

## Jesus Wants a Deeper Relationship With You Stories of Catholics Who Found This Relationship Compiled by Karen Sue Nyquist



Testimonies of people who have a life changing encounter with the Lord Jesus and find a meaningful relationship with Him are so inspiring. Here are the stories of Catholics, 3 priests, 2 nuns, and 2 laypersons, who realized they had a spiritual hunger and what they found.

**1. What Does the Bible Say About Truth and Salvation?** - "I wanted to be sure I would go to heaven when I died. I decided to study the Bible on my own. John 17:17, in which Jesus said to God, '**Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth,**' was the first verse the Holy Spirit used to undergird my study of salvation. My search for answers began in Acts 16:31, '**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,**' and Acts 4:12, 'Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.' Moving on to Romans, I learned that Christ satisfied the just demands of a Holy God for judgment on sin by His death on the Cross. 'Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law' (Romans 3:28).

**Do Confession and Penance Remove Sin?** - "It was an overwhelming realization that none of my past sins had ever been dealt with, even though I had confessed them to the priest and performed the prescribed penance! Going to confession had given me a **counterfeit peace and security** that my sins had been forgiven by the words of the priest plus the doing of penance."

**Receiving Christ as My Savior!** - "The time had come for me to make a decision. Acting on the Bible, as my sole, absolute, and final authority of faith, I received Christ as my Savior ... **I wanted to shout from the roof tops so all the world could hear what Jesus has done for them** by His substitutionary atonement and shed blood. '**And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free**' (John 8:32)." - **Mary Ann Paz - a former nun** - Mary Ann Paz, "Catholic Nuns - Why Do Some Feel It Necessary to Give Up Their Religion to Follow Christ?", Christian Answers.Net "Test. testimony of a Former Roman Catholic Nun of the St. Benedict Order," [https://christiananswers.net>q-eden>edn-r\)10](https://christiananswers.net>q-eden>edn-r)10). **Read the Bible, it is the Word of God, and His gift to us!**

**2. Fear or Assurance of Salvation?** - "Few people have ever loved or respected the Catholic Church more than me ... The following is my personal testimony of salvation.... My biblical learning thereafter was steady and purposeful. It took four years until I understood the Bible teaches **I could have assurance of salvation**. That shows how much unlearning I had to do about the Roman Catholic sacramental system that I missed so much. In Romanism you can never be sure of a heavenly destiny. 'These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that **you may know that you have eternal life**' (1 John 5:13). We are born-again, from above. 'who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God' (John 1:13). "Of Polish Origin Born Again by Grace Alone: - **John (Paul Patrick) Kuspa,**" - a former Catholic. Former Catholics — Personal Testimonies, December 3, 2015, <https://thetruthaboutcatholicism.com>category>former>. **There's no more fear when you know you're saved!**

**3. Really Free! Church Theology or Bible?** - "'If we confess our sins, He (*God*) is faithful and just, and **will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness**' (1 John 1:9). I cried out to God with all my heart and said, 'God, if You will forgive me of all my sins, You must be Lord of my heart and I want You to be mine and I'll serve You for a lifetime! '*Because everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*' (Romans 10:13) ... **I felt a great peace ... and in my heart I heard, 'Abba, Father! I knew that a relationship had developed between God and me!** ... After several years of crying out to God for something deeper, more genuine, in 1971 **I found the source that quenched my spiritual thirst. Jesus and the Word of God (the Holy Scriptures)** came to life very much to me. **Because 'God's love is poured into our hearts'** (Romans 5:5). **The Holy Spirit led me to judge Roman Catholic theology by the standard of the Bible.** Previously, I had always judged the Bible by Roman Catholic doctrine and theology." - **Alexander Carson - a former priest.** "Really Free," <https://clkv.ch>. **Vatican II ushered in changes in the church's views on freedom of religion, protestants, and Jews.** "What Changed at Vatican II," October 8, 2012, <https://www.catholicregister.org>features>item>151>.

**4. Proud to be a Catholic** - "As a Catholic, I did not rest my salvation in the hands of Jesus, rather, I was striving to merit, or earn, eternal life by obeying the commandments, participating in the sacraments, praying, and fasting. Just one mortal sin at the end and I would lose all my merits and my soul ... God brought me to this crossroad. On one hand, I could continue to live according to the religion that promised me eternal life on the merits of



my works. On the other hand, I could abandon that teaching and completely **trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for my salvation.** I was alone at home one evening when I knelt down and prayed. I acknowledged my sin and guilt. I admitted that I could not pay my debt by doing good, and I asked God to receive me for the sake of Jesus Christ His Son. He did. **The joy in my heart was unspeakable!** - **Joe Mizzi - a former Catholic.** "The Weight of Responsibility to Accountability in Christ," July 13, 2015. <https://bereanbeacon.org>the-weight-of-responsibility-to-accountability-in-christ>.

