One day while Richard was at work; I got out one of the papers he had brought home for me to read. It had a picture of a Christian missionary family who had given their lives (not just two years) to serve God. They gave their testimony about their love and gratitude for Jesus, thanking Him for saving their souls. Their love for the Saviour was so real and genuine. **My heart longed to know this Jesus**
whom they were speaking about. I did not know Him as I only knew of a Jesus who was my brother and example, and I could be just as good as him if I tried. As a Mormon, I never gave my worship and adoration to the Lord. All of my love and devotion went to Joseph Smith and the Mormon church. But now
I wanted to know this Jesus who could save my soul.

During this time of my research, Richards' and my life was still horrible. Richard was changing, getting kinder all the time. I was get getting angrier, still trying to hold on to the belief that the Mormon church was true. I thought that maybe the problems were with the people and not the LDS church itself. But the more I studied, the more I realized there were **too many contradictions and changes**
for it to be true.

Richard Told Me of the Rapture - It Scared Me to Death

Richard had been speaking to his co-worker about a subject that I had never heard of before; it was called the **"Rapture."** The Rapture is described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

So one day when Richard came home from work, he told me the most frightening words I had ever heard. He said, "When the Rapture occurs, me and our two girls will be gone but you will be left behind." Not only did this scare me, but it confused me. I had never heard about the Rapture. And who was Richard to say I could not go? I had always lived a better life than he had, surely I could go. I was still so angry at Richard that it would not have mattered to me

where he went, but I did not want my daughters going anywhere without me. Even though I did not believe what Richard had said, I was scared, **I did not want to be left behind.**

All through my childhood, I had been taught that the Mormon church was the only true church. But I knew I needed to seriously reconsider what I was basing my eternal life on. I wanted what that Christian missionary family and Richard had. Richard's life had been completely changed and I knew it was **not a religion that had made the difference,** he was not even attending church at the time.
It was a personal relationship with the Jesus Christ of the Bible.

A Beautiful Cover

While I was searching for the answers I so desperately wanted, I picked up a book from off of our bookshelf titled, **"God's Word, Final, Infallible and Forever."** This book had been left on our doorstep about one year prior to this and the only reason Richard kept it was it had a beautiful landscape cover. Our Christian neighbor up the street had left this book at our house during an outreach in our area. This book was written to show the validity of the Bible as the Word of God and some of the problems with the Mormon teachings.

The first section of this book told about the Bible being the only Word of God and explained how the God of the Bible is All Powerful and is able to keep His Word pure for us today. I learned how there are **no errors in the Bible** and that **it is trustworthy**. This was something I had never heard before as I had always been taught that the Bible had been mistranslated
27
and that there were many plain and precious parts taken out.
58
Yet this information was very exciting to me as I thought about there being a
God who is powerful enough to preserve His Word for me today in the King James Version.
(Matthew 24:35, Psalm 12:6-7, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 1:23-25)

The next section told of some of the problems in the Mormon teachings. These were some of the things I had already been studying and this reinforced the doubts I had. There was also a Biblical plan of salvation. It was so wonderful and simple that I thought it was too easy. How could I just **believe on and receive Jesus Christ for my salvation?**

I remembered the verse quoted to me from the man who pretended to be a Baptist preacher from my seminary class. (Ephesians 2:8-9) I knew if I would be able to get to heaven on my own, then I would boast for all eternity about all the good works I had done to get myself there and that would be unacceptable to God. I didn't want to trust my way anymore; I wanted God's way.

I Knew I Was a Sinner

First, I had to realize I was a sinner. The Bible says, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" (Romans 3:10) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23) Before I had met Richard, I never thought I had sinned. I was the epitome of perfection in my own mind. But after I met Richard, I did drugs, I drank, I ended up an unwed mother and I was angry all the time. Yes, I now knew I was a sinner. I had been brought down to the lowest point in my life. I had sinned against a Holy and Righteous God.

A Lake of Fire Forever!

Next the Bible said there was a penalty for my sin and that penalty was a burning lake of fire forever. "For the wages of sin is death;…" (Romans 6:23a) "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Revelation 20:14) "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8) Well, I had never heard that. But I knew I deserved this, I had sinned. The Bible said that Jesus had died to pay for my sin. When he died on that old, cruel cross almost two thousand years ago, my sins were placed on Him. **Jesus died so I might live.** "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

I had always heard that Jesus died for me, but I was told it was only for my physical resurrection, I had to work to get myself into heaven. Then, I started to wonder, **"How much work would it take?"**
Even if I repented and went back to the LDS church faithfully, went through the temple, paid my tithe and did my work for the dead, would it be enough? How would I know when I had done all

I needed to do? I wondered if when I died and stood before God, He would say I was $1.00 short on my tithe or I missed one week too many of church. Then I could not get into the degree of heaven I desired to attain. How would I know?

The Jesus of the Bible died not only for my physical resurrection but also for the salvation of my spirit and soul. He is able to forgive **all** of my sins and save me. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him …" (Hebrews 7:25)

As a Mormon, I was taught that it was baptism that washed away my sins and I had been baptized at the age of eight. Can you imagine all of the sins I had accumulated since then? Mormon doctrine also states that once I repented, **if I sinned again, every previous sin would come back.** 59 This was terrible. If God would not allow sin into His Heaven, then I would not be allowed in.

