



"You will know them by their fruits." Mt. 7:16

Marc Adams

I was raised in a middle class Minnesota home. I was brought up in the Free Lutheran Church and was to all appearances a model Christian boy.

My Awakening

At age 15, I attended the Free Lutheran church summer camp and under the preaching of the youth pastor responded to an altar call for the confession of sin. I went with a small group into a back room and knelt down, weeping, and asked Christ into my life. I then proceeded to live what was considered the normal Lutheran life and did not even recall this experience until well into my later Christian life. Looking back, I consider that experience as a time of coming awake to God, sin, and myself as His creature under some responsibility. At that time, I was what is called an **"awakened sinner"**. I became fully aware of God as my maker/creator and that I was responsible to Him as His creature and if I sinned, it was against Him.

My Actual Conversion

In 1969, in my senior year at Hamline University, at the age of 22, I dropped out of college in search of answers to life's very perplexing questions. I was a very confused and frustrated person -I had no idea of what to do with my life!!!

Not knowing the Lord, I searched out answers to what life was about and why I was alive in about every possible corner, **except** in Christ. I got very deeply involved in the local drug culture and then heavily into eastern religious thought. I believed there was a God but I did not know Him or His Name or how to find Him. I practiced a life of earnest Eastern asceticism in order to reach "Him" -and found a degree of "peace" with myself. (but not the Lord). In the summer of 1971 enroute to India, intending to give my life to the pursuit of God in the religion and culture of that society, I stopped in a quiet place in the California mountains to meditate and fast - reading and studying the various religious books of the different world religions.

By His grace one of the books contained quotations from the New Testament-sayings of Jesus. God began to speak to me through these and showed me that the way to Him was open, free, a gift, - *not one of religious striving and achievement*. He revealed Himself as the answer to my entire life and freely gave Himself to me. He took my guilt and sin away and replaced it with peace and joy. I committed my life to Him and began to tell others about Him from then on.

Of Blessing, Restitution and Consecration

Upon returning to Minneapolis, after searching for a Church, I joined one that was committed to sending out missionaries. They had a full time business operation committed to supporting missions and starting Christian operations in other countries. I joined that business and shortly became a business manager and director in the operation. During this time three major things happened in my life:

Blessings. God graciously gave me a wonderful wife! We soon started our family of three children.

Honesty. Upon dropping out of school in 1969 I had been an objector to the Vietnam conflict and had evaded the draft. When I became a Christian our Lord led me to turn myself in to the FBI and bear whatever penalty God allowed. In 1973 I was sent to prison for draft evasion. The sentence was 6 months confinement and 2 years probation. God graciously turned this very painful experience into one of drawing very close to Him.

Godliness. During this time in prison I spent all my time studying the Bible and meeting with other Christians. The Lord brought me to a place with Him in prayer one evening on my prison bunk where He showed me that Christ was all I needed before God; that His atonement was sufficient for my complete standing with our Father -this brought me great Peace. He also asked me if I would be willing to go anywhere for Him and if I would be anything He wanted me to be and I joyously said, "Yes, Lord!".

In prison I fully **consecrated my life** to be His in all and everything, living my life only for Him and by Him in all things forever and allowing myself to used by Him. I consecrated myself to go and do His will with all the gifts and grace He would give me in full obedience to all His will and Life. I dedicated myself to fight sin to the death. I walked from that point onward walk and live in the victorious life by all His great power that He would give me.

I had utterly consecrated myself to my Lord. I clearly received the witness of the Holy Spirit that my offering of my whole life to Him was received and my consecration was complete. I now allowed God to make out of my life whatever He wanted and to use my life in any way that suited Him, freely and without hesitation. I also had victory over sin in my life.

Growth and Learning. Upon returning home from prison I went back to the Church and Christian business I had been in before. I also returned to Hamline University and finished my B. A.

In 1976 Our Lord led our family to move to rural Minnesota. I had been teaching classes in Bible, prayer and victorious Christian living for several years and I felt God wanted us to go out and practice what we were preaching. God provided employment for us and we started a local Bible study. After several years we started our own business and I became more and more engrossed with being successful. We then started a second business, which employed people in the local community and it began to consume most of my time. I began rationalizing that this successful Christian business was my call in Him, since it provided employment for other believers, and funds for missions. But, meanwhile my spiritual life was slowly drying up.

The Great Culmination

So I lived a good Christian life. I was well respected by my Christian peers. I was an elder and pastor and I was a teacher of the victorious Christian life and lived it with all the power and energy that Our Wonderful God could give me. But I was unhappy, empty, and so very tired of fighting with sin. I was not in and out of sin. I still had victory over sin, but I was just so terribly exhausted from keeping it down, battling with it inside and out and so very sick of what I understood to be the wonderful victorious Christian experience that I literally wanted to quit and die.

