

Easter Sunday, the day that the followers of Jesus celebrate His resurrection, seems to me to be the perfect time to go through the waters of Baptism. This act of obedience symbolises the washing away of our sin, the death of the old self and a new life in Christ.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me"

Today I want to recount, as best I can, my experience and how it has changed me.

I have spent a lot of time thinking about this topic of baptism.

It is not at all as if I did not know that God existed in the time that I have taken to come to this point. Quite the opposite, in fact. It is not even that I didn't talk to or know God in this time. It is that I had not realised the things that God was doing in my everyday life and, as a result, I didn't see the necessity to be in any hurry to make this commitment that is, as I now know, to be of vital importance. It was only the natural response. Without seeing God at work in my life I felt no apparent urgency to be where I stand today, however now on the flipside I would not say it is so much an urgency which I feel but it is more of a desire. A desire to pronounce my commitment to God and my relationship with him.

It was in troubling times in my schooling that I saw God at work in my own life and ever since it has been through many different events. Through good and through bad it is now so evident to me God's active involvement in my life. That is why I stand here today, in obedience to Christ's command. I was not in a position in which my mind could be at ease then, but now I can find comfort and, even when I am in a time where I struggle to find peace, there is still that constant understanding that God is there beside me. Walking alongside me.

I was in a time in which I was facing more adversity than I had in a long time, even in my short lifetime that I looked to God. I talked to God for a good 20 minutes that night and it was in this time that I truly felt God's presence.

If I look to the answer as to why, for so many years I have lacked this sense of peace, I find that is because I have never committed myself enough. For I didn't know where to look, I saw only a price that seemed to me to be at a point that was too great, and I lacked the mind to imagine the great reward that came with it.

That, is why I stand here today. Because I seek to testify publicly to you and to God my journey of faith, where I've been and where I stand gratefully today.