

Piotr Suchy

CONVERION TESTIMONY

A few words about me

I was born and until the age of 15 I lived and grew up in Nowogard, in a family of believing Catholics. I attended church since I was a child. Already as a 3-year-old I took part in catechesis for the little ones. I have always felt the closeness of the Lord in my life. I wanted to serve Him and did everything I could to make that happen. I was looking for my place. That is why, after the 8th grade of primary school, I went to the Minor Seminary in Plock, where, besides the usual studies, there was a school of life - laundry, cleaning, mending and prayer. My desire to serve God led me first to the novitiate of the Salesian Society in Czerwinski, then to the novitiate of the Dominican Fathers in Poznań, and finally to the Archbishops' Major Seminary in Szczecin, to be ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic Church on Mother's Day, 2001, after defending my Master's thesis at the Faculty of Theology of Adam Mickiewicz University.



When I was going to secondary school I met my friend Pastor Cesary Komisarz. That was more than 28 years ago. We became friends - me - a later Catholic priest (previously as a Catholic school student, seminarian and deacon) and him - a pastor with his family - we met and I will always be grateful to Czarek for never trying to convert me. When I was on dean's leave, after my third year of studies, I used to come to his house on Wednesdays for prayer meetings and meditation on the Word of God (I still have a notebook on the Vine in my 'scrapbooks'), and although I didn't belong to the church, I felt among them, like part of the family.

In the seminary I got involved with the Koinonia Giovanni Battista (Community of St John the Baptist), which was a KE (Kerygma) KA (Karisma) KO (Koinonia) movement, and I belonged for a while to the Renewal in the Holy Spirit. As a priest I worked in several places. My first parish was Dębno (where the first person to visit me was none other than Pastor Czarek, causing quite a sensation in the vicarage), then there was Stargard, Gryfice and the last parish was Suchań.

While in Suchań, I undertook a doctoral study, through which I began to learn more about the Bible, and the Holy Spirit began to prompt me with questions that no one in the Roman Catholic Church would answer, or if they answered my question it was in such a way as not to say too much. This lack of answers made me read the Word more and look for commentaries to help me understand certain things. It also made me realise that the Catholic Church had diverged in its teaching from what Jesus said and the disciples later taught - including on the Last Supper (Catholics considered it a sacrament), the priesthood, confession, celibacy and the veneration of Mary and the saints.

Too many things did not suit me and hence my final decision to leave the priesthood. I entrusted my life to God. It was not an easy time. I had no money set aside and I didn't know how to ask for help. At the time, I was helped financially (until I found a job) by my home parish priest, Grzegorz Zaklika, who was really a very good man. Thanks to him, I wasn't a burden on my parents.

I looked for a job and finally found one - first as a career and therapist at a social care home, then as a salesman at a Subaru dealership in Szczecin, and after appropriate training, I got a job at "PZU Życie" as a manager (I was only an agent for a week). However, working for a corporation and in such a position means working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year with no time for holidays, sickness or family. I lasted like that for more than four years. However, I never ran out of time for God. When going to work, I would invite Jesus into my life and thank him for every person he placed in my path of life.

I used to go to a nearby Catholic temple on Sundays, but unfortunately, I was told from the priests (including close friends that I was a traitor and people like me were not helped). These words hurt me very much. Unfortunately, I fell ill and could not recover from a common cold for three months. I decided to give up my job and return to my hometown. It wasn't until I returned to Nowogard and started working in an office that one day I found myself in a local church (the "Upper House" church of the Evangelical Christian Church in Nowogard), where I felt like I was among family again.

I MET JESUS

It all started when Czarek invited me to an evening meeting during the Tent Mission in Nowogard, which was organized by the "Upper House" church of the Evangelical Christian Church in Nowogard. It was under this blue tent, I can honestly say today, that: **I WAS BORN AGAIN - IN JESUS AND FOR JESUS.** With prayer, teaching, worship, and conversations, God answered my questions through the people I met.



Why do I believe in God?

And for the same reason that some people believe in the TV remote control, because they see that it works. Or maybe because I once met people who began to tell me about their experiences with God - they gave testimony of their own encounter with Jesus and what he had done in their lives. I was surprised by the very idea that it was possible to live with God and not just know something about him and fear him.

So, what is my faith?

Some say: I believe in this, this and that. Another - I believe in God. Someone else says: I believe in God, but I don't actually practice my faith. Some people say: I believe in the Christian worldview. Someone else says, I don't believe in the Christian worldview because I have my own.

