



## I Was A Bad Kid, Forgive Me

This is such a loaded subject in my life, and increasing even more, with the passing of time. I thought that as we get older and wiser, we make peace with our past. Guess I wasn't invited to that party, because as time goes by, and I learn and grow, and ask God to open my eyes, and help me mature in His ways, I am mortified at my old personality, character, and basically everything I was and tried to be. God had mercy on me and grabbed me out of the darkness. Why? I ask Him this on occasion but the only thing I understand is that I always had faith, but even that isn't to my own credit, because faith is a gift. I just can't comprehend His goodness. As a child, long before I came to Jesus (at age 17), I was exposed to witchcraft and occult things, such as ouija board playing, tarot cards being "read" to me, being taught how to do seances and participating in them, etc. And all this starting around the age of 7 or so, not at my own house, but at a neighbor's. Through this neighbor I was also exposed (again, as a very young child) to horror movies and books, pornography, and "alternative lifestyle" things. To young me, all this was normal and cool and fun. To middle-age me, I shudder at the memories. A doorway was opened up to my young spirit that has taken me a lifetime to close. Einstein said that imagination is more important than knowledge, but I beg to differ. God's word tells us that His people are destroyed for lack of knowledge ( Hosea 4:6 ). I would give anything to go back in time and trade in all of my imagination, for just a shred of the knowledge of God. Btw I don't hold it against those who were a bad influence to childhood me- I completely forgive- knowing full well that I, in turn, was unfortunately a bad influence to so many others, and hope that they have or will forgive me.

-ACL

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