PAWEL'S TESTIMONY

I believe you are my friend therefore I will pour out my heart before you!

This is the story of how the Lord God found me even though the Lord God was not in my life and I was not looking for Him. My parents brought me up according to the

traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. I was even an altar boy for a few years. My life was what I thought was good for me. There were cigarettes, alcohol, friends. At a later stage, drugs or, if you prefer, intoxicants. After dropping out of university, I moved to London. I went to work and lived my life, my set goals and desires. I found myself doing things I couldn't deal with, like eating massive amounts of sweets and watching all sorts of films. including pornography. I just absorbed it like a sponge and soaked it up. I was saying more and more stupid things, because I took it from the films and thought that the more stupid things I said, the cooler I became. Meanwhile, my sister, who has trusted and given her life to the Lord Jesus, was talking to me about how the Lord Jesus seeks us, relationships with us, how much He loves us and wants our good. Let me tell you, I was rejecting all this and inside I was boiling with anger. I probably would have responded with something angry but because I love my family, I just told her to stop already. Once, when I was on holiday in Poland, my sister invited me to a service to see what water baptism was like. At first, I didn't want to because I didn't know if it was some kind of sect. However, out of curiosity, I decided to go. At the service, I saw how warmly people greeted each other and what warm relations they had with each other. I saw what a cool atmosphere there was and how people prayed with a heart for the Lord Jesus. It was something different to what I had known before. I then prayed with others to the Lord Jesus to help me in my life and for him to direct my life.

On my return to London, I felt that something had changed in me. I started, I think, to pray in my room for the first time. I started reading the New Testament and what was written there came alive for me, as if it applied to myself. I started talking about the Lord God in my work. I decided that I would find a church in London. One that is fully based on what is written in Scripture. I started looking on the internet and found one. I went the following Sunday. I received a very warm welcome and was asked how I ended up there. I told them how a desire came over me to read Scripture, pray and I felt I needed to find a church. In return, people told me how they had been converted from various

addictions, depression or bad lives. I came to church a few times but I began to have these thoughts that this was not me and that I was changing so much that people would laugh at me as I talked about the Lord Jesus. Unfortunately, it got ingrained in me, these thoughts and I left. I stopped going to church, praying, reading Scripture. I felt a kind of emptiness in my heart. That time I was spending on what changes were happening in me and how I was going to church, seeking relationships with other believers had to be replaced with something else. I started thinking about travelling and pursuing that. I started to take an interest in photography and learnt it. It became my passion, my love. This is what I dedicated my time to after work and I lived for the next plans, the next trip, the next pictures. In the meantime, my old addictions to pornography and overeating sweets returned, also sometimes alcohol. At the time I was working in the kitchen in a hot environment. Anyone who has worked knows how hard this job is. Suddenly there was news of a virus that was wreaking havoc on people, that people were dying en masse. Here in London, it was like that too. People started to panic. It was alarming in me too because I didn't know what was happening. There were restrictions. They closed the borders, they started separating food, products. They started forcing us in the kitchen to cover our nose and mouth with masks. I couldn't accept this because it's hot in the kitchen and you have to work at high speed. I started to choke and get angry that they were forcing me to do something I didn't want to do! This triggered a lot of aggression in me. I argued with my boss at work and others and the people who lived with me. I didn't deal with my emotions at the time. I was aware that they had closed the borders and I didn't know when that would change, would it change at all? I felt as if someone had taken away my freedom, deprived me of what I love, what I love to do and deprived me of the meaning of life. Plus being forced into these masks, threats of losing my job. It all built up in me so much, this anger, aggression, the meaninglessness of continuing to live, that it made me depressed. I was totally shattered and had suicidal thoughts! I couldn't cope and saw no hope. Then my sister sent me a link to a broadcast of a man who was talking about this whole situation, that they were trying to enslave people with fear and drive them to break down and some to suicide. This man talked about it having a spiritual basis. He encouraged people to trust in the Lord Jesus and His Words which are written in the Scriptures. He began to quote verses from Scripture Jn 8:31-32: "So Jesus said to the Jews who believed in Him: If you persevere in my teaching, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

At the time I didn't understand it yet but I had in my mind these words "and the truth will set you free".

This man encouraged me to pray. Then I knelt down in my room because I knew I needed help and I couldn't do it alone. I began to pray aloud with the words: , "Lord Jesus please help me! I can't cope! I need your help and deliverance! I believe that You came to earth and gave Your life for me so that I could be saved. Please forgive me for any wrong I have ever done to anyone. Lord Jesus I also want to forgive those who have done anything wrong to me because You teach this in Your Word (Scripture).

You know what, the very moment I said it with my lips I felt the huge weight I had on my chest being lifted, all that fear and burden gone. I physically felt such warmth and love flowing in my heart that there are no words to describe it. I felt such a lightness as if I was about to burst off the ground. Such immense gratitude came over me that the Lord Jesus had freed me from this fear, aggression, meaninglessness of life, binge eating, pornography. Tears of gratitude flew from me and I began to thank the Lord Jesus with all my heart! Then I began to seek the Lord God in my life again. I began to read the New Testament and the Holy Spirit began to bring to life for me what is written there and show it more deeply. I understood what the Lord Jesus meant when He spoke to Nicodemus, the scribe:

Jn 3:3: "Jesus answered him: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." The Lord God showed me that I was born again and was sealed with the promised Holy Spirit and from that moment the journey of discipleship with the Lord Jesus began. I began to read more Scripture and understand more and more deeply. The Lord God showed me what the words meant: John 8:31-32: "Jesus therefore said to the Jews who believed in Him: "If you persevere in my teaching, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free"!!! Many things the Holy Spirit has shown me, that the death of my body which I was so afraid of that I did not want to think about it is not the end. It is a beginning but only for those who believe, trust in the Lord Jesus. In His every Word and will be born of the Holy Spirit!

Using my relationship with my dad, the Lord God showed me what a true father-son relationship should look like. Full of unconditional love. Even though I often failed, my dad never turned away from me. You know.... I have a picture of my dad when every day after work before going to sleep, he prayed to the Lord Jesus in words like a father with his son. Depending on whether he was suffering, rejoicing or perhaps had problems he couldn't cope with. About the needs for the good for our family. My dad often told me not to go to bed without prayer. I heard it at the time but did not want to listen. I didn't understand it and I didn't want to. Now I understand

where my dad got the strength from to provide for his family despite the difficult situation. It is the Lord God who provides everything we need for life. That is why it is so important to pray daily in thanksgiving for what the Lord God gives us in life.

Whoever you are and whatever you are going through, know that you are not alone. Because the Lord Jesus is Present and Alive. He is working in my life every day and yours too! The Lord Jesus loves you and wants to have a relationship with you! Don't let yourself be told otherwise! I let myself be told and almost lost my life! Whatever you are going through know that there is hope and a continued life, full of joy! The Lord Jesus is able to rebuild what is broken, meaningless and from your point of view impossible in your life! I am a testimony of how the Lord God pulled me out of death to life. If you feel you are not coping, pray in words out loud. Open your mouth and believe because God's Word says: Romans 10:9-10: "For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For faith flowing from the heart assures righteousness, and its confession with the mouth assures salvation."

