

HE KEEPS ME SINGING

“Love lifted me! Love lifted me! When nothing else could help, love lifted me!” This is the chorus to a wonderful old song that has meant so much to me! But the music in my heart wasn’t always so sweet...

My childhood in New York State was a happy one. I was raised in a good family and blessed with two loving parents. We went to church every Sunday, and I became even more involved in church activities as I grew into my teens. Then, one night at church camp, a song we sang around the campfire challenged my heart in a way I will never forget...

“Sinner, do you know my Jesus?”

These six simple words brought a sudden flood of tears to my eyes and I did not even know why! I was a church member, but I knew I still felt a troubling “emptiness” when I prayed to God. I had been baptized, but I didn’t really feel God’s love for me in a personal way. I knew I was a sinner, but did I really love Jesus?

By the time I was 20 years old, I had been named the Sunday School Superintendent, but something was still missing in my faith. One Sunday morning, the Pastor gave an invitation to any who wanted special prayer. Strangely, I felt a hand on my shoulder, gently directing me to respond. I looked behind me. No one I could see was there. When I went forward, the pastor asked me “Doris, how can we pray for you today?” I could only answer, “I’m not really sure!”

A few years later, I married a wonderful man and I began attending a new church for the first time. The teaching was different there because they spoke from the Bible much more. One night a speaker quoted a scripture from the book of Isaiah, chapter 64, verse 6.. **“For we have all become unclean, and all of our best deeds are like filthy rags in God’s sight...”** I thought that I was a good person and a good Christian, but I realized that all of my good deeds had never made me feel any closer to God... Could it be that my sins were the cause of my feeling distant from him? Isaiah also says, **“Your sins have separated you from God and have hidden His face from you...”**

Then came the music, and I felt that the words were just for me... **“I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore, very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more...”** The speaker told us, “You must be born again to enter the kingdom of God!” I went forward once again, but this time I knew what I needed to do ... I needed to be “born again” as Jesus had told the religious man in the 3rd chapter of John’s gospel. I was like that man. I had done all the right things in church, but I did not enjoy a “personal relationship” with God through His son, Jesus Christ!

Then and there, I asked Jesus to forgive my sins and to live in my heart. When my prayer was ended, I felt forgiven and clean! My “emptiness” was gone—I had been rescued by God’s love! The choir was singing... “Love lifted me! Love lifted me! When nothing else could help, Love lifted me!”

That night occurred some 40 years ago, but the music is still playing in my life! My husband Ron, and I have raised a wonderful son and daughter who are also living their lives for Christ. I have seen the Lord answer my prayers for my own physical healing and for the healing of our daughter Kirsten. He has taken an average student like me, and helped me graduate nursing school with honors! Now that my nursing career is over, my 10 grandchildren keep me busy and blessed! I can truly say that my life has been filled with peace and purpose. Now I am singing a new song... **“In the presence of Jehovah, God almighty, Prince of Peace. Troubles vanish, hearts are mended, in the presence of the King!”**

It may be that you are ready to sing a new song, too? If you are, I encourage you to consider these two promises from God’s Word. Turn them into a personal prayer. He wants to be a personal God! Say, “Lord, if these two verses can apply to my life, then please forgive me for my sins by the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. Send His Spirit to live in my heart. Lead me in your plan for my life.”

“If we confess our sins (to God), He is faithful...to forgive us...and to cleanse us.” (1 John 1:9)

“I know my plans for you, says the Lord...plans to give you a hope and a future...” (Jeremiah 29:11)

If you were encouraged by my testimony, you may want to access our Church web-site. There you will find other such stories of men and women who have come to know the same wonderful God in the same way, through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, His Son. Come visit us sometime at our church, and we will “sing our new song” together.

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