

Ephesians 2:2 (NLT2)

You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

As a believer, do you remember how you used to live before you were saved? I know for me I used to party and go to clubs and drink and treat women like they were an object instead of a person. The way I talked I would make sailors blush with my constant use of profanity. It was all about me and what I could get out of others and only caring about pleasing the flesh.

But once I gave my life to Jesus, some things changed instantly, like my talk. I counted and I used profanity four times the day I got saved, which in the past would have been in one sentence. And since then I could probably count on one hand how many times I have used profanity over the last 40 years. The Lord took that away immediately, but then there were things that were not taken away, and some I even struggle with to this day, not like I used to, but still, the struggle is there for some things.

For me, and probably for you to, ***I used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil.*** Because we were all born in sin and that was the way of life for us. Yet we found hope, and the hope is in the following verses:

† **Ephesians 2:4-5 (NLT2)** ***But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)***

Sometimes we forget that and even forget where we came from and what we used to do. For me, next year in February, I will have been saved for 40 years, and I do remember some of the things I used to do. But I have focused more on what the Lord has done in my life the last 40 years since I have been saved than what I used to be.

40 years ago I never thought I would have been saved or used the name of Jesus as a name of my Savior and not a curse word.

I never thought I would teach the bible.

I never ever thought I would create worship music and have 4 albums available for the world to worship the Lord.

I never thought or even wanted to go to Israel, but since I have been saved, the Lord has blessed me to go three times already, and Israel feels like home to me and I miss it every day.

I never thought that I would not want to drink or chase after women or stop lying or using others, especially women. But God (Love those two words) has changed all that.

Now I don't say all these things to brag on me, no, it's to brag on my Savior, Jesus Christ who died for me, and you to. He is the only reason I could have changed over the last 40 years, and I

am always excited to see what else He will be doing in my life until I go home to heaven and be with Him for all eternity.

So, today I write this devotional for all of us to remember what we used to be like, but not only that, but to reflect more on what the Lord has done in our lives since we have been saved.

And if you are not saved, what are you waiting for, the times is now to begin your journey of a new life in Jesus Christ, one you will never, ever regret.

✠ **2 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT2)** *For God says, “At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.” Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation.*