

THIS IS DEEP

DIVING INTO LIFE'S DEEPER QUESTIONS



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Dara - A Wonderful Change

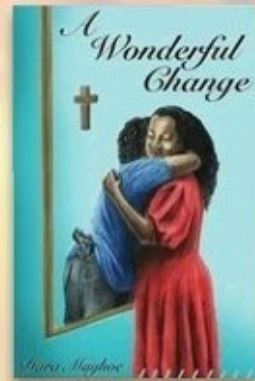


Life as I knew it was depression, being broke, abuse and violence. It was normal because everyone around me had the same issues. Although it seemed normal I didn't like it. I began to act out at a young age exploring unsafe territories with boys, stealing things my mother couldn't buy and fighting everyone who got in my way, even acquiring a curiosity for guns. I thought acting that way would fix my problems and put some respect on my name but it only magnified my problems. I landed in foster care, expulsions and even "juvie" for getting caught with a loaded gun at school. Life was already complicated but let's add teen pregnancy to the situation. It was tough just being a kid so SURELY I didn't know how to raise one! My baby was almost three and he was taken away to foster care. I lost ALL parental rights to him and never got to see him again for 15 years. That broke me! I spiraled out of control. Partying, depression and anger issues resulted with

me stabbing two girls multiple times. That classy act earned me 270 days in jail. Later I was in a relationship and pregnant again REDEMPTION, God was trusting me with another kid! My relationship was extremely mutually abusive and eventually I left him, moved to a new city and started over. I ran back to Jesus, prayed more than ever, visited churches and learned to control my anger. I went back to school, picking up certifications. I married an amazing man. Together we rededicated our lives to the Lord. We blended our families and had another baby. Even received my oldest son back into my life! I am a child of God, loving wife, mother, business owner, gifted and talented. Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ. I need Jesus EVERYDAY, he loved me even when I wasn't thinking of him, a love I never want to live without.

"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:37

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THIS WAY

The Romans Road | *The Road to God*

Romans 3:23

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

❖ We are all lost in our sins & headed the wrong way.

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

❖ Dangerously near destruction Jesus shows us a new road.

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

❖ Even though we are hopeless & lost Christ shows us our worth.

Romans 10:9-10

“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”

❖ When we trust in Him we can find our way in life.



ONE WAY

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Christian - Finding Jesus In A Radical Way



Growing up I didn't have my father around. We moved a lot, I was always the new kid and struggling for acceptance. My mom worked all the time just to keep food on the table. Even in elementary school I felt like I didn't want to live anymore. I would fight a lot. I was full of anger from all the damage of my childhood. I got heavy into metal music and rap as a way to escape. I found drugs and drinking as a way to feel better in the moment. Looking back I just really wanted to be accepted by friends. I would secretly cut myself out of all the pain I was holding onto. I went through so many stages of addiction and trouble. I would do just about anything if it would give me that respect and name that I really wanted. I was always in trouble due to drugs and mental illness. Eventually I got into heavier drugs, heroin and meth. Finally I got locked up. Honestly me getting locked up was actually a good thing for me. While I lost my freedom I finally had time to slow down and think about my life. I was humbled and had nowhere else to go. While I was in there I kept hearing people talking about Jesus. I was tired of hearing about this Jesus so

I finally decided to pick up a Bible and read it for myself. I felt like it was my only hope because I had been through so many programs and institutions I needed something to actually work! As I read this old book I was amazed to feel a real connection to God! I felt such a strong love that I never thought was possible. I started learning so much and gave my life to God. He really started showing me through the Holy Spirit, "without me you are nothing." I was radically changed. I got to minister to so many guys while locked up because they saw a real change in me. God's love is so powerful it changes everyone it touches. My life was so desperate and so troubled only God had the power to change it. He can do it for you too. I had nothing to offer him, just me, but He didn't ask for any other thing. He just asks for us. He will take you just as you are. His love for you is fresh everyday, his plans for you are fresh everyday. Make that next step. God bless.



"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8

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WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

He's the Spirit of God, a.k.a. the Holy Ghost.

He is our friend, guide and source of power.

"Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit." **Acts 2:38**

"Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?" **1 Cor. 3:16**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

True Holy Spirit power will point people to Jesus and will give glory to God not to people or special gifts.

"But I will send you the Advocate the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will tell all about me."

John 15:26



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LORD, teach us how to PRAY...

~ The Lords Prayer ~

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

A.C.T.S.

~ DAILY PRAYER SYSTEM ~

- A. ADORATION (WORSHIP & PRAISE)
- C. CONFESSION (CLEANSE ME OF MY SIN)
- T. THANKSGIVING (EXPRESS THANKFULNESS)
- S. SUPPLICATION (MAKE REQUESTS)

