



Life Savor



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As he thinketh in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7).

So many Christian believers think that transformation in the heart occurs without any action on their part. But this is not what the Bible says. We must use God's Word to recreate our thinking, our speaking and our actions so that our lives will reflect the life of Christ. It is a life-long process that is exciting as well as fulfilling. This transformation begins when we accept Christ and continues as we take up our cross and follow Him every day.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2).



Jack's Fidelity

By Ernest Hammond

Editors Note: This story took place many years ago. It is a true story and shows the power of transformation when Jesus is invited into the heart. We are greatly saddened by the history of our country when slavery was permitted. Skin color is not a factor for all people have the same internal parts. All people have hearts that need to be loved and cared about. It is exciting to know that around God's throne will be souls to represent every nation and every race. God is a God of variety and loves every nationality equally. We are all earthlings!

There was held, in Hartford, some years ago, a convention of the colored Baptist Association of New England. I was invited to address one of the sessions. To show what those converted in early life are sometimes enabled to endure by God's grace, I related the following story:

"What's dat, Willie?"

"That's a spelling book, Jack."

"What's de spellin book for?"

"To learn how to read."

"How's you do it?"

"We learn those things first," replied Willie, pointing to the alphabet letters.

And so Jack learned A, B, C, etc., taught by Willie. Jack mastered the spelling book and learned to read, though the law forbade any colored person to do it.

One day Willie brought home a little black book, and Jack asked:

"What's dat, Willie?"

"That is the New Testament. It tells about Jesus."

And, erelong, Jack learned to read the New Testament. When he read that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life;" that Jesus really loved us and died for us; that "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins," his heart went out in love to Jesus. He believed in Him, his sins were forgiven, his heart was changed and he became a happy Christian. This touched Willie, who had never found such peace and joy!

Though a mere child, Jack at once began to tell others of Jesus' love. When he became a young man, he was still at work for the Lord. He used to go to the neighboring plantations, read his Bible, and explain it to the people.

One day Master said, "Jack, I am told that you go off preaching on Sundays."

"Yes, mas'r, I must tell sinners how Jesus died on de cross for dem."

"Jack, if you go off preaching on Sunday, I'll tell you what I will do for you on



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"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

**“The blood of Jesus Christ his Son
cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).**

Monday.”

“What will you do on Monday, mas’r?”

“I will tie you to that tree, take this whip and flog all this religion out of you.”

Jack was surprised! He knew his master was a determined man, but when he thought of Christ’s sufferings for us and heard his Lord saying unto him, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life,” he resolved to continue his work for the Lord the very next Sunday.

With his New Testament in hand, he went to the plantation down the road and told them that his master might whip him half ta death the next day, but if he did, he would not suffer more than Christ had suffered for us.

The next morning his master called him, “Jack, I hear you were preaching again yesterday.”

“Yes, mas’r. I must go and tell sinners how Jesus was whipped that we might go free.”

“But Jack, I told you that if you went off preaching Sunday I should whip you on Monday, and now I will do it.”

Blow after blow fell upon Jack’s back, while oaths fell from the master’s lips. Then he yelled, “There Jack. I don’t believe you will go preaching next Sunday. Now, get down to the cottonfield and go to work.”

When next Sunday came, Jack could not stand straight, for his back was covered with sores and scars. But, with his Testament in his hand, he stood before the people of the plantation and said, “Mas’r whip me mos’ ta death last Monday, an’ I don’t know but he will kill me tomorrow. And if he does, I shall not suffer more than Jesus did when He died on the cross for us.”

Monday morning the master called again and said, “Jack, I hear you have been preaching again.”

“Yes, mas’r. I must go an tell sinners how Christ was wounded for our transgressions, how he sweat drops of blood for us in the garden, an’ wore that cruel crown of thorns that we might wear a crown of joy when he comes.”

“But I don’t want to hear your preaching. Now bare your back, and take the flogging I told you I should give you if you went off preaching again.”

Fast flew the cruel lashes until Jack’s back was covered with wounds and blood.

“Now, Jack get down to the cottonfield and go to work. I reckon you’ll never want to preach again.”

When the next Sunday came, Jack’s back was in a terrible condition. But, hobbling along, he found his friends in the neighboring plantation and said, “Mas’r whipped me mos’ ta death last Monday, but if I can only get you to come to Jesus and love Him,

I am willing to die for your sake tomorrow.”

