



## From Atheist to Last Hour Faith

Each week some men in my neighborhood gather for prayer and Bible Study. One morning this summer my neighbor Brian asked us to pray for his dad who was in the final stages of terminal cancer. His request was for us to pray for his dad's salvation. Brian reported that his father had been a committed atheist his entire life. He also shared the frustration of having numerous conversations about God, religion, and other futile attempts to 'share Christ' and witness to his dad. Both he and his wife had also prayed for his dad to come to faith in Jesus. After Brian shared this with the group, he asked us to pray in hope that his dad's heart would change as he began to face the reality of his imminent death just 2-weeks away.

I asked our group of guys if we could pray in a way that we've been teaching others to pray—where we utilize God's Word, His promises, and the authority Jesus has given to us. Specifically I asked them to agree together with me according to 2 Cor. 4:4 in using Jesus' authority to free Brian's dad from the blinding effects of Satan's influence in his life so that he could "see the light of the gospel of Christ, who is the image of God" so he was free to make a decision for Christ. I began to pray while they agreed with a simple nod of the head or "yes Lord." Then each man prayed in turn as they felt led to pray.

The following week we met again for our Bible Study. When we asked Brian how his dad was doing, he reported that within 24 hours of our prayers for his salvation, his dad sat up in his sick bed after being disturbed and wakened by a bad dream. He called for his wife and told her, "I need to receive Jesus Christ." His wife of many years was confused and a bit uncertain about how to respond. She wondered if he might be experiencing the effects of his medication or was in somewhat of a sleep-like state and reminded him, "You don't believe in God or Jesus." After gently shaking him she asked,

"Are you dreaming?" He responded sharply, "Yes, I was dreaming. I dreamt I went to hell!" She asked, "What do you want me to do?" "Well, call a priest or something," he snapped. She went and found a phone book, searched through the Yellow Pages and found a priest who came to their home. He reported the dream and his urgency to receive Christ. The next day Brian's dad phoned him to tell him the Good News! His words were, "Brian, I received Jesus Christ! I thought you would want to know." Brian was amazed, and so were we. We praised God! After couple of weeks later Brian reported that his dad had died but expressed the peace he had knowing that his father was with the Lord. We're still amazed! Praise God!

- As reported to Keith by Brian (after I asked him to read and fact-check it, he said, "That's how I remember it!")

