

## Tony's Testimony of Jesus Christ in His Life

Do you ever look deep into your heart but find only emptiness? The French scientist and philosopher Pascal once said that every man has a God shaped hole in his heart that only He can fill. I would like to tell you how Jesus Christ filled that hole in my heart.

Before I knew Jesus Christ, I tried to fill the hole with pleasure. My philosophy of life was to work hard, earn lots of money, and spend it to have fun and on all the things I wanted. In high school that meant getting drunk and high on drugs with friends, and flirting with girls. We would go to parties or listen to music in a car, and drink and smoke. The next day we would laugh about the crazy things we did the night before. But this never satisfied me completely. I still had emptiness in my heart.

When I was 19 years old, it became obvious that I needed to change my lifestyle. I was destroying my life with alcohol. Often I would drink so much that I couldn't even remember what I did the night before. I would wake up feeling terrible and was struggling to pass two of my engineering courses. I knew I should stop drinking. My family loved me and God had blessed me with a good mind and body, yet I was destroying them. On my own willpower, I vowed to stop. But then I began to question what life was all about. If the goal in life was not to party, then what was it??? I searched for possible reasons for my life, but found no answers.

Six months went by, and I still wondered what my purpose in life was. The hole in my heart seemed even bigger. Gradually I began to drink beer and smoke marijuana again. Then one day I decided to go on a journey to visit a friend who lived about 150 miles away. I had a car, but I wanted to hitch hike for fun and adventure. A man picked me up who was going all the way to the city where my friend lived. He told me later that when he picked me up the Holy Spirit began speaking to his heart to tell me about Jesus Christ!

He asked me if I were to die that moment would I go to heaven or to hell. I said I thought I had done more good than bad so I would go to heaven. But he told me that according to the Bible I would go to hell because I did not *know* Jesus Christ (John 17:3, I John 5:11-13, Acts 4:12, John 14:6). He told about the Bible verse (Revelations 3:20) where Jesus said He is standing at the door of our lives knocking, waiting to come in. He said if I opened the door and let Him in, He would dine with me and I with Him. In other words, He wanted to be my close friend! He explained that all men, including me, were separated from God because of sin (Rom. 3:23). However, Jesus died for our sins to bring us to God (I Pet. 3:18).

All I had to do, he said, was confess my sin, believe Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and invite Him into my heart. He convinced me that I had nothing to lose by praying this immediately. I realized that although I knew about Christ before, I had never given Him an honest chance to work in my life. At that moment I invited Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Savior. The man gave me a Bible, and when I read it I was amazed at the wisdom and truths I found.

I went back to college and easily found new Christian friends who knew how to have fun, without alcohol or drugs! This was a wonderful discovery. Friendships grew very deep and meaningful. They cared for me in practical ways and helped me establish a strong faith in God. We prayed, shared experiences and read the Bible together.

This was great, but as a scientist I wondered about evolution, and if God was real. In school I learned that life started “spontaneously” in a warm pond under certain ideal conditions. However, as I began to read more and consider the actual evidence it appeared much more likely that an intelligent designer created life.

I also wondered if the Bible was truth, or just a Book of good morals leading to a good life. But as I considered the historical evidence of Jesus, the eyewitness accounts and changed lives of the men who followed Him, and the amazing prophecies fulfilled through Him, I became convinced that He was real and that the Bible could be trusted.

God began to work in my life in very real ways and assured me of His love.

My life was forever changed. Life was no longer a mystery. I finally discovered why I was born: To love God, family, friends and neighbors. Thus, the empty place in my heart was filled with love, peace and joy.

This new faith had other benefits as well: My grades improved dramatically!

Since then my life has had many ups and downs, but God has been with me through it all, giving me peace and joy. Even though I've questioned Him at times and gone my own way, in the end I have learned that His ways are always the best. After all He is the one all knowing God, and He loves me.

The God shaped hole in my heart has been completely filled with Jesus Christ. Have you given Him a fair chance in your life?

