



## AM I A CHRISTIAN?

My name is Larry, and I am a follower of Jesus Christ. The path that led to my becoming a Christian is one that was influenced by my Christian wife. First, a little history about myself. I grew up going to church. Whenever the doors were open we were there. There never seemed to be a time when going to church was not a part of my childhood. On one occasion, we were attending a revival and during the invitation my daddy looked over at me and asked, "Do you want to go forward?" Being the obedient son that I was, I said yes and went forward, I shook the preacher's hand, signed a card and became a church member. But the truth is that I was not a Christian, I was only a name on a church roll. It was only later in life that I came to realize that.

I graduated from high school and went to college; all the while thinking I was ready for eternity. While in college, I worked at a car dealership. It was there that I met the most wonderful person I have ever known, my wife. At first, she was not very impressed with me. In fact, she said she thought I was conceited. However, an older lady who worked in the office with her told my wife that she should give me a chance. She did and when I graduated from college we got married. During our courtship, she asked me if I was a Christian and I assured her that I was. That lie became evident as time progressed.

I took a job in construction that required us to move a lot. We moved from Texas to northern Alberta, Canada. You talk about a shock to a couple of kids from southeast Texas. We lasted about a year, and decided we needed to make a change. I got a job offer and we moved to Corpus Christi. All the while God was putting me in position to acknowledge the false security that just being a church member offered. During our early married life, we attended church sporadically. I had not fulfilled the role of the spiritual leader of our family because I was not a believer in Jesus Christ, I was only a church member and that was not enough.

When we got settled into our new home, my wife announced she was going to start going to church regularly and asked me if I wanted to come. I told her no, but she could go if she wanted. She found a Baptist church close to our house and began attending. Every Sunday it was the same thing, "do you want to go to church with me?," and my answer was always the same, no. But one Sunday she asked me if I wanted to go with her, and I said yes. I can't tell you why I changed my mind except to say I saw something in her that was missing in my life.



## AM I A CHRISTIAN? (CONT'D)

We began attending church together and became actively involved.

Our pastor, Brother Bob, was a wonderful man and preached the Bible with great faithfulness. He once spent months preaching from the book of Joshua, verse by verse.

It was during this time that the Holy Spirit began challenging me about my faith. What was I trusting in to secure my eternity, good works or the blood of Christ? I spent many sleepless nights asking God what He wanted from me. The answer was always the same, my surrender. Finally, one night I said okay. The next Sunday morning, while I was seated in the choir, our pastor gave the invitation, and I shocked him by coming down and telling him about my decision to make Jesus my Lord and Savior. Shortly thereafter, I was baptized for the second time, but this time it was for real. My wife tells people there was a noticeable change in my countenance after that day. I know it was the light of the Holy Spirit shining through me.

I once heard that you could miss heaven by eighteen inches. That is roughly the distance between your head and your heart. There are lots of people who know about Jesus, head knowledge, but don't know Him personally, heart knowledge. That eighteen inches determines if you will spend eternity in hell or heaven.

Pastor John asked me to share my testimony because it is from the viewpoint of a man who saw their wife live for Jesus despite having an unsupportive husband. Jesus saved me, but He used my wife and her faithfulness to bring me to Himself.

*Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a true and faithful wife finds a good thing and obtains favor and approval from the Lord.*

I found a "true and faithful wife" and "obtained favor and approval from the Lord." I hope my story offers encouragement to anyone who has a lost loved one. Don't give up, remain faithful to Jesus and know that there is always hope.