

Watching Scottie Grow

Knowing Christ gives me a deep peace and satisfaction that characterizes my life, now. Each day is exciting and takes me down unexpected paths as I grow to know Christ better. It's not always easy but there is the deep inner sense that I'm living for something that matters and that God will work things out for everyone's good. Things were not always this way, even though I grew up with spiritual influences in my life.

In my home, we always went to church, whenever the doors were open, but this didn't translate into a peaceful environment for us or into a personal reality for me. I heard about God but didn't experience Him in my daily life. I took my view of life and myself from my family and developed the clear impression that I didn't matter and my feelings were not important. I did all the right things at my church but still felt alone and detached. I had trouble with uncontrollable and disturbing dreams and first considered suicide at this time, as a fifteen year-old.

Unexpected change came, though, as the invitation was offered after a particularly moving message at church camp. I knew Jesus Christ had died for our sins and rose from the dead, but that evening at camp was the first time I realized that He did that for me and my sins. I responded to that and received Christ. It was a turning point in my life and the beginning of my relationship with God. Something had changed in my family while my sisters and I were at camp that week and things from that point on took a dramatic turn. I exerted a lot of effort to live the Christian life, but after a sincere effort, felt I had failed. I turned away from God to other things for the next few years, trying on my own to establish acceptance with others and a secure and peaceful life. This took me down some dangerous paths until, in my sophomore year in college, and after some very special events, God reclaimed my life from sure disaster. I learned about grace more clearly, that salvation was by faith, as a gift from God and not from ourselves at all. This began a whole new chapter in my life. Through all this, up to the present day, I am so grateful for the confidence that God has given me eternal life and peace.