

My name is Derek McDonald. I was born May 3, 1963 in Poplar Bluff, MO. I was the only child to an independent perfectionist. He was, in addition, an alcoholic atheist. My mother, on the other hand, was a codependent humanist. She was the Al-Anon agnostic that did what she could to protect me from him, with little success. As a result, I became the product of my experience, developing into a mixed bag of their dysfunctions. We are designed to be interdependent, not the extreme, diametrically opposed, of the aforementioned. I was truly lost and on a path of self-destruction. My parents did the best they could with what they had. After

all, how could they give away something they didn't possess themselves? They became divorced when I was 16. I bounced back and forth between them, in anger and fear, using them until I hit my spiritual bottom at the age of 19. That's when God revealed Himself to me, with His son, Jesus Christ. Becoming a Holy Spirit filled Christian did, to my surprise, not fix my issues. For the next 8 years, I became like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, ignorantly unaware of my soul sicknesses. Then I hit my bottom in mind and body. God introduced to me the fellowship of recovery, via a 12 step program, of which its origins were based on biblical principles. The melding of the Bible

and the steps is where my life's purpose would be discovered. Healing and deliverance, as well as spiritual and emotional growth was liberating, and changed my entire life. In the early days, I was told that nothing would ensure the aforementioned, like intensive work with others. I had to give it away, if I wanted to keep it. After all, as I freely received, I must freely give. I had to lose my life, for His sake, if I wanted to save it. Up until this revelation, I had been, selfishly, only seeking to save my life. Little did I know, that my whole previous way of life, was God preparing me for future ministry. Led by His Holy Spirit, I avail myself to all walks

of life, with various dysfunctions. He had, without my permission, anointed me to serve my brethren, to invest my life into theirs, so they too, could experience transformations in their character. I have had the honor and privilege to continue to be used by Him, making wonderful friends along the way, for 32 years, just by sharing my experience, strength, and hope, as a mentor/life coach. Towards the latter end of this span of time, He saw fit to bless me with a beautiful and lovely wife, whose name is Janet. We have been married going on 10 years. It's wonderful to be one with her, in every way. We recently enjoyed the experience of living in a

dream spot, which happened to be very close to the snow covered Rocky Mountains: near the majestic and glorious Glacier National Park, in north western Montana, for 1 year & 5 months. We just recently transplanted to St. James, MO, to be closer to our respective families & friends. Thank you for your time in prayerful consideration.

Best regards,
Derek McDonald