

# APRIL 2016

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Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 09:58

274 Frederick Dr, Athens, GA, United States • 59°F Sunny

## Andy Hines - Testimony

1 Peter 2:9-12 MSG

[9-10] But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted. [11-12] Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it ...

I became a Christian in July of 1968. For those of you who weren't alive then, it was a time of great tumult in this country. I was 16 and sitting in chapel at a reform school when I became a believer.

Fast forward to April 2014 and the official opening of Living Hope. Julia and I were led of The Lord to leave our Church of 25 years and join fellowship with Living Hope. I certainly learned of the men of God I served during the previous 46 years, but it has been in the last 2 years at Living Hope that I've come to know what my true identity in Christ is.

Pastor David spoke of Martha and Mary in Luke 10. I began to think about this story and was led to John 11. Here is the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. It was here Jesus told his disciples it was a good thing for you I was't there. Martha came running up to Jesus and told him if he would have been there, Lazarus wouldn't have died. Mary came up and said the same thing.

As I thought about this I began to realize that when Jesus shows up on the scene, things are different. When there is a problem of any kind, and Jesus shows up, things change.

It suddenly dawned on me that where ever I go Jesus goes with me. When I show up in the hospital, class, restaurant, church or where ever, Jesus is there with me. That changes things, it changes EVERYTHING!

The biggest impact of my newly discovered identity is I no longer pray 'Walmart' prayers. What is a 'Walmart Prayer'? I'm so glad you asked. It goes like this: 'Oh Lord be with us now!' When I realized He said he would never leave or forsake me, I knew that praying the 'Walmart Prayer', I'm really saying 'Lord, I don't believe you'. I do want to believe Him, so I no longer pray this prayer.

The next steps for the 'new' me is to pursue The Lord where ever He leads me to do what ever He asks me to do!