



Hi, my name is Jonah, I'm 17 years old and I recently chose to repent from my sin and accept Jesus as my Lord and saviour. Because of this and the commitment I have made to God I have started a new life, one that I intend to live for God.

For a long time I never had any relationship with God. Even though I was raised in a Christian home and went to church every Sunday, it took me 17 years to accept Jesus into my life. I used to struggle to identify what in life was really true. And for a while I questioned everything, even God's existence. On Sundays and at home I was surrounded by people who lived their lives for God, whilst during the week and away from home I struggled to find people who believed in anything but living for themselves. It seemed to me, for a long time, that there was no truth to anything that anyone said. But in these times where I had no faith or strength, God's word seemed to always find a way to reach me and remind me that there is hope.

I had listened to hundreds of sermons where I was being told about the good news of God. But because of the way I spent my time, being tempted by the lives that I saw others living, I felt as though I could not surrender my way of living without finding out the truth for myself. And so, every now and again I would find myself reading from the bible. I found comfort and truth in what I was reading like nothing I had ever experienced. Every time I read a verse I felt as though my faith in God was strengthening. The message I was receiving was the same message I had heard many times whilst growing up. But it was like I was hearing it for the first time. I always knew that I was living a life of sin but it was only when I read about Jesus' life on earth that I began to realise that sin was separating me from God and that I needed to repent and accept Jesus into my life.

A little while before I finally asked Jesus to come into my life, I found myself in a place that reminded me of God's interest in me and the choice I faced. I was walking along the cycle path at Swansea Bay, to a workshop for chemistry students where I would meet friends, like Noah (who is here today!). As I was walking along the path with the sea to my right and cars zooming by on my left, I noticed a man standing on the pavement holding a sign that read "Jesus died for you". I watched for a little while, the hundreds of cars that drove by and wondered how many of the people in the cars even noticed what the sign said. And then I looked to the right to see again the rising sun shining on the waves, I knew I was witnessing first-hand the beauty of God's creation. Unlike many of those people in the cars I had heard the good news that Jesus has died for me, that I may live. And yet there I was still running away from God.

Very shortly after I accepted Jesus into my life. And here I am now, about to be baptized in front of friends and family, to show my obedience to God and to demonstrate my love for Jesus to those around.

I would also just like to take the opportunity to read a Psalm that has come to mean a great deal to me:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.



He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.