Johannesburg. From then on, we started hanging out and I started helping him wherever I could in planting the new church.

Fast forward to my life now, I have seen supernatural moves of God that I believe would make

the biggest unbeliever doubt their unbelief. I'm living my life trying to serve others and display the character of Jesus on this earth as best I can, in His strength. I don't care what my situation looks like anymore, how big the battles seem or how impossible they feel. I serve a limitless God with limitless power. I have seen His power, I have seen His faithfulness, and He is my God who saved me from darkness.

---

*Due to the sensitivity of the topics mentioned, we have chosen to not disclose the author's name at this time.