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What Changed Me?

Introduction: It has been nearly four decades since my life was changed for the better. No one that has known me, friends or relatives, can honestly say that my life did not change for the better.

First: My Direction Changed.

Psalm 40:2

"He... set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."

1. I Was Going Deeper Into Darkness. *John 9:25, "I was blind, but now I see."*
2. I Was Getting Away From Truth. *John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."*

Illustration: John Newton summed it up with his wonderful song:

*"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see."*

Second: My Desires Changed.

II Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

1. In Religion. *Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."* Jesus Christ is my Saviour.
2. In Education. *II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* Now it's about truth, not man's opinion.
3. In Standards. *James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."* Whether it is church attendance or dress standards, whatever the Bible says, now settles the decision.

Third: My Determination Changed.

Hebrews 10:39

1. I Determined Not To Turn Back. *II Peter 3:18, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord..."*
Hebrews 10:39, "But we are not of them who draw back..."

2

I Determined Not To Yield To The Criticism Of Others.

I have seen way too many who professed Christ, and have followed a short distance, but then go straight back into the pig pen that they were saved out of. I made a determination that would not be my testimony.

Illustration: An elderly woman said to me, "It's wonderful that you've been saved, but the feeling will leave you and you will settle down just like the rest of us."

I want to thank God that I never got over what happened to me when I received Christ as my personal Saviour. There has not been a day that I have not relived getting on my knees and asking Christ to forgive me of my sins.

Fourth: My Discernment Changed.

I Corinthians 2:14

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1. In Regards To The Saviour. *Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*
2. In Regards To The Bible. *Job 23:12, "...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."*
3. In Regards To Prayer. *Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:"*
4. In Regards To Church. *Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*
5. In Regards To Abortion. *Psalms 139:13-16, "... in thy book all my members were written ..."*

It is murder. Life begins at conception and not after the baby comes out of the womb.

Conclusion: What changed me? It was realizing for the first time in my life that if I died in my sins, I would face a holy God. I knew for the first time in my life that if I died, I would go to a literal burning hell.

Listen, please listen! My days are numbered, but so are yours. *"I know whom I have believed..."* but do you?