

## HOW FAITH OVERCAME DOUBT

**Jim Jordan**

Going back a few years, I would have described myself as a person who was floating through life without too many problems. The driving forces in my life were how much money I could make, what kind of car I drove and how much beer I could drink. For me a good time was getting together with friends and drinking a lot of beer. I felt successful because I drove a new car every year or so and had a job which paid well. I was never really concerned about God and whether He really existed or not. I suppose I sort of believed in God, because I can remember when I got in a jam I would pray, but I never really knew if anyone heard or not. My parents had not gone to church when I was growing up and I didn't see much purpose in it myself.

One night a guy came by my house to talk with my wife and me about insurance. While he was selling us an insurance policy, he explained to us about God's plan for the family. I remember that Nancy and I both agreed that he was a nice guy, but obviously a "fanatic"! In the process of purchasing the insurance policy, this guy invited me to a businessmen's Bible study. I was curious to see what kind of people would study the Bible during their lunch hour so I finally agreed to go. While at the study he shared a little booklet with me that explained how I could know God personally. I had never heard that before! I remember that I felt it sounded a little silly, but in the back of my mind I kept thinking, suppose it is true? Suppose I can know God personally by simply inviting Jesus Christ to come into my life? He let me take the booklet with me and many times over the next weeks I referred to it. I know I was saying to God, "prove to me you exist and I'll believe in you." I also felt that God was telling me to believe first, and then He would show me that it was true. Finally I decided to accept that what the booklet and the Bible said about God was true, and I decided to trust God by asking Jesus to come into my life and show me the truth.

At first, nothing happened to me. Nothing seemed to change. I had the same desires and did the same things. But, slowly, I felt a hunger to know more about God and His Bible. When I would get together with my friends we would discuss the Bible over a beer. I found that I really didn't know what the Bible said. So I started going to a church and studying the Bible in a class on basic Christianity. As I started to learn what the Bible had to say, I could see my life changing. Cars were no longer my measure of success. I now found that I could get together with friends and have a good time without drinking. I have found that I have a new interest in my family and marriage, and I have discovered that God's plan for the family is important. I still have problems from time to time and I still get in jams, but, now, when I pray, I know that somebody hears me and can answer. The Bible says that Jesus came ". . . that they might have life and might have it abundantly." I have found this to be true for me and also for my family.

*Jim Jordan is a graduate of Indiana University and is the manager of a Computer Training Center. Jim and his wife, Nancy, attend College Park Church of Indianapolis. They have two grown children: Becky graduated this spring with a degree in nursing and was recently married; Jeff is a mechanical engineer student.*

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