**5. Peace and Deep Satisfaction in Jesus!** - "I asked God's forgiveness for all my sins and put my trust in Jesus Christ. From now on only He should be my Lord and Savior. On that day in September 1976, **I found the peace** the Roman Catholic Church could never give me."

**"The deep satisfaction** I now have can only be found in Jesus Christ, with Him alone. He gave my soul peace. In all the 24 years of monastic life with the vows, masses, rosary prayers, with all the devotion, the processions, the veneration of saints, the theological debates about petty traditions and a system of religious control, such a peace could not even begin to grow. **It was the Word of God that showed me the way,** not the Roman Catholic Church."

**"I was overwhelmed by the love of Jesus Christ,** and my thanks and respect belong to Him forever, even if my health is still affected. I know that Jesus Christ always wants to keep me close to Him. That is also my own wish. **I wish everyone who reads my testimony will hunger and thirst for God's righteousness.** May God's Spirit touch and fill you as you study, believe, and obey the Bible. The first and most important thing is that you have Jesus Christ, because it is a gift from God that we can trust in Him. He is our Lord and Savior and God the Father is our personal Abba Father, as Romans 8:23 says: 'For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" - **Amy Bently - a former nun.** "A Catholic Nun Returns to God," <https://clkv.ch>

**6. Your Works or God's Grace?** - "The Roman Catholic Church adds works, and that you have to do these specific things [keeping its laws, rules, and regulations] in order to be saved, whereas the Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9 that **'it is by grace that we are saved, not by works.'**" - **Bob Bush - a former priest.** "Testimonies from ex-Roman Catholic Priests" by [Matt Slick](#) | Dec 3, 2008, <https://carm.org>roman-catholicism>testimonies-from-ex-roman-catholic-priests>.

**7. From Friar to Freedom in Christ!** - "I knew from the teachings of the priests and nuns that **I could not hope to go directly to heaven after my death.** My Roman Catholic catechism taught me that after death **I had to pay** for the temporal punishment due to my sins. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that "the souls of the just which, in a moment of death, are burdened with venial sins or temporal punishment due to sin, **enter purgatory.**" **Hugh Farrell - a former priest.** <https://bereanbeacon.org>from-friar-to-freedom-in-christ>.

**8. Purgatory or Heaven? - Rejoice! Jesus already paid for our sins** and God says He won't remember them any more. "but He (*Jesus*), having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, ... And their sins and their lawless deeds I (*God*) will remember no more ... Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin" (Hebrews 10:12,17,18). "... and the **blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin** ... If we confess our sins, He (*God*) is faithful and just, and **will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness**" (1John 1:7,9). **We can rejoice and have great peace!** God told Peter, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane (*unclean*)" (Acts 10:15). We are already cleansed, so there's no need for a purgatory. That's why Jesus could say to the thief on the cross, "Truly I tell you, **today you will be with me in Paradise**" (Luke 23:43). Jesus knew there was no purgatory and the thief would go straight to heaven.

**9. Moving from Rituals to Relationship** - What does Jesus want? **He wants a loving relationship with us.** Jesus said, "**And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength**" (Mark 12:30). Do you want Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? - If so, you may pray. **Suggested Prayer:** "Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God, that You died to pay for my sins, and Your blood cleanses me from all unrighteousness. I trust in You for my salvation because I cannot work for it. I repent of my sins, and confess You as my Lord and Savior. Please, help me live in Your will. In Your name I pray. AMEN!" Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Come visit our church.

### NationTakers Ministries

856 Cabrillo St., San Francisco, CA 94118 - Mail P.O. Box 27475, San Francisco, CA 94127 1(415) 337-7027 - [info@nationtakers.com](mailto:info@nationtakers.com) - [www.nationtakers.com](http://www.nationtakers.com)

Join us on Sunday in person or on Livestream at 11 am PT on Facebook or YouTube.  
[www.facebook.com/nationtakers](http://www.facebook.com/nationtakers) - [www.youtube.com/nationtakers](http://www.youtube.com/nationtakers)