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Lifelines Outreach shares the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and by making disciples in the greater Nashville area.

**May 2017**

As I was watching the baptism yesterday at church, a young lady who is a junior at Vanderbilt was baptized. She was so excited. It was about her age that I got baptized after making a profession of faith at a Billy Graham crusade in May 1972, in Birmingham, Alabama. I cannot remember why I went that night. It was probably because my mother made me go. I grew up in church, but it was not until then that God got my attention and mapped out my destiny. That moment in time changed my life forever. I do not think that we ever truly know how many changes Jesus is going to make in our lives. I was just following through with what I believed was my next steps.

Shortly after getting saved, I decided to get a Bible that was a little easier to read than the KJV that my mother had bought me a few years earlier for my birthday. I did not know much about Bible versions at that time, but I knew that I now had a desire to read the Bible unlike before I was saved. I went to a small Christian bookstore in my neighborhood. They were so nice. They took the time to tell me about the versions that were available and made the recommendation of an New International Version Study Bible by Zondervan. I was so proud of that bonded leather Bible. It was one that I could really read. I still have a love for the old King James Bible, and I read it every day. I use a King James Bible for memorizing verses. As I began really reading the Bible for the first time, God began speaking to me through His Word. I really could not get enough. It did not take me very long before that Bible began to wear out. To this day, I never pick up a Bible without God speaking to me. A verse in 1 John 1:3 says this, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may also have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."

Getting back to the young girl that was baptized. I really do not think that she understands all of the implications of what she did believing and receiving Jesus. You can explore the Gospel for a thousand years, and you are just at the beginning point of discovering what Jesus did at the cross. Hopefully, that young lady will have a great hunger for the Word of God and begin the greatest adventure of her life getting to know Jesus each and every day! 1 Corinthians 4:20 says, "For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power." I continue to discover the power of the Gospel each day. It is the very power that raised Jesus from the dead and will also one day raise me from the dead.

I still have such a sense of God's presence in my life. The Word of God continues to mold each day in the way I think. Ministry opportunities abound. My prayer for you is that you will know the presence of God and learn to love Him and His Word more each day. Remember the way to overcome sin in your life is to fall in love with Jesus. *—Richard Gay*

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# Share Jesus with the Roman Road

## Testimony

Give your testimony up to 3 minutes – focus on the big picture without a lot of detail but keep it interesting, e.g., “I found myself in an alley in Atlanta”; “I was raised in a two room shack.”

Remember the 3 parts to your story:

1. Your life before receiving Jesus Christ
2. Your salvation experience
3. Your life after salvation; describe how Jesus Christ has changed/transformed you

Then, don't ask for permission, move right into God's story using the verses.

Simply open your Bible and let God's word speak for itself. If you don't have a Bible, quote them from memory.

Invite your friend to read a verse aloud and then have him explain the verse to you. Take him through all the verses listed below. If your friend interprets a passage incorrectly, don't argue or offer your interpretation, but politely ask him to read it again, and then explain it a second time. Misinterpretation should not be much of a problem if you use the Bible verses listed above.

Even if your friend mentions that he doesn't believe in or agree with the Bible, it is best not to argue. You can state that you simply want him to understand what the Bible says about eternity. Isn't it wonderful to know that it's not our responsibility to convict? (John 16:8) Conviction is God's job. All we can do is share. Once we have shared, we have done God's will. Witnessing for Christ is a no-lose activity.

## New American Standard Version

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9-10 “That if you confess with your mouth ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

## Closing Questions

1. According to what we just read or heard, would you say we are sinners?
2. Are you willing to turn from your sin and accept God's forgiveness, from your sin?
3. Do you believe by faith that Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead?
4. Are you ready now to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life? We do that by praying (give them the option to say their own prayer).

## Additional Versus

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.

2 Corinthians 5:15 And He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.

Romans 10:13 For whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.