For me personally, faith and conversion are a way of accepting God's grace. I do all this so that it is not just a faith that says, I agree with you or I disagree. Or for it not to be a faith that says, I have this worldview or another.

My faith is a confidence, a conviction, it is even the deep trust of my heart. This is the faith of which the Apostle Paul writes in his Letter to the Ephesians, of which the New Testament speaks. My faith is certainty. Even the Polish language dictionary, when we find the word 'faith', uses the word 'certainty'. This agrees with the biblical definition of faith as recorded in Hebrews 11:1 "And faith is the certainty of what is expected, the conviction of what is not seen".

That is my faith. It is trust. This faith involves not only my mind, but much more with my heart and my will. This is confident faith!

Surrender to Jesus

It is from this faith that the questions I have begun to ask myself for some time now arise: Do I trust Jesus? Am I able to surrender my life to Him? To allow that He would take me in His hands and lead me along this narrow path all the way to heaven? To the Father's house, that I may be saved and justified?

I began to read even more into God's Word and rediscovered that whoever believes in Jesus Christ, the living God, undoubtedly loves Him. The Scriptures have become food for my faith anew (Rom.10:17). For faith flows from the heart (Rom.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 with the heart he believes one's faith is for justification, and one's mouth confesses for salvation".*



What then is my faith?

I believe that Jesus is my Lord!

"And having led them out, he said: Gentlemen, what shall I do that I may be saved? And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house". (Acts 16:30-31);

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God's grace is eternal life in the Christ Jesus our Lord". (Romans 6:23)

In summary, I would say this:

- I believe that I am a sinner, and that I am in no way able to pay for my sins.
- I believe that the wages of My sins are death - eternal distance from the face of God.
- I believe that Jesus Christ paid for My sins by dying on the cross.
- I believe that if I ask Him for salvation He will answer my sincere prayer.

Baptism

The decision to be baptized was a consequence of my faith. I wanted it to be a public sign of my love for Jesus. It was my conscious response to the voice of the Lord. Close to my heart is this passage from Isaiah 6:7-8, where we read: *"And he touched my lips with it, and said, Behold, this coal hath touched your lips; your iniquity is removed, and your sin is put away. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: Whom shall I send, and who shall go to us? Then I answered: Here am I, send me". (UBG)*

Let this testimony of a former smoker be proof that Jesus has become my Lord. I used to smoke a lot, as if I wanted to make up for the time when I didn't smoke at all (I started smoking in 2004). On Monday I would buy a wagonload of cigarettes and on Tuesday afternoon I would go and get another batch because I had just smoked my last cigarette. When I decided to give my life to Jesus I asked Him to take this addiction away from me and He did. Fifteen days before my baptism (30th of June 2015), I smoked the last cigarette in my life.

Jesus took that addiction away from me definitively - once and for all and finally. I have just passed eight full years of not smoking, and I know that I owe this only to Jesus, because I myself tried many times to quit cigarettes and failed (after some time back to this habit). Today I am a free man, if we talk about addictions, but I also know that I have other problems that only God can solve and to Him I fully entrust myself.

This inner conversion and life turnaround of mine in becoming fully a disciple of Jesus could only be expressed as a testimony of my faith through my baptism in the name of Jesus Christ (on 15 July 2015 in the waters of Lake Nowogard, in the presence of members of the Nowogard church, my loved ones - my parents and my brother's family, visiting guests from neighboring churches) **and through the sanctification process that the Holy Spirit then initiated in me and will continue until the end of my earthly pilgrimage.**

I desire to be as a man created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness (Eph 4:24; cf. Rom 6:6; Col 3:9).

Today I am part and a member of Elim Springs Polish Christian Church in London, where God, for reasons only known to Himself, has placed me. I try to share my faith as a preacher, but also as a deacon through the published quarterly magazine or "our" church radio. I believe that God has a plan for me that I want to follow, despite all the adversities and difficulties I have experienced, am experiencing and will continue to experience, because only Him do I want to serve.

PRAYER:

Father, I know that I have not always obeyed Your Law and that my sin has separated me from You. I desire to turn away from my sinful past and turn towards You.

Please forgive my sins and help me to avoid them in my life.

I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins, that he rose from the dead, that he lives and hears my prayer.

I open my heart and ask that You Jesus become Lord of my life, that You reign in my heart from now on forever.

Please give me your Holy Spirit to help me to obey you and to do your will for the rest of my life.

AMEN!

Peter