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Salvation Testimony of Paul Artale

Welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Book of Revelation in the Bible, chapter 12 verse 11 says:

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

So then please suffer me to give a brief personal testimony as to how I got saved and became a Christian. May it help you make the right decision and do the same.

My name is Paul Artale and I was born 1980 in Sydney, Australia. From what I've been told I was baptised as a baby in a Catholic Church (my father's tradition). On my mother's side I went to a local Anglican Sunday school till about age 6 or 7 as far as I can remember after which I stopped going due to lack of interest. A handful of times as a teenager I attended a local Anglican youth group mid-week but this was because they played indoor soccer games.

Apart from the odd wedding or funeral, till age 26 I might have been in a church building a handful of times. While never an atheist, I was totally ignorant about the gospel but had a vague idea good and evil, right and wrong, or sin, was real. I knew there must be some type of God.

Something from Anglican Sunday school must have kept with me as one time in primary school, when the teacher was teaching people were animals, I was told to leave class for pointing out humans were above the animals!

From late teens into adulthood I would pray every now and then to this

God what I would now term are useless repetitious prayers, as those found in Catholicism (e.g. making the sign of the cross a set number of times each night).

Despite having a good education, employment, etc. over the years sin began to strengthen its grip over my life. There are many ways to sin, and while rarely doing illegal things, thoughts, words, actions can all be sinful and slowly build up, like weeds choking a garden.

There came a time about age 24, at the end of university I was feeling very dis-empowered, and the thought came to me I could have more power, if on a trial basis I would be willing to make an agreement with the devil, Satan. Of course no one in their right mind would trade their soul for good so I thought a try out was a safe compromise, one which I could break whenever I wanted. This is not how the devil operates-I didn't understand:

- He is the god of this world and can turn any man whichever way he wants by his own powers of persuasion.
- Once you acknowledge the devil or one of his minions in your life you dig deeper into a pit.

As a result, over the next two years the darkness of sin spread. While not affecting everyday activities so much, I could feel myself getting more evil, also there was a very evil presence *inside* of me. Venturing out to night clubs in the city each weekend to find entertainment became a tradition, though I shunned drugs and rarely drank any alcohol. The time I liked the most was coming home in the early hours to watch the Christian programs (the only time these shows were on). In particular I remember the Hour of Power hosted by Robert Schuller (now deceased) and the bright light of the Crystal Cathedral. Despite what I now know about that ministry I know the Lord can use anything to draw someone to Him.

Around January, 2007 I had a dream in which I was trapped in a freezing cold outer darkness, pitch black. While shivering and gibbering in torment I was asked by a white figure who I knew was Jesus whether or not I wanted to end up here forever. Of course I said no, but was so trapped in sin there I didn't know what else to do!

Shortly after this I had a desire to go to the book store and buy a Bible, as

well as a Quran, with the goal of finding out what the truth was. At Dymocks in Hurstville (when it was there) I bought a Bible (which happened to be the King James), and a Quran (Dawud's translation).

During this time I also bought a digital television set top box as the analogue broadcast was about to end. There was #44, the Australian Christian Channel which had many gospel programs. Reading the Bible and watching these shows I began to see the truth about who Jesus was. In contrast the Quran was an evil and tiring book (it runs from longest to shortest chapter)-there was no light in it whatsoever.

After a couple of weeks I had another dream in which I was frozen in a supine position, powerless to move. A lamb was lying on top of me, with left side exposed upward. This lamb looked at me with Jesus' face. Standing above was a dark, gigantic and imposing figure, completely black. He had a long, thin lance ending in a diamond-shaped tip. Without emotion he drove it into the lamb's side, but astonishingly I was left unharmed.

In a third dream I was below in blackness, as if in a two-dimensional picture, above me was a glowing white figure, whom I knew was Jesus. He reached down with one arm and as he did so I grabbed it and He pulled me up.

In the fourth and last dream I can recall I found myself in a pitch-black room, probably about 5m * 5m. All my senses were live and I could tell I was not alone. Suddenly a light switch was turned on, and dead centre in the room was a black-hooded figure, around 5'7", frozen on the spot and looking down trying to be inconspicuous. I then looked to my right and saw Jesus, who pointed to the figure. As this happened I appeared nose to nose with it-it had eyes of blackness, a pasty grey face and a look of enormous horror!

I believe this devil was sent to inhabit me by Satan after my 'agreement', and Jesus made me aware of this before casting it out.

By May that year I had read through some of the New Testament and was watching a Christian program by Greg Laurie. At the end he invited viewers to repentance and trust in Christ for forgiveness of sin.

With everything that had happened I was well aware I was a desperate sinner in need of forgiveness and Jesus was the only way. I recorded that prayer and after the second time I really said it with heart. As soon as I had finished, the best way to describe what happened was an invisible force lifted an equally invisible, massive barbell off my shoulders which then hurtled up to heaven like an elevator. Once this happened I knew from then on if I died I would without doubt go to heaven-my sins were forgiven and paid for!

That same evening I went into another room and while fully clothed was baptised by fire as it were. From reading the Gospel of John I knew this was what was called the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

At this point I'd like to say if you know you are a sinner, Jesus Christ is willing and able to forgive sins. Further, he is able to work in many ways and through different people to reach you-please do not ignore any signs. Like me, there may not be anyone who will come across your path and explain the gospel to you face to face.

After I was saved I had an immediate desire to tell unsaved family members what happened, witness to people, and find a local church. One further dream I had was an angel telling me I needed to get baptised in water, and upon questioning why he simply said I must get baptised, which I did in October, 2007. According to Jesus in Mark 16.16a:

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;”

That was about eight years ago, and despite cares of the world, Jesus Christ as he promised has always remained faithful to preserve me and will continue to do so. My prayer is you too will be convicted of sin and wish to come under the chief Shepherd's rod:

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.” John 10.27-28

Thank you for reading and God bless.