

HELEN SANDERS

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A BIYCLE FOR A QUARTER

It was the summer of 1957. My friend's dad was a member of the American Legion. I spent a lot of time with this family, and one summer day he was telling us that they were having a raffle at the American Legion. Tickets were selling five for a dollar or 25 cents each. I had gotten a quarter for an allowance and I bought one ticket.

Shortly after I bought this ticket, I was invited to go to a summer bible camp put on by a church other than the one I went to. It was a two-weeks' long event. Our family could not afford to send me, but someone paid my way. While I was at that camp, at the age of 11, I made a decision for Christ. I received Him as my personal Lord and Savior.. My growth in the Lord came much later but the seeds planted at that bible camp were growing within me.

Later, in the fall of 1957, I was now in the sixth grade. It was about early November. I was in my class when the teacher came to me and told me I had a phone call from my mother. Now, to get a phone call could only mean that something serious had happened. I came to the phone and instead of something sad, she informed me that I had won a bicycle. I was shocked. I had never had my own bicycle, just a tricycle and I had outgrown that years earlier. I couldn't imagine how I won a bicycle, but it was that 25-cent ticket that I had purchased.

I was told that the prize that was to be awarded was for an adult but when they drew my name, and saw that I was only 11, they decided to buy a bicycle instead. To my great delight, that 25 cents gave me the desires of my heart. That bicycle and I were inseparable. I rode it until it snowed, and then had to wait until the spring of the year to ride it again. It gave me wings.

I believe that after receiving salvation God had this gift in His plan for me. The 25 cents did not produce anything immediately, but it did come. Even the prize that was supposed to be given was changed just for me. God wants to bless his children whether they be 11 years old or 90 years old. I could tell you many stories how God has gifted this "girl". Some of the stories are incredible. There is no way they could have happened without God.

Some of you have planted seeds, much more than 25 cents, and there has not been any harvest from them. Don't lose hope. God is still God and has a plan for you just like He did for me. I will never be able to thank Him enough for all that He has done for me. Remember James 1:7 ***"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*** All good gifts come from God, and the greatest gift I have ever received was the gift I received at 11, and it wasn't the bicycle. It was eternal life. A bicycle is a temporary gift, but the gift of salvation is forever.

Have you received your gift of salvation yet? If not, ask the Lord to come into your life today.