



Hello everyone, my name is Steve Hodge and I have been coming to Harvest since the fall of last year. Throughout this past week, as I contemplated what to write I began to become more and more nervous about what I was going to say. BUT THEN I RECEIVED CONFIDENCE IN THIS TRUTH: This whole night is not about ME AND IT'S NOT ABOUT US, but it's about Him JESUS CHRIST and lifting high His name and His Gospel publicly. So I will begin with a bit of a shocking, but biblical opening statement: I never came to Christ, He came to me! I had no power or desire to come to him because of my fallen nature. I had grown up in the Christian home, knew about Jesus, but willingly chose to suppress that and live life my own way. I had my own dreams and aspirations, and God was not in the picture. When I think of my life before Christ, I am reminded of the seed that Jesus spoke of in Matthew 13, the one that fell among thorns. I had heard the word preached on Sundays, but was taken in by the deceitfulness of riches and the cares of this world. I certainly cared more about making a name for myself and the love of money is what drove me to pursue a business degree at UWO. Church was merely something that was done on Sunday. There was no desire for holiness, personal Bible Study, witnessing, or Christian fellowship for that matter.

Looking back, I can really point out to my first year of university, back in the 2008-2009 school-year as the time when He really began to draw me. It was through a campus ministry at UWO called Athletes in Action, specifically through a men's Bible study where The Lord began to draw my heart.

Finally, one faithful afternoon in May of 2009 I was sitting at my desk listening to a song by Jeremy Camp, entitled "There will be a day", which is a great song by the way for those of you who haven't listened to it. I've included the chorus, it goes like this:

Chorus 1

There will be a day with no more tears
No more pain and no more fears
There will be a day
When the burdens of this place
Will be no more
We'll see Jesus face to face
But until that day
We'll hold on to You always
There Will Be A Day

In an instant, I fell to my knees in tears, and remember saying these simple words: "I am so unworthy". It was something in the lyrics "we'll see Jesus face to face" that God used to finally draw me and change my life forever. It is at that moment where the Lord granted me genuine repentance and saving faith. Up until that moment I knew who Jesus was and what the gospel was all about. I even asked him to come into my heart when I was 7 years old, which is one of the many problems I have with the sinner's prayer: The danger of presenting Christ without the necessity of repentance and the gospel message. For years I considered myself a Christian just because I had been brought up in that type of home, said that prayer, and went to church on Sunday. Since that day I have never been the same. The Word of God became real to me and that summer I read the whole thing in 3 months and the New Testament more than once. By His grace, I now have victory over sin, a desire for holiness and a passion for evangelism and open-air preaching which He allows me to do with the crosscurrent, and truly, I can't thank him enough for that. I also love my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and have a desire for Christian fellowship as Hebrews 10:24-25 clearly states. I know that I'm not alone on this journey and I can thank you all for that. My life is not perfect and I have had to endure my share of trials as a follower of Christ. I have my good days and my bad days, days of victory and days of defeat. But through it all, The King of Kings and Lord of Lords has undoubtedly transformed this once rebellious heart into one that desires to love and serve Him.

Finally, I want to leave you with one of my favourite passages of scripture that I feel is indicative of the life that Christ has called me to live, which is from Acts 20:24 ²⁴"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

Steve Hodge, TCC Rep