

Salvation Testimony – Darren Hawk

I grew up in a home that was a mix of Christian understanding and worldly practices. I didn't grow up going to church, but when my parents decided to move at the end of my second-grade year, our new house was about a quarter of a mile from Stony Point Baptist Church. That summer was the first time I remember attending Vacation Bible School, and this began the journey that would result in my hearing and believing the Gospel a few years later. I wasn't always excited about getting up early on Sunday mornings, especially since my parents didn't go, but rather got us up and sent my younger brother and me off to Sunday School and morning services. Despite my dissatisfaction regarding not being allowed to sleep in, I was blessed to have a fantastic Sunday School teacher who was so knowledgeable and caring. The class of third- and fourth-grade boys was a handful and required great restraint, but that didn't deter Mr. Tate from teaching us the truths of God's Word. I also attended AWANA on Wednesdays.

When I was 11, some life events in my family really got my attention, and I started to really understand the seriousness and ugliness of my sin and that Jesus died for my sins, was buried, and rose again, but I just couldn't believe that He did that for me. A few months later, my understanding of death and hell as the penalty for my sin and the fact that salvation is the "gift of God" became a reality for me and by faith I believed that Jesus was my Savior.

While my teen years were not stellar from a spiritual growth perspective, deep down I still trusted in Jesus as my Savior and the only way of salvation. A couple of years later, I was scripturally baptized. I have strived to live and grow in Christ throughout my life. God has allowed me to serve Him in many ways and continues to sanctify me through the working of the Holy Spirit.