

My Christian Experience – Dr. John Robert Schutt

I did not grow up knowing the Lord. My father did take my brother and me to Sunday school until I was about age 12. My mother taught me to pray rote children's bedtime prayers. Then when I was about 9, I added a prayer of my own. My uncle, who lived next door, had fallen out of a window and was paralyzed. He was sent to a state hospital. I added the simple prayer that the Lord would heal my uncle. Three years later, my uncle died at the age of 33. I decided that either God didn't care, or that he couldn't heal my uncle, or that perhaps He didn't even exist. I stopped praying and lived my life as if there was no God.

During my senior year of college, I was invited to a Bible study. I blew off the first invitation, but the second one came with a promise that my atheist friend would be attending. I decided to go to the Bible study to watch him give the Christians a hard time. My friend never came, but I did. Someone put a Bible in my lap while the leader asked questions about who Jesus claimed to be. At the last of those four meetings, I had decided that Jesus really was who He said He was – the Savior. I was asked if I wanted to pray. I did. I submitted my life to Him

Francis Schaeffer's book, *Pollution and the Death of Man* has long influenced my thinking. I particularly like his discussion of our relationships to God, self, others, and to the creation. As I live my Christian life, I try to work on each of these four relationships. On the negative side, I sometimes fail to be the person that He wants me to be and to do the things that He wants me to do. At those times I need to come to Him and to ask for His forgiveness and for the forgiveness of others. I am exceedingly appreciative of His abundant grace and forgiveness. On the positive side, I have been privileged to be used by Him in many settings. The greatest of these is the privilege to be a husband and a father. I don't know of anything else that could teach character than being in a family setting. I also appreciate the opportunity that I have had to teach general education college students. I have the privilege of being able to show them that "This is My Father's World." I pray that the Father would continue to use me until He calls me home.