

My Testimony.

My name is Torstein Tveit and I work with an organization named Youth With A Mission and also with Ålesund Mission Covenant Church, as pastor. I am traveling within YWAM and other churches with teaching. This web page is made to give out teaching about identity and to equip you as Christian to understand more about what it means to be a Christian.

I want to draw some big lines through my lifestory to share what has happened in my life and shaped me into who I am to day. We all have our own story, and to understand who we are, we all need to look behind. Søren Kirkegaard a danish philosopher and theologian once said: «You need to live you life forward, but in order to understand you life, you need to look backward.»

My story is told for you to understand more and to see where I come from. We all represent different life's and histories. Even siblings growing up in the same family, are different in many ways. Different cultures, religions, nations, and areas shapes us all, and only when we realize how we have become who we are today, we have the ability to choice and take action for who we wane be.

I grow up in Kristiansand, Norway, in a Christian family. Youngest of three siblings. Both my mother and father are active Christians and there parents and my grandparents were also Christians. Both grandparents were preachers, so I do have a solid Christian inheritance from my family. I have always enjoyed doing sports and as a teenager I played a lot of handball, and ended up playing on the highest level in Norway for some years. I was at the same time carrying a call from God to teach and minister for him. During my childhood I had different moments where I do remember how God touched me in different ways. Often when I was listening to Christian music, I experienced that the Spirit of God came and touched me in deep ways. I have been sensitive in my spirit for The Spirit of God from childhood, and I loved to experience His presence. God called me to share the Gospel, but I did not know how this should look like. I remember a time when I was about 13 years. I had been playing handball with my team, and on our way back the father of one on the team put on a Christian song. The Spirit came so strong in the car where I was sitting, and I just so strongly met by The Lord. This was experiences that God would give me at different times and occations. It was like God drew me into his presence.

I was not used to share in front of people, so this was very difficult to me. I was often embarrassed to stand before people and to have there attention. My first experience sharing the gospel was in military where I worked one year as an assistant to the pastor in the military camp where I served. I ended up as a Union representative for the recruits at the camp. Through the sport and I also learned to coach and lead others. But, I did not know much about how to teach others about Jesus or to share the Gospel.

In 1989 I finished the carrier with sport. I also ended a relationship with a girl I had been dating for 7 years. Both the handball and the relationship with this girl had taken most of my time for many years, so this was a big change that took place in my life. I started at a Bible school and here I had a very powerful meeting with The Holy Spirit. I had some inner pain from experiences the last year, but God met with me in a very personal and deep way, and brought healing and restoration in my life.

The next two years from 1990 to 1992 I worked with street evangelism in Sandnes, a small town in the west of Norway. I started to teach in churches and share the Gospel in different ways. I grew as I walked and I also remember the elders in the church laying there hands on me and praying for more insight and gifting in my ministry. I stared to experience the presence of God in a new way, and the Spirit of God started to lead me to people in a new way.

Then fall 1992 I started on a seminar school at Ansgar Theologian Seminary School and started on a pastor education. I enjoyed the study and I was also teaching other students about street evangelism at the same time as I did my study.

At Ansgar Seminar School things changed and God did something new in my life. I started to pray more. And I started to ask to see into the invisible world, the things I could not see with my own natural eye. During 1993 this prayer grew stronger and stronger, and I ended up in 1994 in a strange situation, burnout and exhausted. I had been teaching in different churches and even experienced many great things with God. But I had been desperate to see more, and this had been my prayer for a long time now. I prayed and fasted for this reason and was determined to see a breakthrough! I did not think how this would look like, but I wanted it desperately! I did not understand that I was getting so exhausted, but during the fall 1994 I was really burnout and out of energy, totally. I remember from this time that God had spoken clearly to me at several times to prepare a way for The Lord, to make a highway for Him. These words were very much alive in me. But, now I was at a point where I did not have any power left and did not understand anything! I went to a pastor to ask for help. He did not have time for me, but he led me to another man that was visiting for a period, that I could talk with. I did not know him, but I needed someone to talk with so I agreed and sat down with him. He had some revelations about me that he could not know and I remember I thought that this must be a prophet and a man of God. Long story short. He was not a man of God and ended up harming and hurting me in a deep way. He said I had demons and had a strange teaching about how this could be. Anyway, this was very strange, so after I had been talking with him and he had tried to cast out the demons from my life, I said that I needed to talk with someone about this. Then he said to me: «If you talk with anyone about this, I will use everything you have said against you, and you will not get rid of the last demons that still are in your life!» Of course I did not understand that this was not God, but I was so exhausted that I was not able to free myself from these words. I thought I had demons and ended up with big struggles and in misery. I spent one month at a mental hospital and I was totally in a mess. But during the 1995 until 1996 I had started to talk with a Christian Doctor named Sven Bekkelund. He helped me out of the situation I was in, and little by little I experienced that God was near again. It was a long process, but at one point God met me in a very deep and powerful way.

Two years went by, from 1994 until 1996 before God really raised me up again. I had a powerful experience at 6 in the morning 16th of August 1996. When I was asleep The Spirit came and woke me up. And the whole room where I was lying was filled with heat and I heard the Spirit say to me: «Torstein, I love you! You are precious to me. You are like the apple of my eye. You are special to me!» And this situation changed my situation completely! I thought that God had left me, but now I knew that he not only was there, but that he loves me in a deep and intimate way!

During these two years I had been struggling a lot with the issue if I am a sinner or saint? I had felt that God had left me in this period, and I was struggling a lot in the area of my identity as Christian. Am I a sinner or am I a saint?

During the two years of struggles, God also dealt with four areas in my life that I will share shortly in the end. It was the areas of: Perfectionism, **prestige, haste and competition.**

I was used to think that things needed to be very good, and often striving towards perfectionism, thinking that God was thinking the same way. **But God is not a perfectionist!** He is perfect, so He doesn't have to worry about being perfect :) ! That is who He IS!

The next area was **prestige.** I believed that God was concerned about reputation, but ended up understanding that this was rooted in my own pride! I thought it was on behalf of God that I was striving to make things look good, but ended up looking myself in the mirror and I had to die from my own prestige!

Haste. I was used to work hard to see results and to accomplish things in sport so, I had transformed this to the kingdom of God. But God showed me that there is no haste in the Kingdom of God! Those who believe in God have no haste! (Isaiah 28.16)

Competition. There is no competition in the Kingdom of God. I was used to this from sport, but during the two years God taught me: Zachariah 4.6: «Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord.»

This teaching that you will find on this web page, would have a main focus on the identity of the believer. The way you think about your self, is the way you will pursue and understand reality and circumstances. Who do you think you are as Christian: A sinner or a saint? I hope the teaching that I will bring will help you to understand and relate to identity.

You may read more teaching on: http://ennyskapning.com/undervisning_mp3_eng.htm

Enjoy your day!
In Him Torstein