

THIS IS MY STORY – THIS IS MY SONG



It is always good to celebrate a birthday and either enjoy a meal out, or visit a favourite place on the day. On Sunday 14th September 2025, I will be celebrating a very special occasion – my *'50th Birthday of being a Christian'* - of knowing Jesus as my Lord, Saviour, and Friend!

50 years ago, to the day and date - my friend's Dad asked me the most important question I have ever been asked. *"Do you want to become a Christian?"* I thought I was. I had been attending Sunday school for years; I went to Church services, sang in a Christian band, and even composed my own Christian lyric songs! I had gained years of head knowledge and understanding about God, but had not personally experienced *the change of heart and mind that only Jesus can bring*.

At the age of 18, I prayed; and asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins, received His forgiveness, and asked Him to come into my life as Lord and Saviour. Sunday 14th September 1975 – is my *'New-Birth Day.'* Jesus said to Nicodemus (a member of the Jewish ruling council) in John 3:3 – *"I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

Over the last few months, I have been preparing a *'Mini Concert'* of songs and testimony - in celebration and thanksgiving to the LORD for this special birthday. As I share my story and songs today, my hope and prayer is; that you also - will encounter the true and lasting joy, hope, peace, and assurance - that only knowing Jesus can give.

The service today is a celebration of praise and giving glory to God. I am nothing without Him, and yet *'In Him'* – you and I, can do everything through Jesus Christ who gives us strength. (See Philippians 4:13) Today, I ask you the same question. *"Would YOU, like to become a Christian?"* A follower and disciple of Jesus. To have a new start and a new life; to experience abundant life each day, and know the future hope of eternal life with Jesus in heaven. Like me today; if you already *'Know Jesus'* – we can recommit our lives to Him, asking that we will continue to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness - in all we do and say.

"LORD Jesus, I am sorry for my actions and attitudes that are not pleasing to You. I ask for your forgiveness for all my sinfulness. Thank you, that You died on the Cross to forgive me and set me free from the guilt and shame of my sin. Please come into my life; and by your Holy Spirit, help me to live each day in obedience to your Word. Thank you, LORD Jesus. Amen."

Jim Collins