I never knew that I was a sinner in need of a Saviour, because I thought I could get into heaven on my own merit. But Jesus said, "…I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) I finally started to understand that it was only Jesus who could get me into heaven, not my church, my water baptism, or all of the wonderful good works I could perform could get me into God's Heaven. The Bible says "…all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;…" (Isaiah 64:6) The Bible also says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,…" (Titus 3:5**) It is only by the Blood of Jesus Christ that we can have forgiveness of sin.**
"…and the
blood of Jesus Christ
his Son
cleanseth us from all sin
." (1 John 1:7) "…Unto him that loved us, and
washed us from our sins in his own blood
," (Revelation 1:5) "In whom we
have redemption through his blood
, even the forgiveness of sins:" (Colossians 1:14)

A Free Gift From God

The Bible says that salvation is a gift from God. "… but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23b) A gift is something that I did not have to work for, only

acknowledge it was being offered and receive it. I finally realized I was a sinner, recognizing the penalty for my sin and understood that I could not get myself into heaven. **By faith I needed to trust Jesus Christ alone, plus and minus nothing,**
and ask Him to forgive me and save me. "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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation….For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:9-10,13)

My Many Struggles Ended in Peace

I now knew my religion could never get me into heaven. In the book I was reading, after the Biblical plan of Salvation, was a sinner's prayer. I went into my bedroom and knelt down by my bed and simply read the prayer as it was written in the book. As soon as I had prayed and asked the Jesus Christ of the Bible to forgive me and come into my heart and life and save me, **my life was changed forever.**
I then realized I had been wandering around in spiritual darkness all of my life. But when I trusted Jesus Christ alone as my Saviour, my eyes were opened and I could see. I came out of the darkness and into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9) I knew at that moment that everything I had been raised with and had been trusting in for my eternal life was wrong. I knew then that it was
not a religion that would get me into heaven but only a relationship with Jesus Christ.
This was the prayer I prayed:

"Lord Jesus Christ, come into my heart and life. Cleanse me from all my sin by your shed blood. Make me a child of Go. Give me your free gift of everlasting life, and let me know I am saved, now and forever. I now receive you as my very own personal Lord and Saviour, in Jesus' name, Amen."

My life had been changed in a moment. I now had a personal relationship with the Living Lord, Jesus Christ. I had been forgiven, saved, and born again into God's family, becoming His child. (John 1:12, Ephesians 1:5) I knew **salvation was instantaneous and not a process of works.** (Romans 6:23, 10:9-10, 13; Ephesians 2:8-9)

I had to tell someone, so I told Richard. I had to admit that I had been wrong. But that didn't matter. I now had peace, and I knew for certain where I would go if the Rapture occurred or

when I died. I would be in heaven with Jesus, not because of anything that I have done, but because of everything that Jesus has done.

We Started to Rebuild Our Marriage

By the grace of God, Richard and I started to rebuild our life together. It was only by that grace that we are still married because of the bitterness and resentment we had for each other. It has taken time, but God has restored our love for each other and has even given me a greater love and deeper respect for my husband.

We knew it was time that we told our families that we were no longer attending the LDS church. We had hoped that they would be happy that someone was finally sharing the truth with them from the Bible. Were we ever wrong! They had the same reaction with us that I had with Richard – anger, resentment and unbelief. Our families couldn't understand how we could do this to them.

The closest Richard has ever come to being assaulted with physical violence so far for the cause of Christ has been from his own family. Our relationship with our families have never been the same. Some of them did not want anything to do with us.

Our hearts break for our friends and family as we know the bondage they are under trying to live up to the expectations of thinking they can become a god. It cannot be done, **there is only one God and no one will ever become one.**
(Deut. 4:35, 39, 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11, 44:6,8 45:5-6, 18,21-22' 46:9; Psalm 86:10; Mark 12:29,32; 1 Timothy 2:5, 1 John 5:7)

In the Bible, Genesis chapter 3, it was **Satan who first introduced the doctrine that man could become as god.** "And the **serpent said** unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened,
and ye shall be as gods,…"
This is Satan's number one doctrine. It was because of this belief Satan was cast out of heaven. (Isaiah 14:12-15). All creation was cursed because of the fall of man. It was not a fall upwards as Mormonism teaches.

60

We Are Not Attacking - We Are Defending

Please understand that we are not attacking anyone. In Jude 3 it tells us to, "…earnestly contend for the faith which was **once** delivered unto the saints." We are defending the Lord Jesus Christ and His Promise not only that He established His Church but also His Promise to keep and preserve His Church. "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** Matthew 16:18 (1 Corinthians 3:11, Ephesians 2:20, Acts 2:47, Jude 3, 1 Peter 1:25)

The LDS church was started because Joseph Smith claimed that all Christian Churches were wrong, their creeds were an abomination in god's sight and their professors were all corrupt. 61 It was also stated that the Church that Jesus Christ started and promised to preserve had gone into apostasy and that Joseph Smith was called to restore it.
62

Joseph Smith said the church fell away and needed to be restored. The Lord Jesus Christ said not even the gates of hell would prevail against His Church.

Which One Will You Believe?

Joseph Smith or Jesus Christ?

"Unto him be glory **in the church** by Christ Jesus **throughout all ages**, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:21

The Way of the Cross

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness: but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18

References:

58 Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 13:26

59 Doctrine and Covenants 82:7 & Miracle of Forgiveness by Spencer W. Kimball, p. 170

60 Sterling W. Sill, Deseret News, Church Section, p. 7, July 31, 1965; Answers to Gospel Questions by Joseph Fielding Smith, p. 60 & Doctrines of Salvation by Joseph Fielding Smith, vol. 1 pp. 114-115

61 Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith History 1:19

62 Mormon Doctrine by Bruce R. McConkie, pp.136-137 & Our Heritage, published by the Mormon church, p. 4