



Robert's Testimony

My name is Robert Ayoub; I grew up in a Lebanese Maronite family. I grew up in a Lebanese household but in an Australian society. As I grew up there was no communication between my parents and I which is so important in any kind of relationship.

The first time I heard the Gospel message was from a school friend whose whole family came to the Lord at that time. I was really amazed in the change of my friend and his family. I believed in the message they preached to me but never acted on it nor repented. They gave me a Bible and I read it and understood the central message. I left school at the age of 15 and went out into the world. I started hanging out with the wrong crowd. I paid no attention to my mum when she used the phrase, "You are who you hang out with".

I became very rebellious. I didn't work. I didn't study. All I wanted to do was party. I started to experiment with alcohol and drugs. I just wanted to taste everything that this sinful world had to offer.

My lifestyle caused a lot of conflict with my parents. I ran away from home a few times. The devil led me to believe a lie. At the time I believed that this sinful lifestyle would fill the emptiness in my life.

Before I knew it the years quickly passed, and I was in my twenties. I was like a dead man walking. Those were the dead years of my life as I look back on them now. My conscience always knew that this life was not for me but I was convinced it was too late and I was addicted to this lifestyle. The good news was I wanted to break free from this vicious cycle, but it seemed so hard and almost impossible and I now know that it is impossible without Jesus Christ.

I tried many methods to get away from the ways of the world. When I was 18, I went to Lebanon for 5 months to rehabilitate my life and it worked for a while, however, as soon I arrived home, I was back to the same lifestyle.

Throughout these dark years, God sent me so many signs; He spoke to me through so many different people, people of God. I really wanted to know God, but I felt too rebellious to come before him. At the time I believed that first I should cleanse myself, and then I could come to the Lord. However, soon enough I realised that it was impossible to do in my own strength. I realised that Christ died for sinners, sinners like me and that I just needed to come to Him just as I was, and then He would cleanse me.

In mid 2002 I met up with that same friend from school after having no contact for several years with him. It was during this time the Lord was tugging at my heart. It was also during this time I was getting to know my now wife, Angela—I thank the Lord for this godly woman.

She had come from an Orthodox background who like me, knew of Jesus but did not know him personally. We began to read the Bible together. On November 10th 2002 Angela and I attended the Faith Baptist Church where the Bible was preached plainly. Both Angie and I came under conviction of Sin. The fear of God came upon us. I could not delay anymore—I could not run from God any longer. It was now or never. The option of heaven or hell was before me. It was on this day that I came repentant to the Lord and asked for His forgiveness and Jesus saved me by His grace. God saved me from the penalty and power of sin.

God delivered my soul from hell but also delivered my life here on Earth from the addiction of Sin. By God's grace alone, I no longer steal, cheat, take drugs or alcohol. I no longer gamble or go to clubs or pubs. I am now faithful to praying, reading my Bible and being a member of God's Church.

It's been 10years (as of 2012) that I have been saved. From day one I have not been able to keep this salvation to myself. I ran and told everybody about what the Lord had done for me. I started off with my family and friends and then I hit the streets. Romans 1:14 reads, "I am a debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians, both to the wise and the unwise".

God also stirred in me a desire to serve Him, a strong desire for His work. He put in me a love for His word—I was thirsty to grow more and more in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. I was hungry to eat His Word but also to feed it to others. I began to serve Him in any area that He led me to. With these strong desires, God led me to Bible College to study His word. In 2011 I graduated from Sydney Bible Baptist College. I now serve Him at the Faith Baptist Church.

God has blessed me so much that it brings me to tears. I don't deserve anything but God has blessed me with so much. He has given me a holy, God-fearing wife who I love so much. She is my best friend and partner in the ministry. He has broken us and satisfied us with his presence alone. All we care about is firstly His glory and then His work. Nothing satisfies us but Him alone. He has blessed us with four children. He has taught us how to be good spouses to one another and taught us to be parents according His ways.