



FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT : PART ONE

“My observations on my personal Christian journey, culminating in my baptism.” **By Sister Dionne**

My Christian journey started quite abruptly in August 2020 at the height of the pandemic. Everyone was furloughed, asked to work from home or unfortunately for some, laid off. Fear had set into the whole world. People were scared of what their future was to hold.

As for me, I was enjoying working from home and there was no thought in my mind of Christ or church. I always believed there was a God but didn't go to church or read the Bible - nothing. My mindset was that if I wasn't going to commit fully to Christianity, then there was no point me being a hypocrite by attending church only when it pleased me, for example when there was a convention or concert going on. I was 'happy' that way.

I had no idea that God had a different plan for me. A much better plan.

HE called me and I literally heard HIM say – ‘**Stop questioning me and my word**’ (I would always want to know why this or why that as it pertained to the word of God). HE said, ‘come first and I will make you understand’.

So, just like that – I decided to give my life to the Lord. What did I have to lose?

First I told my sister, who was already in C/CM church and had been for many years. I asked her to keep it quiet, as though if I said it out loud or spread it anywhere else, then I would be committed for life. Little did I know. It was weird because even though I'm pretty good at keeping secrets, I couldn't contain my own secret. I was ready to burst with excitement and went onto our Zoom family prayer group not long after to reveal it.

What a celebration! My mother was ecstatic and still is. She's a Missionary in the church and I then learnt that she had been praying for me for many years. Her prayers had been answered. God is good! Hallelujah! (Thanks Mummy and C/CM church for your unceasing prayers).

As I was new, fresh, a baby in God's kingdom – I enveloped myself in His word. All things concerning God. I breathed and ate the word. Bible, study bible, family prayers 3 times a week, bible study, church. Anything relating to the word of God. Everything I read or heard put my questions to rest. **The Holy Spirit was counselling me, mentoring me, humbling me.**

I used to think that I would be missing out on something if I gave my life to the Lord but it's completely the opposite – my life has been enhanced by the teachings and my understanding of the Bible. I couldn't stop smiling, laughing, singing. **I found that PEACE and JOY that all Christians talk about.**

I'm the type of person that wouldn't enter into something unless I intended to see it through.

That's why I felt the urge to get baptised soon after being saved. I was now so sure that I was not turning back from Jesus. Unfortunately, due to Covid, I was unable to have the actual baptism ceremony until July 2021, almost a year after being saved but God had a plan and as usual, it was the best plan. I had to wait and this gave me a hunger for the baptism, for that renewing and restoring of my soul. Hooray!!

Finally the day was here. I was the only one being baptised but I wasn't scared – I felt a confidence that I hadn't felt before. It was a beautiful, sunny day and seeing my family, church members and those on Zoom supporting me, only heightened my fervour. I declared my love for the Lord and acknowledged what He had done for me and continues to do in my life. Thank you Jesus.

My sister accompanied me to the small back room in order to prepare for the big event. Just the two of us, basking in the quietness, after the excitement of pre baptism. It was an awesome moment for me, as it was then that I received the Holy Spirit. I had never experienced anything like it before. A tingling sensation moved through my body and I continually blurted out 'Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord' on a loop, until I was overcome with breathlessness. Now I was ready for the baptism, this was God's confirmation to me.

The time had come to leave the cocoon of the back room and enter into the pool. Tentatively I went down the little steps to where Pastor was standing. I knew that the church was filled with people but I couldn't think or focus on anything. My thoughts were only of the restoration and renewal I was about to receive by the living water.

It was a unique baptism, as I was unable to be dipped under the water, so it was arranged for the water to be poured over my head whilst standing up. The water hit me and considering it was a finite amount of water, it felt as though it was never going to end. As the last of it poured out, I experienced the same breathlessness as I did in the back room. I again sensed the Holy Spirit.

What a life changing experience! I would recommend it to anyone. Don't keep questioning Christianity, give yourself to the Lord, save your soul and free your spirit, so that you can find salvation and achieve eternal life.

The scriptures that encompass my experience are:

Acts 2 v 38: "Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Isaiah 12 v 2: "Behold God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."

Written by Sister Dionne
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