

cares for me. My values have changed, and I now have an appreciation for the simple things of life: A drive in the country, a beautiful sunset, poetry, working in the garden, helping someone else. Jesus has become a very precious Friend to me, and He has also given me some very dear friends. He has taken away the bitterness and hatred that filled my heart for so long. It's as though I've been taken from a rubble-strewn road of emptiness, and placed on a beautiful pathway of peace and fulfillment. There are still many times when I fail to be all that I should be, but gone are the days of hopelessness and despair, for now I have Jesus, who has promised never to leave me or forsake me. (Hebrews 13:5)

Dear Reader, are you travelling down a lonely road with no one by your side to lighten your burden? Why suffer the emptiness and sorrow offered by the world, when Jesus longs to give you His wonderful peace, joy, and love? He will put the pieces of your life back together again and meet your every need if you ask Him. He will put you on a new pathway that leads to eternal life. Won't you trust in Him today? Jesus is waiting with arms outstretched to receive you.

### "Transformed"

I love You so much Lord,  
I love You with all of my heart;  
I'll serve You for ever and ever,  
And Jesus, we'll never part.  
I once was a poor lost sinner,  
Searching for love and for life;  
Then the hand of Jesus,  
Filled my soul with light.  
And now I'm oh so happy!  
Singing, and free as a bird;  
I owe it all to You Lord,  
I'm trusting in Your Word.  
Please stay by my side Lord,  
And keep me in Your tender care;  
Guide my every footstep,  
Is my earnest prayer.

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## He Made Me a New Person!

Sometimes I find myself thinking about the past and about the person I used to be. As in everyone's past, there are many regrets, but they only serve to remind me of the wonderful change in my life. For you see, I am a new person now, like I've always wanted to be.

I was fourteen when my parents separated and, although it wasn't a very happy experience, it did bring a welcomed end to the constant fighting that was so much a part of our home, I kept telling myself that this wasn't the end; surely there would come a brighter day that would dispel the hurt I felt inside. However, I couldn't find relief from my loneliness and insecurity, so I hid behind a hard exterior and tried to pretend the feelings weren't there.

I had always loved school and made honor grades, but now I dreaded the classroom. On days that I did show up for school, I'm sure my teachers wished I hadn't. I didn't have decent friends anymore and no longer did I get excited about the nursing career of which I had always dreamed.

Life was steadily losing its purpose for me as I drifted along with disillusioned, pleasure-seeking friends. Excitement helped me to forget the misery

that seemed to engulf me whenever I was alone. It wasn't long before I began to steal from stores, and I soon found that this practice had a terrible hold on me. I also allowed myself to be led by "the crowd" in other ways, becoming deeply entangled with habits that are not soon broken. I never seemed to be satisfied though, and I noticed my self-respect gradually slipping away until one day it was gone. Now I hated the girl I saw each morning in the mirror. How I longed to be a good girl again and to let the real me emerge whom I had locked away inside to protect from any more pain.

Gradually I began doing something I had never done before, as naturally as if I had always done it - I prayed! I talked to God; it just seemed like the right thing to do. Each night I would repeat what I had said to Him the night before; "I failed again today, God, but maybe tomorrow I can say that I've been good. Please help me God; I don't have anyone else. Please make me a better person." What little hope I had I placed in God, and although I didn't really know Him, I never felt shy about talking to Him. I seemed to feel that He understood.

Then one night I was invited to a Gospel service. I listened intently to the message that evening and was surprised to learn that there was a name for what I had been asking God for: Salvation. The preacher explained that God had given His only Son, Jesus,

to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins with His own blood. He also said that if anyone would give his life to Jesus, no matter how broken or ruined it was, and accept Him and repent, that He would make him a new person.

I knew at once that this was for me! How thankful I was when I heard the preacher say that Jesus doesn't turn anyone away, for I needed Him so much! That night I met Jesus for the first time in my life, as I opened my heart to Him. I felt His presence very strongly, and I wept before Him as, one at a time, I confessed my sins to Him. The burden of guilt I had carried for so long was lifted that night and the love I so desperately needed was at last mine. Oh, what freedom! Oh, what joy and peace and happiness!

The need for excitement and the habits which had so long enslaved me were gone, as Jesus Himself filled my every need. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17) *"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."* (Isaiah 1:18) I felt so clean and fresh!

Life has purpose and meaning for me now, with goals to strive for once again. I can face each new day, knowing I have someone who loves and