



The Bible Verse that Changed My Life

Ina Friesen

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By Ina Friesen

It was a day that would change my life forever. It was June 25, 1943. I had just turned five years old. My family had finished breakfast and my father and my three teen-aged brothers had gone to the neighbors to bring home some farm animals.

Suddenly the screen door flew open and my brother, white as a sheet, sputtered, "Mom! Dad dropped dead at the neighbor's!" I wondered what that meant. My Mom immediately comforted me by saying that Daddy had gone to heaven. As we frantically drove over to the neighbor's farm, my mother kept sobbing. I put my arm on her shoulder and asked, "Why are you crying, Mommy? Isn't heaven a good place?"

When we arrived, our pastor was already there and he and some other friends came to the car to comfort us. Fear gripped my whole being as I saw Dad's lifeless body lying on the ground.

The next few days were very difficult for my Mom. She had so many things to do to prepare for the funeral. Having been very close to my Dad, I grieved his passing and cried a lot. I realize now that this made life even more difficult for my Mom. She had many decisions to make with my brothers and the hired farm workers.

At the grave site, I stood very close to the edge of the grave. I felt devastated. As time went by, it seemed that our dog Sarge was my only friend.

I dreaded bedtime. It always started with my Mom kneeling in prayer and asking God to give her strength for the tasks at hand. She also prayed for all her family that they would invite Jesus into their hearts. When all the lights were turned out, fear came over me like a blanket. I was so afraid that my mother would leave me too. Many times I would wake her up just to be sure that she was still alive. She was very patient with me.

SOMETHING WAS MISSING, BUT WHAT WAS IT?

When I was ten years old, my Mom informed me that we were going to a Gospel revival meeting to hear an evangelist speak. His name was Olaf Erickson, and people were saying that he preached the true Gospel message.

God knew just what I needed. It was July 9th, 1949. Rev. Erikson preached a message on what would happen to us if we neglected to repent and invite Jesus into our hearts. He invited us to make a decision at that moment. He explained how important it was to obey the Holy Spirit speaking to our heart. I walked down the aisle and knelt at the altar. My Sunday School teacher was there and

shared a Bible verse with me that said, "**Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**" (II Luke 13:3.) I repented of my sins and asked Jesus to change my heart and life. My nightmare was over at last.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
I John 1:9

God said in *Hebrews 13:5*, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**"

SINNER'S PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus,

I confess that I am a sinner.

*Please forgive me of my sins
and come into my heart and life.*

*Thank you for dying on the cross and rising again
from the dead that I too might have etemal life.*

Help me to live for You the rest of my days.

Amen!

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