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HOW ONE SERMON CHANGED MY LIFE

I was brought up in a traditional denominational church. When I was eleven, I went to Another denomination's summer bible camp and personally received Jesus as my Savior. I continued going to my "family" church into my adult years. Even though I went to church every Sunday and I was in the church choir, I don't remember ever hearing a message about receiving Jesus as your Savior from the pulpit until a new Pastor came when I was in my early 20's. When he preached it felt like I was walking where Jesus walked. He made the scriptures come alive. I learned that he was a Spirit-filled man.

What this means is that he not only was born again, but that he had also received the baptism of the Holy Spirit which gives you the power to be a witness. One message he preached changed my life years later. He told the story of man that went to a village in Africa that was very hostile towards missionaries. This man stood up to preach in their village and out of his mouth came a language he had never learned, (which just happened to be the language of that village, by the way) and the entire village received salvation. This was an amazing story.

A few years later I left Michigan and came to Florida. I found a church that was the same denomination that I had grown up in. I got involved with the choir and taught Sunday School. One Sunday a message was preached that said that speaking in tongues was of the devil. Instantly the story about this missionary rose up in my spirit. I had very little knowledge of the Bible my friends. I was a nominal church goer like so many others are today. When he preached message, I immediately thought, "There is no way that speaking in unknown tongues could be of the devil if a whole village got saved." We never know what one message we share can do for someone. It may change their lives. This message changed me.

I didn't leave that church and become a Pentecostal. I thought speaking in tongues was a gift for some, but not for all. Then later, still reluctant to "go all the way" with this gift of tongues, I was challenged by someone else with scripture. I was told "you are limiting God." This statement made me very angry, but I loved the Lord and asked him if it were true, and he kindly answered, "yes."

I determined that I didn't want to limit God in my life. I wanted everything He had. I started reading the Bible, and studying on my own, and I grew and grew. What about you? Are you stuck in tradition like I was? Do you want more of God in your life? What is holding you back from going all the way with God? Don't let wrong teaching and traditions keep you from receiving all that God has for you. I didn't, and I have no regrets!