



Baptism Testimonies

February 20, 2021

Erin Howard



I was born and raised in a loving Christian home. As early as possible, my parents grew me in the knowledge of Jesus and His love for me. I've attended church my whole life, and accepted Jesus into my heart around the age of six. As I grew, I didn't really have a faith of my own. In middle school I wasn't really focused on God or actively pursuing a relationship with Him.

However, in high school, I started learning more about faith, what living for Jesus looked like and started practicing daily devotional habits. But I struggled with trusting God. I am an obsessive planner and if I don't have a to do list, I feel out of control. I am also a worrier. In high school, a lot of my time was dedicated to planning and worrying about my future and doing everything I could to try and secure it.

This desire led me away from God and towards many

emotional breakdowns. Over the past several years, God has been teaching me trust. As I grew distant from God, my life started to fall apart. I would end up on my knees in prayer, crying out to God because I didn't know what else to do. God repeatedly drew me back to Him. God showed me that I cannot do this life on my own, nor am I made to. He has taught me to surrender everything to Him. He holds my entire life in His hands, and I am so encouraged and reassured by that.

I know that God's plans are what's best for me, especially with my future and my career, and since letting that go, I have been at such peace. I can live in freedom knowing that wherever God leads me in my life, His plans are good. God led me to baptism as the next step in my faith journey. Being baptized is my outward profession to follow Jesus and put my trust in Him.

Jenene Kilian



I was raised in a wonderful Christian home and accepted Jesus into my heart at an early age. Come high school it seemed every summer camp I would rededicate my life and then live for myself the rest of the year.

Then fast forward a few years to marriage and being blessed with 3 wonderful girls. Life was good. However, 2 years ago our youngest daughter, at 21, was in a tragic car accident.

Through this time, I learned to trust and put my all into Jesus. Prayer for her survival brought me to my knees countless times during the day and night. I would even have to pray hard for strength just to enter into our daily meetings with the multiple specialists as we would always learn about more risks and complications and how her survival was unlikely. It took two months of continuous prayer from--not only us ut a huge



bcommunity of prayer warriors--for the doctors to call her stable and she was finally able to move out of the ICU.

Through this hard time my relationship with the Lord strengthened considerably which leads me to where I am today. I thank him daily for answering our prayers as she is doing well and is a walking testimony of his grace.

God commands us to be baptized. It is not an option.

I'm not sure why it's taken me this long to get here but after staring at my daughter's baptism picture over and over again on her hospital room wall, I knew as life returns to what we call our new normal this was a step I needed to do.

Justin Langdon



I was raised christian, my parents took me to church every weekend in hopes to teach me wrong from right.

From a very young age I learned about Jesus, but I did not have a healthy relationship with Christ nor did I know him personally.

As I grew older religion no longer played an active role in my life and the lines between what was wrong and what was right became blurred.

I fell deep into sin and temptation. I got lost in the ways of the world, my life was full of strife and misery.

It took me so long to figure out, the way I was living was not in line with what was good in God's eyes. turned away from



I sinful relationships and looked towards God to better my life and found so much more.

Now, I am blessed to know Jesus, he saved me from my own destruction. I am also blessed with a good house, a great job and peace of mind. I hope to continue to do what is good in God's eyes and further my relationship with Jesus.

Ayden O'Connor



Before I made my decision to believe in and follow Jesus, I always felt lost and missing a part of who I am. God worked in my life to bring me to him. He drew me to him by our family being friends with other families in different religions and by comparing them to Christianity.

He drew me to him through apologetics books like Who is God and Can I really know Him? by John Hay and David Webb. The story about brownies and evolution especially spoke to me. That God truly existed and that I should follow him; just like brownies need to be made by someone, so did the whole world and universe.

I chose to believe that Christianity is true and Jesus is the one I wanted to pick because God made the most sense. I wanted a God that would love me and never forget me; not one that would never hear me or love me. Other



beliefs, like the big bang, do not make sense to me because bangs make destruction and not creation.