If there were scoffers there, do you not think they were led to believe there must be a reality in religion? If any were there who were inclined to think that ministers preach only when they get money for it, do you not think they changed their minds when they saw what wages Jack got? Many were in tears and some gave themselves to that Savior for whose sake Jack was willing to die the death of a martyr.

Next morning the master called Jack and said, “Make bare your back again; for I told you that just as sure as you went off preaching, I would whip you till you gave it up.”

The Master raised his ugly whip, and as he looked at Jack’s back, all lacerated, he could find no new place to strike and said, “Why do you do it, Jack? You know that as surely as you go off preaching on Sunday, I will whip you most to death on Monday. No one pays you anything for it. All you get is a terrible flogging, which is taking your life from you.”

“Yer ax me, mas’r, what I’s’e doin’ it fer. I’ll tell you, mas’r. I’s’e goin ter tak all dos stripes an all dos scars, mas’r, up to Jesus, by an’ by, to show Him how faithful I’s’e been, ‘cause He loved you an’ me, mas’r, an’ bled an died on the cross for you an’ me, mas’r.”



The whip dropped and that master could not strike another blow. In a subdued tone he said, “Go down to the cottonfield.”

Do you think Jack went away cursing his master, saying, “O Lord, punish him for all his cruelty to me?”

Oh, no! Jack’s prayer was, “Father, forgive him, for Jesus Christ’s sake.”

About three o’clock a messenger came down to the cottonfield crying: “Mas’r is dyin!” “Mas’r is dyin!” “Come quick, Jack. Mas’r is callin’ fer you!”

In his private room, Jack found his master on the floor in agony crying, “O Jack, I’m sinking down to hell! Pray for me! Pray for me!”

“I’s’e been prayin’ fer you all de time, mas’r. You mus’ pray fer yer self.”

“I don’t know how to pray, Jack. I know how to swear, but I don’t know how to pray.”

“You mus’ pray, mas’r. I will help you.”

And finally they both prayed, and God revealed Christ on the cross to the poor sick master. Then and there he became a changed man.

A few days later, he called Jack to him and said, “Jack, here are your freedom papers. They give you your liberty. Go and preach the gospel wherever

“Therefore, if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

you will, and may the Lord’s blessing go with you.”

While telling this story at the convention, I noticed a man, perhaps sixty years of age, with gray hair, who seemed deeply moved by the account. When I had finished, he sprang to his feet, and with a clear but tremulous voice said, “I am Jack. Mr. Hammond has been speaking of me. He has been trying to tell my sufferings, but he cannot describe the terrible agony I endured at the hands of my mas’r, who because I was determined to preach the gospel on the plantations around us, every Monday morning for three weeks called me up and laid the cruel lash upon my back with his own hands until my back was like raw beef. But God helped me to pray for him, until he was forgiven and saved through Jesus Christ. It was worth it all!”

I have given you only a few of his burning words, but I can tell you there were many eyes filled with tears during this touching scene, which will not soon be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

Nate

It was at the turn of the century, the year 2000, an evangelist was holding a series of Bible lectures in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There were several groups of young people helping the evangelist by knocking on doors; looking for people interested in Bible studies.

Two young ladies knocked on the door of an 18 year-old boy named Nate. Giggly and nervous, they invited him to the upcoming series of meetings. He rebuffed their invitation. Then, just as the conversation was ending, they mentioned that the speaker was a skateboarder and former punk rocker. Nate’s curiosity was suddenly piqued and he took the flyer that they held out to him.

Two days later, he drove himself to the meetings in a hearse. Yes, his car was a hearse. Nate was a punk rock kid, complete with wild hair and clothes. Evangelist, David Asscherick, knew the type well because he had been one himself just a few years before. Nate listened with interest, which was surprising to some, given his appearance. “I was not surprised at all,” said Asscherick.

By meetings end, Nate had missed very few of the 30 lectures given. Wonderfully, along with nearly 100 other people, Nate made the decision to be baptized. From the beginning it was clear that Nate was a special kid, a deep thinker. It was also obvious that he was an evangelist because as soon as he heard the truths from the Bible he was sharing them. Soon after his own commitment to Christ his younger brother and parents were also baptized. Nathan had reached out to them with truth,

not just in words and ideas but by a changed life and the love of Christ.

