

# **God Sighting**

(How God Came Through)

1. **My life seemed normal until** three o'clock in the morning on October 31, 2000. The ring of the telephone broke the quiet calm of the night as I jolted out of bed—instinctively knowing that something was wrong. It was my sister calling to tell me that my father had suffered a stroke and was being transported by ambulance to the local hospital. I threw on some clothes and drove like a lunatic the ten long miles to the emergency room. The paramedics were wheeling my dad in as I pulled into the hospital parking lot. I rushed to his side, grabbing his hand and began talking to him—but he was unresponsive.

Our relationship had never been close, and I still struggled with issues of insecurity and self-worth as a result of the abuse I received from him as a child. In recent years, we had become civil, but were never able to have the kind of father-son conversations that might have brought healing to the wounds of the past.

As they moved my dad into intensive care, his kidneys and other vital functions had begun to shut down. My sisters and other family members were en route to the hospital, but they would probably not arrive for another several hours. It was just my dad and I, alone in the room...

2. **I discovered hope and help in Jesus when** I began to pray for healing for my broken relationship with my father in that hospital room. I held him in my arms and told him that I loved him—something I had never told him before or ever

heard him say to me. I forgave my dad for everything that had happened in the past and that I knew he had done the best that he could. In that moment, I felt my father gently squeeze my hand and I sensed the presence of Jesus surrounding me in a way that I had never experienced before. It was life changing. I knew that my dad had heard me and that it was ok for him to let go. Immediately, the heart monitor alarm sounded as he took his last breath. I watched his countenance change to one of peaceful contentment—a look I had rarely seen on his face before. He was forgiven.

**3. I'm glad I have a personal relationship with Jesus because** He has always been with me through the darkest times of my life. When I am at my weakest, Christ's power becomes perfect; and it is His strength that carries me when I can no longer stand on my own (1 Cor. 12:9).<sup>1</sup> I believe with all my heart that my father heard me speak to him that early October morning and that he was set free from the guilt he had been carrying around for all those years.

God gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross so we too could know forgiveness, become free from the burden of sin and shame, and have a personal and intimate love relationship with Him (John 3:16). In the years since my father's death, my relationship with Christ has grown deeper and stronger as I continue to experience His unfailing love and faithfulness in every season of life (Duet. 7:9). With Jesus by my side—I know that I am loved and never alone (Josh. 1:9).

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1. Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are in the New International Version.

4. **May I share how something like this can happen to you?** (Transition to a presentation of the Gospel)