

What JESUS Did to Me - Ron (July 2022)

> Jesus allowed me to be deceived, by Satan, by myself, and by Christians.

I thought I was saved. I went to Sunday School and I “believed” in Jesus as my Savior. At age 12, it was so easy for me to say the Sinner’s Prayer and accept “God’s free gift”, and guarantee my eternal salvation in heaven. I called Jesus ‘my Lord and Savior’, Christian words so easily combined, and that so freely flowed from my lips. But I was lying to myself, to others (especially Christians), and most importantly, to God. I was a fraud. God knew that Jesus wasn’t my Lord.

> Jesus allowed me to suffer depression for 30 years.

I know deep, dark debilitating depression, leading to suicide thoughts and plans. I deeply harmed my wife and daughters, over many years. I told my wife that I likely won’t live to 50. My daughters later told me that some days they didn’t know if I would be alive when they got home. God allowed me to suffer much, and for me to cause much harm to my wife, daughters, and others who I loved.

> Jesus allowed me to be humbled and broken.

At age 52, I was unemployed, university educated, experienced, and old in a decimated job sector. For a year, I searched daily for a job. I got one interview. My wife was tired, damaged, and without hope. My marriage was threatened.

My ways that had always worked, didn’t. I hurt deeply, had no hope, was broken.

> Jesus saved me, gave me the Holy Spirit, and new life.

I pleaded with God to save me. He gave me the faith to surrender my life, my will, and my ways to Jesus, not just as my Savior but as my Lord, to be His blood-bought slave. He saved me, and I was born again by the Holy Spirit, for His glory alone. I was His new creation, and a new husband for my wife and a new father, for my two daughters, ages 14 and 16, So undeserved and so amazing! Praise God!

> Jesus then allowed me to be severely tested and tormented.

Four months later, my wife of 18 years and a 25 year relationship wanted a divorce and demanded that I move out. My only best friend betrayed me. I idolized my family, my wife and 2 daughters. I was rejected by my family. Unimaginable pain!

> Jesus healed me of 30 years of depression, absolutely amazing.

I had no wife, no family, no best friend, no job, lots of pain and tears, and ... no depression! Homicide and suicide thoughts attacked my mind. He protected me.

> Jesus healed me of my 30 year cigarette addiction, a priceless gift.

I had been strongly addicted to cigarettes for 30 years. My wife had given up hope of me ever quitting. I had tried acupuncture, medications, self-help books, and lots of self-will. Every time that I had tried to quit, I failed and ended up depressed and without hope. A doctor friend who knew my daily pain and trauma, advised me that

there couldn't be a worse time for me to even consider quitting smoking.

Exactly one month after my wife and family rejected me, I knew that I couldn't quit on my own strength. I prayed probably 25 times that day, desperately pleading for Him to heal me so that He alone would get all the glory. That day, 20 years ago, Jesus healed me of smoking. All praise and glory to God alone!

> Jesus gave me a new heart, His heart of love for the poor and needy.

Jesus replaced my self-centered, prideful heart, by His Spirit with His selfless heart of love and compassion for others. He gave me a faith that reaches my lips and feet, to serve food, share God's Word, encourage, and pray for poor, needy, and marginalized people everywhere, including Vancouver Downtown East Side alleys.

> Jesus chose me to trust and obey Him, to reach out to unsaved people for Him.

Jesus commands each of His born again followers to share God's Word with people who don't know Him, or who reject Jesus as Lord (including deceived Christians), and who He lovingly warns are all on a path to forever torment alone in hell.

The Bananas, Socks and Scripture outreach ministry always included a handout featuring God's Word that was given to every person served. Over the years, many new handouts were developed in response to the request for more of God's Word from those being served who wanted more than just belly food. Praise God!

The JesusoftheBible.net website was launched to share these many 1-2 page, big print documents that featured God's Word and real life stories from born again followers of Jesus, people who were transformed and made God's new creation, so others would see His great work in and through them, and all for His glory alone.

> Jesus still allows my great sufferings, and He faithfully continues to sustain me.

I have been hurt and rejected by others. I am ashamed of my hurtful acts to others. These painful memories torment me, sometimes as daytime PTSD, and other times as bad dreams. He protects my mind and gives me His peace. Praise God!

Now, He allows me to serve and personally know many poor and needy people. They never shun or reject me, even though they may reject Jesus. They always welcome me. They know that I love them with God's love. Praise God!

And, He allows me to be shunned by Christians who cannot answer, when I ask them to boast in being Jesus' new creation, for His glory. Someone reminded me that, "I can call myself a zebra, but it doesn't make me one." God knows.

May we be quick to repent. Either, to repent for true salvation as a born again follower of Jesus as Lord, or to repent for Spirit-convicted obedience to the Lord.

> I love to tell others "What JESUS Did to Me". And you?

If you surrender your life to follow Jesus as Lord, you will see what He will do to you. He promises to save you and make you His new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). May many Christians repent and be born again as followers of Jesus, by His Spirit.