Nate continued to study and become a Bible worker, a position he held for several years. Then he enrolled in a theology course at a Christian University with hopes of becoming a pastor. Nate set himself apart at the university by being principled, possessing ministry experience, a willing spirit, a keen mind, an inquisitive heart and a love for souls. Nate’s younger brother, Jacob, also enrolled in the same school and the same course so that he might be a pastor someday.

Today, both boys are fulfilling their dream in their home state of Michigan. It’s a beautiful story, made more beautiful still by this: when those giggling young girls knocked on Nate’s door, they had no idea that Nate was planning to kill himself that very day they offered him an invitation. Let that sink in. God is in the business of saving people, not just in some spiritual or ambiguous way. David Asscherick, the evangelist says, “I just saw Nate yesterday and I told him, ‘I sure am glad you didn’t kill yourself.’” The two men laughed and embraced.

God really is in the business of saving people, not just in some spiritual, ambiguous sense. He saves the lives of thousands of people. He plucks them from the fire and sets them as diamonds in His crown. He gives them an abundant life. He makes them miracles. And that is what each one of us is: a miracle of His grace.

As told by David Asscherick. Used by permission.

A Child Shall Lead Them

A little boy in England went to his pastor and asked him if there was not something that boys could do for the Lord. The pastor said, “Why, I don’t know. You are too small to lead a class and hardly old enough to give out tracts on the street. Let me think about what you might do.

“Seems to me,” said the child, “there ought to be something for boys to do.”

The pastor thought a few moments and then asked, “Is your seatmate in school a Christian?”

“No, sir, I think not.”

“Then go to work, as the Lord shows you how, try to make him one. Then take another and another. I cannot tell just what to do but if you pray, Jesus will show you how to work for each one.”

Six months after the conversation between the pastor and the boy a series of meetings was held. The little boy became sick, and the doctors had



“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 10:22).

given him up to die. His father went to the afternoon meeting, and when he came home little Willie roused up and asked, “Was Neddie Smith at the meeting this afternoon?”

“Yes, he was there,” replied father.

“Did he give his heart to Jesus?”

“No, as far as I know he did not.”

“Oh, dear,” said the little sick boy weakly. “I really hoped he would.”

The next day father left him again and went to the afternoon meeting. When he came home Willie asked the same question and expressed disappointment that his little friend was still not converted. The third day, Willie lay in his bed, more weak and pale. When father came home from the meeting, he asked the same question. “Yes, Neddie gave his heart to the Savior this afternoon.”

“Oh, I am so glad,” Willie managed to say, though very weak. His face filled with joy and happiness.

That night Willie passed away. His father opened a little box that was beside his bed and there he found a list of the names of forty boys. The first one had been his seatmate at school at the time when he went to the pastor and asked for something to do for the Lord. The last name was Neddie Smith, the boy who had been attending the series of meetings.

Every boy on Willie’s list had been converted. He had taken them one by one in faith and prayer, giving them books to read, showing them texts of Scripture, praying with and for them until all forty boys had given their hearts to Jesus through his faithful efforts.

There is plenty for all of us to do and if we are willing the Lord will show us how to do it. The only thing is to be ready to obey His voice and let Him lead and teach us as He did the prophet Samuel when he prayed, “Speak Lord; for thy servant heareth” (1 Samuel 3:9).



Pulled From the Abyss

Ashley was starving for spiritual truth. Through her entire life she had been told she was never wanted. She even learned that her mother had tried to abort her. As a child, she was neglected and malnourished. By the time relatives stepped in to help, she had lost most of her hearing and had severe problems with her teeth.

“I grew up angry,” she says. “My heart was filled with malice.” Is it any surprise that Ashley sank deep into depression? Feeling that she had no purpose in life and that no one cared, she felt worthless and tried to commit suicide more than once. But then, the Lord caught her attention. She heard someone talking about a program called, Amazing Facts.

She says, “I became curious and discovered a number of sermons by a Pastor Doug on YouTube.” There she learned about the ministry website and checked it out. She was so intrigued by the information she found she started ordering some of the free materials offered. After hearing Pastor Doug Batchelor preach she says, “I wanted to build a healthier relationship with Christ and for once I began to find happiness and peace. I don’t think there is a better website to help a person grow in Jesus.”



Ashley enjoyed reading many of the free books and viewing videos at the website. “I’m on a limited budget,” she said, “so I really appreciate how Amazing Facts provides all this information at no cost.” See www.amazingfacts.org

“I know how much God cares about me now,” she wrote later. “Thank you for making it possible for people like me to have a better outlook on life.”

New Life Mission Life Savor

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