

Spring 2008

## SO CLOSE!!!

**Have you ever been excited about something you thought was going to happen, and then it didn't?** As if it was so close but not quite close enough? I had an experience like that recently.

I was sitting in the corner booth at Dairy Queen with Joel talking about his new school and other life stuff when the subject of God came up. **I asked him to describe his thoughts on God**, what role God plays in his life, and a few other questions along those lines. His answers were very typical of someone who has been fed the wrong message about the reality and person of God by the secular media. He wanted to know more—he was searching to truly understand—but he did not know where to go for answers.

Our conversation soon became a "Q and A" time, with Joel asking many of his questions and me responding the best I knew how. **Joel had a lot of really good questions and I was challenged as I thought through my answers.** We ended up talking about forgiveness of sins by grace and not through good works.

My heart rate had been slowly increasing during our conversation. As **I began to feel the Holy Spirit prod me to directly ask him if he was ready to become a child of God**, I wondered if I would have the privilege of harvesting the seed that so many people had planted, watered, and cared for.

I asked Joel if he was at a place where he wanted to ask Jesus to forgive him of his sins and live a life that demonstrated his thankfulness for God's amazing grace. **He thought for a moment and then answered that he still had to think about some of the things we had been talking about before he could be totally ready.**

My high-riding emotions suddenly began to come back down to earth. Agh!! **Joel was so close!** I knew God was working on his heart and mind. I was excited that he had been honest and open enough to get so close, and yet eventually frustrated with his choice.

Ultimately, God is the One wooing Joel, so **continue to pray with me that God's pursuit will meet a softened heart and a clear mind.** Thanks!

Thank you all for your continual prayers and financial support. **I am encouraged when I hear from you, knowing that you are praying and thinking of me and the kids at TreeHouse.** Keep up the good work! You all are awesome! Your gifts and support make the difference.



Dan Schmoyer