He made sense to me because I read a bible story about all the prophets and how God made a fire in seconds and all it took was a prayer, but the false prophets did everything they could think of, and still no response from their false “god”, even when they cut themselves no response from their “god”.

He has been teaching me about him and how to follow him through Bible classes, home, and church. He is also trying to lead other friends to him. Now I no longer feel lost, I feel found because I found a God who would die for me to live forever and ever in heaven.

Mckenzie Poirier

I was born in a Christian home and attended church when I was young. However, when I was 8 my parents split and church was not made a priority. I attended a Christian school from kindergarten to grade 12, so I still had a Christian community around me but I didn't know exactly how or where I fit in at church. I never had a home church, I went wherever my friends went or just didn't go because it wasn't a priority at home.

In grade 12, I was attending youth and church regularly and decided to join my youth group's mission trip to Mexico. It was a turning point for my faith. I had never felt so close to God. I rode that high for a while, then I graduated and went to college. I attended a very intense RMT program and found myself making excuses that I was too busy to focus on anything but schoolwork. I also found myself in a very unhealthy and ungodly relationship. I attended church



and was surrounded by friends but I felt so alone and disconnected. This was an extremely low and lonely time. I still believed God, but I was not living a godly life nor was I confident in my faith.

Now, two years into my career as an RMT, God has placed me in a great workplace and has surrounded me with amazing friends and family who build me up and encourage me. I've joined a community group. I'm in a healthy, God-centred relationship and I feel more confident in my love for Christ than ever. I'm not perfect, I still have my ups and downs but my focus is on God and serving him. I believe that Christ died for me and has forgiven my sins and I'm ready to take this step in publicly declaring my faith.

John Schulz



I was born and raised in a christian family. I went to church every Sunday and prayed with the family every morning and evening. At the age of five my parents got divorced; my mom ran away from the country, my dad ran away too but it was somewhere else. I started to have a hard time in different areas of my life such as finance, education, the list goes on. These situations led me to believe that I couldn't think about God any more. I went away from God. I started doing what I wanted, my own will and doing bad things with bad friends. I didn't have any parents or anyone responsible to educate or guide me, and I had no idea about God.

One day God spoke to me through a lady who came and started to tell me about God/ She told me about what Christ has done for me on the cross of cavalry. She told me that God



loves me and He has a plan for me. After that, I gave my life to God. I started going to church again, I couldn't live for myself anymore. I started living for Him, I started serving. I understood that all I am is for God. I received Jesus as my Lord and Saviour.

I decided to follow Jesus for the rest of my life, I realized that everything I can look for on this earth is in Jesus. Joy, peace, freedom, wisdom, feeling saved, hope, courage, the joy to live all these emotions came back into my life. It's important for me to get baptized, to take this step in my faith to consolidate my faith and my personal relationship with God.

Brian Seebaran Jr.



On May 11th, 2020 I woke up in the morning feeling really good after dreaming that I was baptized. I had been thinking about baptism for a few days before that and I knew that Jesus commands his followers to get baptized. I know in my heart that Jesus is Lord and saviour and died for all my sins on the cross and rose again on the third day. My life is now His. Without Jesus I am nothing. Since May 11th, I have wanted to be baptized and the Holy Spirit even helped me to learn all the books of the bible!

Marisa Smit



Growing up, I was not exposed to Christianity very much, as my family did not attend church services. My exposure to Christianity came from attending a few youth soccer camps over the summers. This is where I was taught about the big picture of Christianity and how Jesus died on the cross for the sins of his people.

For many years I lived my life not knowing what my purpose was in it and feeling quite lonely. Until one day my sister and her fiancé asked me if I wanted to attend a church service at Northview with them.

