



## Sovereign Saving Grace A Testimony

Asim is 43 years old. He grew up in a nominally Muslim family in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. His father was a successful and well-respected businessman. Asim is an only son, with both an older and a younger sister. At an early age, he was employed by his father. He went on to get a university degree in business administration which enabled him to excel in his father’s business. At 24 years of age, he married a distant cousin whom he knew and liked since childhood. Their happy marriage is blessed with three children, two sons and a daughter. At 28 years of age, his father made him his sole business partner.

### Becoming a Strict Muslim

Through business dealings, he became good friends with two strongly religious Muslim men. From the start,



they rebuked him for his lack of commitment to strict Islamic beliefs and religious practices. Gradually they persuaded him to follow their example. Eventually he threw his energies into pursuing an Islamic lifestyle. He began to memorize and recite passages of the Quran and became preoccupied by pursuing the exercise of strict Islamic Sharia law. This new strict religious lifestyle impacted all his relationships. His circle of friends changed. He

no longer enjoyed the company of some of his best friends, who did not share his new religious ways.

### Family Tension

He introduced new demands on his wife and children. This included requiring them to memorize the Quran and attend classes on Islamic teaching. Initially, his loving wife reluctantly went along with some of his new rules. She refused, however, to wear the Islamic

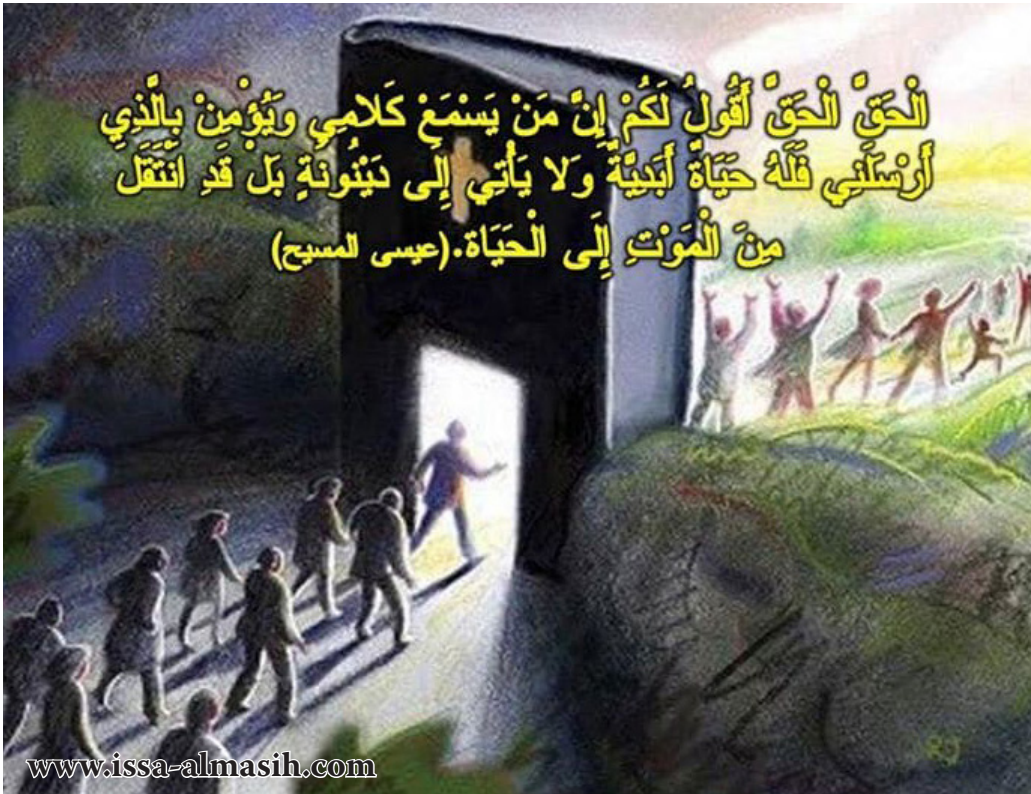
*hijab* head covering for women. Neither would she accept to replace her circle of friends for his Islamic companions. So, Asim’s warm and peaceful family life became tense.

### A Surprising Change

Then, Hasan, one of the two Islamic friends who had convinced him to become a strict Muslim, changed completely. He became totally disenchanted with his religion. He made this very clear to his family and friends. In spite of this, his friendship with Asim remained strong. In time, Hasan confided in him about his interest in the life and teaching of Christ. Since the Quran speaks highly of Jesus, Asim didn’t find that objectionable.

### It is All About Jesus

Hasan, however, shared with him that he was finding out that the Jesus of the gospel is very dif-



***“Truly, truly, I say to you,  
whoever hears my word and believes him  
who sent me has eternal life.  
He does not come into judgment,  
but has passed from death to life.” John 5:24***

ferent from what Islam teaches about him. This got Asim thinking and stirred up his curiosity. He became interested in learning more about Jesus. Quietly, on his own, he began searching online. As is often the case with open-minded Muslims, Jesus’ teaching in the “Sermon on the Mount” and other sayings attracted the attention of both Hasan and Asim. Also, Jesus’ words of rebuke addressed to religious leaders appeal to disenchanted Muslim.

### **Growing in Grace**

Today, both men and their wives are part of a small Bible study group. As they grow in their walk with Christ, Asim joyfully reports: “In Christ Jesus (Issa al-Masih), we know not only what God is like, but also how much he loved us and continues to love us... We love him too!”

### **For Your Prayers:**

S.S., of Tunisia reports that her father finally allowed her to marry

their faith in Christ.

K.M. of Egypt reports with joy that two of his Muslim friends (one with his wife) are regularly joining him in studying METF’s Arabic book about Christ’s nature and his redemptive work. Pray for wisdom as they consider attending a local church.

Christians in Hasaka and Qamishli and other parts of northeastern Syria have recently faced additional economic and social hardship. The area is mostly controlled by Sunni Muslim Kurdish separatist authorities. About 60% of younger Christian families in the area have been pressured socially and economically to immigrate or move to other areas of the country under government control. A sizeable number of the remaining Christian population are elderly people.

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