

## **Leanna**

I received Jesus as my Savior when I was in college. I was raised in the Lutheran church, and I always assumed that I was going to heaven when I died because I just did not think that God would be so mean as to send people to hell. I did not read the Bible a whole lot and I think that I believed what I wanted to believe, because it was the path of least resistance for me.

When I got to college, I met a wonderful Christian lady named Donna Berger. Right away, I knew that Donna was different than anyone I had ever met before. She was genuinely nice and I could tell that she cared about me. I knew that she had a special relationship with Jesus from the first time we met. She always asked me to a Bible Study in her room, which I went to when it was convenient for me. Later I started going to her studies and to her church because I wanted to, not just because it was convenient. It was there that I began to hear and really understand the Gospel for the first time.

What I learned was that Jesus offered heaven and eternal life to us as a free gift. But it did require action on my part. I had to ask Him to be my Savior and take His offer of salvation. When I learned this, I had a problem with it, because up until then, I thought heaven was for everyone, whether they asked Jesus to be their Savior or not. It was a shock for me to realize that I was not on my happy go-lucky way to heaven, as I had thought all along.

When I realized that I had to ask Jesus personally to come into my life, all I could think of was how unworthy I was. I thought that there was no way that I was good enough for Jesus to want me, of all people, to come to heaven with Him. When it finally dawned on me that Jesus did want me also, to ask Him for salvation, that He loved me just as I was, that He even died on the cross for my sins, too...I finally asked Him to be my Savior and come into my life.

I now know that my life is worthy because Jesus died for me. He paid the ultimate sacrifice so I could spend eternity in Heaven with Him. My life is not worthy because of anything that I have done, but because the Creator of the Universe lives in me!!

Titus 3:3-7: "For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life!!"