In October of 1982, God graciously brought me to the end of myself. The mental and emotional pressures of a business that had grown beyond my finances and the weak spiritual state of a Christian trying to accomplish the Christian life by the power of self-effort and the exercise of the will brought me to my knees before my Lord in a place of absolute despair and utter nothingness.

In an early morning of prayer our Gracious Lord visited me. I told Him I could no longer live this Christian life and that I wanted to literally die. He is so Wonderful. He revealed to me that *this was what He had been waiting for* on my part. He had never intended *me* to live the Christian life but that it was His life to live. He simply wanted to share it with me. He was to live His life through me, I was but to rest in Him and believe that He was from now on my very Life. He showed me His wonderful cross and how it was for me the way to life - a joyful acceptance of my own death with My Lord. I was forever onward to be fully assured that "I am dead with Christ and my life is hid with Christ in God". *He then completely delivered me from my struggling self-efforts to please God and totally*

replaced them with His life that was well-pleasing to God every moment. From that moment He has kept me always in complete peace, at rest, in total love to Him and others. He has kept me from sinning against Him or displeasing Him, by removing all rebellion from my heart.

I am so utterly grateful for the Life of my Lord given with such great love as such a free gift, a full Savior, a complete Life, a Holy Loving God.

In exchange for a life of struggling and strife, He has given me a Life of Peace and Rest. In exchange for a life of darkness and stumbling, He has given me a Life that is kept always in His Light.

There is only one thing that I can put my life and time to and that is sharing this wonderful Savior and inviting others into all that God has for each and every one of us. Bless His Holy Name!

In Conclusion

My time of entering His Rest was a place of complete and absolute surrender of my former life, such as given by a vanquished soldier surrendering completely to certain death in full knowledge of what was being asked – death. Not death of self, just death. Not a broken spirit, just death at His hand without reserve. A complete end and nothing after that, in yielding to God. I could not even begin to try to imagine a life afterwards. *If the Christian life was to be lived it could not be by me*, it could only be Christ. Not me and Christ. Not me with Christ. Not me anointed or filled. Not me consecrated to go and do. Just Christ, period. No other life but His.

Here is where my God met me. Here is where my God saved me. Here is where my God took me and put me experientially into Himself and where He has kept me. And that is where I now live. He has kept me from sin and separated to Himself -for over 20 years now. I will never pick up and live outside of Him. I will never touch sin for it separates me from my Life. It is DEATH and I will never go there again.

For the sake of clarity, as some have failed to grasp the degree of the finished work that the Holy Spirit has wrought in my person, I will use plain and simple orthodox terms. Although unaware at the time of these more Wesleyan terms, they do describe what I experienced and what the Holy Spirit has continued to maintain in me.

Negatively spoken, it was the removal of carnality or depravity, the utter cutting out and removal of the my unclean heart, the experiential putting off of the old nature, the experience of the body of sin being destroyed, cleansed from all unrighteousness- so that it was no longer resident in me, completely gone. This has been described by one writer as “Holiness, or entire sanctification, is the carnal nature ERADICATED, DESTROYED, EXTERMINATED”.

Positively spoken, it was also the putting on of the new man, the reception of an entirely clean heart, the being made perfect in love, the holiness without which no man will see the Lord, the full assurance of salvation, the circumcision of the heart, the Sabbath rest – and this was done in an instant in my person by the Holy Spirit.

At the above point in my Christian life I was unaware of the various deeper life teachings except that of the Keswick school type of theology with a little Wesley mixed in.

Since then I have schooled myself in everything I can get my hands on that touches the subject. I have taught the **full surrender of life** into the hands of a loving Savior since that day. I have taught in small groups or in Church settings, making clear the distinction from a mere “full consecration” that falls short of entering His Rest -and any of the other common confusions.

The only thing I continue to find of essential spiritual value is a life of prayer and the unending study of His Word in complete unbroken communion with Him. Each day continues to be a wonderful discovery of His person and Life in every moment. There has never been a return of sin in my heart or any inward uncleanness whatsoever since the Holy Spirit did His work in me those many years ago. He has kept me clean inside and out, in unbroken

fellowship and participation in His own Life. The only thing I can do in life is to put my arms around my Brothers and Sisters and go for all that the Lord has for us this side of Heaven and afterward. I joyfully race towards His ever greater fullness!

I suppose I should spend some pages telling you of the joys and sorrows of the years since then, but to tell you the truth, I don't see it that way at all. He has so stormed my heart that when I look back all I see is Him. When I look ahead all I see is MORE of Him.

*Please feel free to contact me about any of this. I would be very happy to respond.
If I can be of help it would be my greatest joy.*

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The Holiness Round Table



In His All-Cleansing Blood