

## Learning to Read

By Allen Glover

When you can't read you're in a closet and you're frustrated. When you start learning to read it makes you more aware. It's like going from a really bad job to a really good one. You find out what you've been missing all along.

Learning to read is like buying your first car. It is exciting and a little scary too. Being able to read makes me feel like I'm on my game. It gives me an advantage in life. It gives me power that I never felt like I had. For example, I can look at paperwork and know what is required. It is harder now for people to get over on me. I can read notes, letters, signs, and other types of information for myself. I am in more control of what goes on around me. Learning to read gives you a sense of security.

Learning to read is not just a life journey for me, it's also been a spiritual journey. I can read along in church now and not be afraid. Reading scripture with my own eyes is opening me up to new things and new opportunities. It makes you feel more equal with other people. I always felt like I was less than. Now, I don't feel like that anymore.

When I couldn't read, I felt dead because I was scared all the time when I did something new. It was like watching a horror movie where you know something is waiting out there and it's going to jump out at you! But now I know that I can be successful. I am an older individual. I felt like it was almost too late for me. Now, I read my first sentences. I read my first story to my child. It makes you very emotional to learn to read when you never felt like you would be able to. I've got tears in my eyes right now!

Having a good attitude and a good teacher goes a long way. When you are willing to work hard and you have someone to say kind words and have a good outlook, then you can learn anything in life. I am thankful that I have been coming to class for a year now and that I am on my way to achieving my goals.