



Debbie Barron

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Dear Friend,

Twenty years ago today I was driving from Anderson, Ind., to Castleton to meet a friend at Chi Chi's Mexican restaurant. I was thinking about God and what He had revealed to me about Himself over the previous four years or so.



1989

Amy Grant's *The Collection* cassette was playing in the background. (It was the only Christian tape I owned. I had seen her in concert once and liked her music.) Though I had heard the song many times, the lyrics of "I Have Decided" pierced my heart on this particular evening:

I have decided

*I'm gonna live like a believer,
Turn my back on the deceiver;
I'm gonna live what I believe.*

I have decided

*Being good is just a fable.
I just can't, 'cause I'm not able;*

I'm gonna leave it to the Lord.

I had spent the previous year trying to be good. Trying to live like a Christian because I had been miserable living the way I wanted. I thought being good was the right thing to do. But I had failed again and again. Nothing seemed to work. Though I had asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins and to come into my life fourteen years earlier, something was obviously wrong.



2009

When I heard the words of the song that night, it hit me. I had been trying to be good on my own. "Gutting it out" in my own strength hadn't worked.

I prayed a simple prayer in my car on June 16, 1989: "God, I can't do this. Please take over."

That simple act of giving God control of my life has made all the difference. I've prayed a similar prayer hundreds of times since then. Continually surrendering to His plan for my life has been the key to lasting joy and peace.

Debbie