Going to that service was such a beautiful and eye opening experience in my life. One of my favourite things was how amazing it feels to worship the Lord together. It was after that service I knew that God was what I had been missing in my life all these years. Since

deciding to follow God I have realized that he will remain faithful in my life. The Lord has given me someone to turn to, someone who I know will never leave me.

God helps give me the strength to heal and persevere through the rough patches I face in life. Looking back now it amazes me how often God had his hand on me and how unknowing I was to him working in my life.

I am so grateful that God has brought me closer to Him and that I can now see him working in my life in so many ways. I am beyond excited to outwardly declare my love for Jesus Christ my saviour.

Petra (Jailene) Smit

I was raised as a Cultural Christian, I was told to believe in God but I never understood the Gospel. I listened to the songs and stories at youth summer camps, but nothing ever stuck with me. My lack of understanding made me resentful of God for most of my life.

However, part of me always went back to Him when I struggled and I would pray for support. Eventually, God brought the man of my dreams to me; who, I think, is very strong in his faith and love for God. I look up to his relationship he has with God.

It was through this man I attended church for the first time in my life. My heart felt full and the anger I struggled with towards God and life started to vanish. Church made me feel at home, the people, the music, the passages, everything finally felt right. It took me, what felt



like, a long time to admit that to myself and others. Following God has allowed me to grow so much as a person, partner and friend. He teaches me that I do not need all the answers and that it is okay to not know everything. Unlike before, trusting in Him comes naturally.

It is a relief to know that there is a plan for everything happening in my life, and that plan is in the hands of God. At times, I feel as if I am not a good enough Christian because I have not been in the faith for long and that I am not good enough to be baptized. I remind myself that if God did not want me at this point in my life I would not be taking this large but amazing step of bringing my inward reality into the real world.

Measha Thompson



Before giving my life to Christ, I was critical of those who claimed to be His followers as they were the ones who would often do some of the most conniving and “people breaking” acts. Their un-Christ-like behaviours turned me away as I wanted nothing to do with so-called ‘Christians’.

It was not until I finally realized that Christ was the example to follow, not those who said one thing and did another, and that sparked my curiosity to learn more and delve deeper.

Since accepting Christ as my Lord and Saviour, I am constantly reminded that I belong to Him. My identity is in Him and not in my achievements, who I may know, or where I think I am headed. He has been showing Himself to me and proving that He is always there for me; even in those moments when I don’t want to sit still and listen for



His voice because I would rather bury myself under so many things to keep me “busy”. He’s always there to meet me where I am!

He has also put people around me who model what truly aiming to live Christ-like can look like. They are the ones who encourage me, speak life into me, push me to learn more, and point me back in His direction. I am grateful that I am able to know God and get to experience the love and care that He has for me. I am ready to continue on this journey with Him and pray that He will continue to draw me closer to Him and guide my steps as I live with Him at the forefront.

Brendan Visser

I was born and raised in a Christian home and cannot remember a time when I didn't know who Jesus was, and how much he loves me.

However, as I grew up, I never fully understood what that actually meant for my personal faith in Jesus. It wasn't until I was around 13 when I went to bible camp for the first time that I finally started to grasp that my faith was my own. But, as middle school and high school came and went, I was extremely caught up in the life of sports and doing my own thing that I never took my faith seriously.

My life was extremely simple and easy, which led to me being completely focused on myself in doing whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. It wasn't until a couple months after my 18th birthday when my sister was diagnosed with leukaemia that life really hit hard. Up until that point, things were easy for me; however, when my sister and entire family had to go



through this challenging time, I knew that I couldn't rely on my own strength and that I never will be able to. Through this experience, I really felt myself growing up in my overall maturity and in my relationship with Christ.

I realized my need for a saviour because I am sinful, and I need God's mercy and grace every single day. I started taking my faith seriously, finally making it my own and growing in understanding of how that affects my life in everything that I do. This is why I am now extremely excited about getting baptized because I know what I believe in my heart and I want to commit my life to God and fully surrender with him, starting with baptism.

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:38-39

