

Natalie Scarlett

“I feel secure in the knowledge that no matter what difficulties I may face, I can overcome them through God’s unconditional love and grace I’ve seen at work in my life.”



I was brought up in a very strict Christian family and both of my parents were leaders in the church. Being one of their children meant there were expectations on me to conduct myself in a certain way. I knew my parents loved me and were raising me in the best way they knew how, but this upbringing had a negative effect on how I thought about God and faith.

I thought I could never live up to the standard of a ‘good Christian’ and had the impression God would only love me if I served regularly in the church and kept lots of rules. I decided I would never become a Christian, but looking back now I can see God was actually planting good seeds and laying the foundations for my future.

I soon left the family home and totally embraced a hedonistic lifestyle. Although I wasn’t a big drinker, I enjoyed partying hard in the nightclubs until early hours of the morning. I had a couple of unhealthy relationships and, over time, the enjoyment I had from that kind of lifestyle began to fade. I started to feel more and more unfulfilled, as though something was missing from my life. In order to fill the void, I began to seek comfort in the wrong things.

During this time, I also began to think about God, but although I wanted to pray for help, I felt ashamed and unworthy. I didn’t think he would ever listen to my prayers as I’d not been going to church or keeping any of the rules. One day at a real low point, I plucked up the courage to pray and I told God about my problems. I poured my heart out to Him as though I was talking to a close friend. I told Him I believed He was real and even said to Him I wanted to go to church, but not like the one I grew up in.

Despite the life I’d been living, God answered my prayer. About a week later my work colleague shared with me that she was a Christian and went to a church called Trent Vineyard. She invited me along and that’s when I began to realise the love and grace God has for me.

When I arrived at Trent, I received an extremely warm welcome and began to enjoy regularly going along. I felt uplifted by the times of worship and encouraged by the sermons. I joined the same small group as my colleague who is now a great friend and also made lots of new friendships. My lifestyle also changed for the better.



Wanting to go deeper in my faith, I went on an Alpha course where I learnt more about God's unconditional love and realised that rather than me keeping rules or rituals He wanted a relationship with me. I had a revelation that I was saved by grace and not by my works, and because of this, I decided to become a Christian. I got baptised a year later and my life now feels fulfilled as I deepen my relationship with God. I have an inner peace, especially when I meditate on the lyrics of worship music and read God's promises in the Bible. I feel secure in the knowledge that no matter what difficulties I may face, I can overcome them through God's unconditional love and grace I've seen at work in my life.

