

Dear Kurt,

7 March 2005

Thanks again for what you are called to do. It really helped me to know, that by surrendering my heart, I became more of a man, not less of a man. **HERE IS THE TESTIMONY I PROMISED.**

I was raised in a good Christian home. My Mother especially made sure that I received a good understanding of Jesus. As a kid I began to feel a struggle with God and religion. When I became a young adult I joined the Marines and I drifted away from church and faith.



Will,
(rcvd Christ 2/19)

Dave
(rcvd Christ 1/19/05)

Pastor Daren

For years I have led a blessed and honorable life. All while leading this life, Jesus was there still knocking at my door, reminding me that he was there waiting for me to open it. Though I felt I didn't deserve it, He stuck with me and kept knocking patiently.

I have struggled with this for years, this idea of surrendering my heart to Jesus. I would get close, and then get angry. I would get close, and then make an excuse. At times this struggle would literally tear me up inside.

Then along came this Men's retreat that our church put on Feb. 18, 19,'05. I really didn't want to go because I knew that I was going to have to face this issue that I was struggling with, and face it in front of all these guys. But I went anyway.

The retreat was a good time. The story of Kurt's adventure was amazing, and the lectures were thought provoking. Breaking into small groups was especially great, just learning that these Christian men dealt with tough issues all the time.

My friend Doug told me that maybe I was being too hard on my self... Not to wait for a bolt of lightning to strike to get past my barrier. Just keep taking small steps of faith.

The next day we went out to spend time alone with God and his word. I walked out on the dock in the frozen lake and laid down facing the sky. The day was beautiful, the noon sun shown down on my face, the wind chill at around 10 degrees. No sooner had I lay down, this wave of emotion came over me and I started to sob like a baby. Sobbing and praying, begging God to help me.

Then as I calmed, this feeling of warmth and total peace enveloped me. No it wasn't the sun that shown above – for that had always been there. No, I know it was God's love for me. This had happened to me once before, many years ago during another stressful time in my life, but I passed that off as a coincidence. This was no coincidence; this was God's answer for me.

At that point I made up my mind. I would surrender my freshly softened heart to Jesus Christ.

Now, I understand that there were many people praying for the success of our little men's retreat, and to them I say Thank You.



Dave A
Pastor Daren, Will Murphy
Baptism, 2/20/05

Sincerely Yours with Christ,
Will Murphy