Delyn Phanor 4/6/12

"What is life like without God? What it's like with him?"

Many in times in life people pose one of many of the god questions of our time, but one God question in particular leaves people only to wonder. The question is what would life be like without God? At times I wonder myself what life would be like without him/her/it, because at this point in my life I don't know If I can still believe in God or even be a Christian because of the things that I've experienced in my time at Oxbow.

Before I had this problem of believing in God or not I was very strong in my Christian faith. I always thought that there nothing that would ever stop me from believing in God. I found it very urgent to bring people Christ due to my evidence of both hell and heaven and I believed the evidence to be irrefutable and overwhelming. I had much compassion for everyone and I didn't want anyone that I knew or cared about to be in hell when they die. At times I mostly saw everything on this earth to be worthless if it didn't have anything to do with God. I nearly brought myself to the point of insanity. Every now and then I would think about dying and leaving earth for good. I thought heaven was the only place I needed to be because I found myself unsuccessful in leading people to Jesus Christ. I didn't want to be a nuisance to anyone's life and thought no one cared, but before feeling the way I felt about my Christian walk, I once didn't care about Christianity or any other religion of that matter.

When I was younger, I was a very troubled child. I didn't care about anything that had to do with spirituality. I was blissfully ignorant. (Which is basically how I am now). I only had the need for fun in my life, I thought everything was going fine despite that I didn't know about god. I soon came to realize that most of what I thought wasn't true. My life as a Christian would begin on a Sunday, after a fight that I got into with my sister a couple days ago over a situation that will be explained in detail. I honestly was not looking forward to that Sunday. I didn't want to go to church especially to my sister's church because it always scared me. While the church service was going on, I was focused on leaving. I was ignoring the choir's singing and ignoring the preacher's preaching hoping and waiting, so anxious for church to end. As I waiting for church to end, I suddenly started thinking about my mother and how treated her with such disrespect. I couldn't fathom the thoughts that I was thinking. I immediately began feeling a sense of conviction. At that moment of feeling convicted, I broke down on my knees and fell on the floor before God in hopes of forgiveness. I still think to this that moment of conviction couldn't have been anything else but God. In a lot moments in my life as a Christian, I witnessed things I have no doubt that they were acts of God but now I wonder why God doesn't amaze me with his wonderful acts to prove his existence.

Ever since that day of finally being saved under Christianity, I thought there couldn't be anymore of a truer religion than Christianity. I felt motivated and disciplined, I never felt more driven toward success being a Christian. I wanted to please God with my success. I thought everything was perfect I was a diligent artist, a perfect student, and very mature for my age. I thought nothing could go wrong, that I would never lose sight of my dream of being a famous Hollywood animated film director. I soon would realize that me dreaming of such things were a waste of my time and that I was doing everything, for nothing.

I started feeling that when I first read the Bible. It was a very beautiful experience reading it for the first time. I'm still thankful for that day I received it from my art mentor. When I first opened up the Bible it opened it up to Genesis, and while I was reading it I happened to smell this very peaceful and pleasant scent. An immediate feeling of peace fell on me while I was reading, I never felt so safe and complete in my life. That moment in particular is a moment in my Christian life that I will never forget.

While continuing to read more chapters of the bible, I soon started discovering things that made start taking my Christian life more seriously. I watched testimonies of people who experienced hell/heaven. I believed most of the testimonies to be true due to the evidence to they presented. I found the Christian religion to be very serious and it was very important for me to get everyone that cared about and even people that I didn't know to come to heaven with me, I didn't want anyone to be left behind.

I would discuss religion with mostly everyone I knew. I really needed people to be saved. As I went on talking about religion, I soon was noticing that I was unsuccessful with many people and that I seemed very bothersome to others. I was starting to feel like I was wasting my time, I losing hope, I just wanted to die. It was the only solution at the time for me. Nothing was a more pleasant thought for me than to be in heaven because I wasn't leading anyone to Christ, I wasn't going to find love with anyone, and I wasn't doing anything productive. I almost was at the brink of insanity until I was accepted to Oxbow. I was shown things that have made me come to somewhat of my senses. Things like seeing the documentary Jesus Camp and the Westborough Baptist Church have given me a moment to reflect on myself and made me think if what was doing was actually right.

Now that I live a life without the awareness of God's presence, I wonder, what would life be like without him? I know the God himself is the moral law giver of our reality because without a moral law giver there is no such thing as an absolute moral law no sense of morality is justified. What good is defined by how you feel and what's bad is too. You can eat people alive and that will be what is right in your sense of morality not eating people is what's bad. There can never be specific meaning in this world god people create there own meaning. Many things I can tell will come to pass if there happened to be life without God, as the same for a life with him.

All in all I ask these questions in hope of gaining my spiritual life back and to some how get my view across to people I didn't get a chance to exactly tell.