

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!

I almost let today get by me. You know how it is...you get busy going here and there; thinking of several things at once and an important day passes. It almost happened to me today. Then sweet Sue Moore called and reminded me that today, July 9th, is my birthday, because on this day in 1958, when I was 11 years old, I was baptized. What a great day! My spiritual birthday! All the memories have come back.

We were in a Gospel meeting. I don't remember who was preaching but I was convicted. For several nights I wanted to go down to the front of the church and be baptized. I kept chickening out. The intensity of my feelings grew. "*O Love That Will Not Let Me Go.*" The best I could do was move down a couple of rows. Finally I did it!

My dad was there to take my hand, hear my confession and help me with my baptism. Even though it was 60 years ago, it is a vivid memory. I remember all those people who hugged me, kissed me, and called me 'Brother'. One man said, "Son, you will never be sorry for this decision". I also remember I wasn't afraid anymore. I remember the wonderful peace I felt.

Since that day, I have learned a lot about the grace of God and His plan of salvation. But what I knew then and still know today is I was washed in the blood of Christ. I am a Child of God.

Paul