

Salvation Testimony – Steve Wilson

I am the youngest of three children, raised in a home where my mother was a believer and my father was not. Although my dad was religious—faithful in church attendance and service—he had not yet placed his faith in Christ. My mom faithfully led my siblings and me in nightly devotions, and one evening when I was four years old, I told her I wanted to go to heaven and be with Jesus when I died. She explained that the Gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ—His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension—and that forgiveness of sins and eternal life come only through faith in Him. That night, I prayed with my mom and believed what the Bible teaches about Christ.

Shortly afterward, my father came to saving faith, and our home changed. He began leading family devotions and guiding us to attend churches that faithfully preached the Gospel and made disciples. In the fourth grade, I desired to be baptized. After meeting with a deacon and sharing my understanding of the Gospel and my faith in Christ, I followed the Lord in believer's baptism. Around that time, I purchased my first study Bible and developed a growing desire to read and understand God's Word.

During my early teenage years, I struggled with my attitude and temper. Because of the style of preaching in our church, I often doubted my salvation when I saw ongoing sin in my life. Looking back, however, I can see that I experienced genuine conviction when I sinned. I now understand that this was the work of the Holy Spirit sanctifying me—conforming me to Christ—not calling into question the reality of my salvation.

In junior high, I attended a summer camp where, throughout the week, I sensed the Lord leading me toward full-time ministry. On the final night, I surrendered to serve Him in that way. After completing Bible college and seminary, the Lord brought me to Berean, where I have had the privilege of serving since 1989.

Over the years, the Lord has continued to grow me in my understanding of Scripture and to give me victory over sin in many areas. Though I am not yet perfect, I continue to experience the Spirit's convicting and refining work in my life. By God's grace, I have a growing desire to be conformed to Christ and to proclaim to others what He has done for me.