

How I Confessed My Way to Freedom

Un-Godly Belief #1

Disclaimer: This article is my personal testimony. I am not suggesting college isn't necessary or the will of God for some people. To those who have recently graduated from high school, this is not your excuse to take a year off before proceeding with higher education. The intent of this article is to shed truth on who we are in Christ. Part of that process for me was to realize my identity was not in a college diploma. For those facing a decision about college I urge you to seek wise counsel, but mostly seek the greatest Counsel of all.

Un-Godly Belief #1: Without a college degree I cannot be taken seriously on an intellectual level.

I met my husband my freshman year of college. He was a senior. He graduated. A year and a half into our relationship he moved to Knoxville to begin his career as a computer software developer. Six months later we became husband and wife, I was 20 with two years of undergraduate work completed.

My parents offered to pay to send me to the University of Tennessee to finish my college education. I had given up a scholarship to UTC when I moved to Knoxville. Neither of my parents had finished college. My mother especially desired to see me finish what she never obtained. As parents we want what is best for our children and in today's society that seems to be a four year degree which promises economic security for the future.

To be honest I was young and lazy. I did not like school. Although I had majored in Communications with an emphasis on Public Relations for two years, I did not have a real passion for this type of career. If we are going to be real honest (and isn't that the point of these articles), I had no idea what I wanted to be when I "grew up." So, I declined the generous offer of my parents and worked part time selling eyeglasses for the first year of our marriage. From there I stumbled into the banking industry for three years and held a job I absolutely loved until the arrival of our first baby.

After four months of maternity leave the intent was to return to the bank job. I returned to work and on the first day back gave a four week notice. I had found my calling, MAMA.

Fast forward a few years into the preschool age. I was around other stay at home moms through play groups, toddler gymnastics and the gym. We all had at least one thing in common, toddlers. But most of the other moms shared something in common I didn't...a college education, with careers on hold to raise a family. I retreated into my little shell. "Amy, where did you go to college?" I would respond, "UTC" and usually add, "but I didn't finish." Did they ask if I had finished? No, but for some reason I felt inclined to spill all. I felt lacking, incomplete. I had married young, so not only was I younger than most of these other mothers, I was stupid...or so I had been led to believe.

Daughter number two came along and I was a little wiser, but in no less bondage. At least I was a little older and that alone carried a little more credence. Shortly after the birth of our second

daughter a tragedy struck our family (a story for a later time.) It was through this tragedy that I came back to the Lord.

After several more years of seeking Him I realized I was not walking in the freedom that was mine for the taking because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Sure, my salvation was secure, but my victory was being hampered by my own foolishness. I can't even blame this one on the enemy. Of course satan takes full advantage of our lie based thinking, but he doesn't cause it...no, we do that all on our own thanks to our old nature.

One of the very first lies revealed to me was the one concerning my lack of higher education. You see I had placed my very significance on a college degree. I believed I was worthless. That kind of lie based thinking will get you nowhere fast. When we depend upon our significance being through anything or anyone but Jesus Christ will we fall flat every time.

Around the age of 33 I realized my true calling was to be a princess warrior, daughter of the Most High King...to minister the grace of Abba Father to the broken, downtrodden and deceived...and that, my friend, requires no pre-qualification other than a heart of surrender.

I often wonder if I had finished college if I would be where I am today. Many of my friends from my younger years got their college degrees, careers, and a lifestyle that is dependent on two incomes. When their children came along they couldn't even fathom quitting to be full time mothers, nor could they afford too. To be a mother is the highest calling for a woman in the eyes of God.

Now that my girls are both in school the Lord is leading me into a new season, one of ministry. Remember earlier when I shared with you I didn't have a passion for a career in communications? Well, I have a passion for something now, no, Someone. I want to take that passion and serve my King full-time as a wife, mother and lay minister. The pay according to the world's standards isn't good, but the kingdom benefits are unmatched!

Correct me if I am wrong, but I don't find college education referred to in scripture. What I do find is Colossians 3:23 which says:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." (NIV)

In closing I might add I am blessed to be reaping the benefits of my husband's college education. The Lord has definitely provided for us abundantly. I have the honor of staying at home. I also have time, a most valuable resource, for ministry. I am grateful for my husband's diligence and the Lord's provision.

One other thing I must mention. If reading this article has brought about any feelings of condemnation, remorse or regret, reject those thoughts immediately, they are not from God. Yesterday is in the past! The good news is the Lord has promised to redeem the years the locust have eaten (Joel 2:25)!!

If this article was helpful in busting a lie you have believed about your significance based on education I would love to hear from you by e-mail at amydover@growingin grace.cc