

## My Faith Story

I am Ann and I can honestly say I have known about God almost my entire life and as a teenager, I learned He truly saw and heard me.

My nuclear family became shattered when I was seven and my mother and father divorced. **My maternal grandmother had been the most constant, influential person in my life since age two.** I lived mostly with my grandmother and she talked to me about many things, including the importance of having God in my life. She was incredibly loving and always had time to listen. I attended Sunday school and church regularly and learned many Bible stories through books and songs. I definitely believed in God but I thought God, like many of the people in my life, required perfect behavior in order to have access to His love.

When I turned 16 years old, I acquired a driver's license, got a job in a nearby hospital working weekends and the summer months, and was able to buy a car. My grandmother did not drive, so having our own transportation was a great benefit. Weekends were generally spent at my dad's house, but when my grandmother called and asked me to take her to the bank and grocery shopping, I quickly left my dad to take her where she needed to go and stayed the weekend with her.

Grandma had a heart condition and on this occasion was not feeling well. Her color was pale and she became short of breath with any exertion. We went to the bank then Grandma wanted to treat me to dinner before going to the grocery store. Outings like this were precious and few. We pulled into the restaurant parking spot and Grandma suddenly slumped forward, unresponsive, making strange noises. I knew she was prepared to meet her maker but I was scared and didn't want it to be in this manner. **I cried out to God**, "Please God, not now, not here, not like this!" Instantly, Grandma sat up in the car like nothing had happened! **God heard my prayer, my plea!** Grandma and I went on with our evening as planned.

My grandmother died a day and a half later in the early morning peacefully in her sleep. God answered my prayer in an instant and assured me that He was ever present in my life. He taught me as a teenager that I could count on Him to be there for me when my grandmother was no longer able. The seeds sown by family members and church school teachers lead me to cry out in my time of need. **Sharing the love of God and Jesus with children is a wonderful gift.** A gift that grows and flows to others, Praise God!

***Jeremiah 29: 12-13 (NIV) "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."***