

## Salvation Testimony – Mark Brown

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I grew up in a home where both of my parents professed faith in Jesus. When the church doors were open, we were there. I could never doubt my parents' love for God and for me. This had a tremendous impact on me. I went through what many would call the sinner's prayer around the age of six. I thought that this made me a Christian because I prayed what the preacher said I needed to pray. Then, in late November 2004, after hearing a sermon about heaven and hell, I was overcome with fear. I was so scared because I could see no difference in my life from before I claimed to be saved from my sin and after. Sins such as lying, cheating, disobeying, and displaying little love for my brothers were rampant and unchecked in my life.

Terrified that Christ would return and leave me behind, I refused to let my mother out of my sight. I foolishly thought that as long as I was physically next to her, I would be safe. My parents quickly realized what was going on and asked if I wanted to talk to them or the Pastor. I requested to speak to the Pastor, and he walked me through 1 John Chapter 5. He told me that all I needed to do was believe that Jesus is the Christ. I went down in the basement of my parents' house that night, the 4th of December 2004, and called out to God. I called out feeling the weight of my sin, understanding the punishment that I deserved, and believing that He died for my sins too.

I knew that I was born of God at that moment. There was a peace that I truly could not have imagined that overwhelmed me that day. I did not live in fear of eternity any longer, I had hope. I began to experience the convictions of the Holy Spirit in my life. Though there were periods of repeated disregard for Him, He has prevailed. As I am refined/sanctified, I am drawn more toward Him. Through the Grace of God, I now wear a robe that is not mine.