



My testimony may seem typical – a Christian kid raised in a Christian home – but God still worked a miracle in my life. At the age of four I made a profession of salvation because I knew my mum wanted me to do this. I wanted to please her and knew it was the right thing to do, so I prayed with the pastor. A little while later, I was baptised, but no change had taken place in my life. I understood in my *head* what I had done, but had not believed in my *heart* that I was a sinner that needed salvation. This head knowledge continued. I grew up learning much about the Bible in Sunday School and Kids Clubs, in the Christian School, as well as being taught in the home. Despite all of this knowledge, I was still a sinner, lost, and on my way to hell.

Thankfully, God continued to pursue me. With all of the head knowledge, I also learned how to act like a Christian. To most people, I was a good Christian girl. I rarely disobeyed or acted badly. I could repeat a lot of Bible facts – including how to be saved. However, none of this had actually worked a change in my life. I had not truly repented of the sin that was evidenced in my heart. One evening at our Kids Club meeting, God pricked my heart and caused me to reconsider my profession of faith. The speaker spoke about Jesus coming back to earth to gather His people, emphasising who would be participating and who would not. As

she spoke, I realised that I would not be included in the Rapture because my profession had not been real. I was now ten years old and knew what I had to do to be saved, but I still waited to speak with my dad. When we arrived home that evening, I asked him to stay in the car with me. I told him that I didn't think my original profession was real because I had prayed only to satisfy my mum. He asked me several questions to help me be sure of what I wanted to do. Then he led me in a prayer where I sincerely asked God to forgive me from my sins.

There wasn't the dramatic change that others who have lived in the world have experienced, but I still knew the changing of God in my life. It was small and slow because I knew how to walk, talk and look like a Christian, and because my parents did all they could to keep me from the influence world. I never smoked, drank, used drugs, swore, or even went to places where those things were done. I had to give the sins of my heart to the Lord – sins like pride, selfishness, rebellion, unkindness. Even though I was privileged to have so much Bible instilled in me, it wasn't until I was 16 and my family moved continents to Australia that I truly learned to depend on God – to lean on Him for my needs. At this time of loneliness, I realized that I had been leaning on my Christian friends for support and fulfilment instead of relying on God. I had fallen into the trap that many children raised in Christian families fall into. I thought my salvation and good behaviour was enough – that going to church and not being as bad as the world was enough. But it wasn't. When all of those crutches were taken away, I realised that God was still there and would always be with me. When I realised that, I began to seek God – to spend more time in the Bible

and to truly grow in my beliefs. The head knowledge I received as a child helped me as I began to apply God's Word to my life. God is still teaching me many things, but I will always be thankful for the blood of my Saviour that wiped away my sin and gave me a new life in Christ.