

This is my Story

Able Seaman Speirs



A new man
in Christ Jesus

Made new...

My name is Allister. Forty years ago I was an alcoholic, ready to end my life, and totally miserable. As I write this, I am 78 years old. I have real peace and contentment, a purposeful, happy life, and tremendous hope for this life and the next.

Let me tell you a little of my testimony, the story behind this radical change.

I was a bit of a terror as a young person! Born in Wigtownshire, Scotland, I used our poor circumstances to blame others for my misfortunes and when I was almost 16, I decided that I needed a break, an adventure, so I joined the merchant navy, sailing around the world on many different ships. However, I took my sinful nature with me, and it wasn't too long before I became ensnared by the drug of alcohol, adventure and excitement. A binge alcoholic at 28 years old, I jumped ship in New Zealand, and from there went on the run, fearing I had killed a mate during one of my drunken brawls.

Despite all my fear and desperate misery, though, God was speaking to me, making sure that here and there I could hear His 'voice', like the time when He preserved me during an earthquake in New Zealand, or another time

He ensured I was sober enough to receive a gift of a booklet called "The Gospel of John" from a kind lady called Beryl, in Adelaide. When I got that little booklet, I didn't know that it contained the message that would set me free - I didn't read it, but did treasure it!

in Christ Jesus!

God used my dying father's sickness to bring me back to Scotland, where one day I heard a verse from the Bible: **"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away... all things are become new"** [2 Cor 5:17]. That was exactly what I needed! I wanted to know more. I hunted our little Scottish home and found a dusty old Bible. I opened it, and out of the thousands of verses that I could have turned to, this was the exact verse that my eye lighted on! Clearly, God was trying to speak to me, in spite of being a 'terror in the town'!

Having been an alcoholic for many years by this stage, I knew that the only escape I would find was something radical, and I realised that this was what I needed - I needed new life. God was speaking to me, and I didn't know it. Very shortly after that, I heard the Bible verse, **"You must be born again"** [John 3:7] and at that point I started to search the Bible seriously to understand how I could have this new life.

God was kind to me. He brought me to meet many Christians over the next few months, who were all able to point me to the only One who can give new life - Jesus Christ. They explained that it was only by placing my total faith and trust in Him that I could have my sins forgiven and know peace for this life, and hope for the future. I was miserable in my sins. I wanted this salvation, freedom from sin and forgiveness from God.

One cold morning in August 1981, I dropped onto my knees beside my mother's coal fire and I earnestly and honestly cried out to God in repentance and faith: "Save me!" He did! For, **"whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"** [Acts 2:21].

From that moment I was instantly freed from alcoholism and a life dominated by sin. Not only has my life been turned around and I am a **new creature in Christ Jesus**, but I have hope for the future, after death.

Christ suffered on the cross on Calvary, on account of my sins, so I will not have to pay the penalty for them in Hell forevermore.

Such a great salvation is freely available to you too, my friend. It will make a radical change in your life. Are you brave enough to let it?

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish but have everlasting life" John 3:16.

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