

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. **Revelation 12:11.**

It's not just about what we have come through, but rather it's about the person we have become as we have come through the trials of life.

#### Testimony of Paul Halbeck

At approximately 6 months of age, an infirmity came upon me that affected both my cardio and my neurological systems. There was not much medical technology available at the time, so my parents were told to "take him home and see if he lives." Both of my parents made great sacrifices for me, and my mother, being an RN., would physically move my arms and legs when I could not move them until one day when they could function on their own. Approximately at age 2, as I continued having my mother moving my arms and legs, I kept on hearing over and over in my head, "God does not make puppets." Much later in life, I would learn that this was the Holy Spirit speaking to me. Growing up, as a family we always went to church, but it seemed, at least for me, to be more tradition than a spiritual experience.

When I was 15 years old, in my third year of high school, I was a loner, but also a proud loner. Pride can come upon any of us; it does not matter what our abilities might be. Rather, pride is a response of the heart. At that time I was asked to join a Bible study not too far from my house. However, that was the last thing on my wish list, and I made that fact known in a very brazen way by saying that, "God and I have a deal; I leave Him alone, and He leaves me alone." That's where my heart was at that time, and that, having a heart for God, trust, and obeying Him, has now become the theme of this testimony. Do I still fall short? Yes – in several ways, but I believe I have gone through and hopefully passed several tests.

Approximately at age 28, I started attending a big non-denominational church, and they were going over the book of Genesis verse by verse. This greatly interested me, as I had not read the Bible before. However, after they were finished with the book and series of O.T. books. They began teaching from the N.T. and one Sunday the teaching was that Christianity was all about a relationship with God. Well, my first thought on hearing this was, "Where can I run?" However, my saving grace was the same as when Peter said in **John 6:68**, "To whom shall we go?" I knew there was nowhere to run or hide, for Jesus was the way, the truth, and the life, **John 14:6**. Thus, my *heart was yet still hardened; however, God had not given up on me.*

God does not leave you alone, even when you are not in right standing nor fellowshiping with Him. I was now around 32 years old, living on my own, had a good tech job, and would fill the rest of my day listening to lite-pop music – at least I did this until my stereo receiver would no longer pick up my favorite radio station. After several attempts to correct the problem, I settled on the only station my receiver would pick up, which was Moody-Bible Radio out of Chicago, Illinois. Well, I listened to Moody Bible for about 2 years; little did I know that God was still working on me. About 2 years later, I was listening to a CD, and one of the songs on it literally stopped me in my tracks. The song title was "God is Love." As I heard this song, what came to my mind was what I said back in high school - you can look it up; it's underlined in paragraph 2 - and I substituted the word love for God. That hit me hard, and it has started a whole new understanding of God's love for me, for all others, and for His entire creation.

At age 46, I left my technical career and moved out to Colorado for a Bible school. Where after 3 years of schooling, afterwards having then worked on their prayer line for 8 years, I have now written five Christian based books. The journey with God is ever continuing; it's a journey well worth taking, and can I truly say that I have not looked back (*no regrets*).