

Brandon Cummmiford – Testimony

From a young age I was raised in the church. I first remember going to a small church however funding became an issue there and they were forced to close. We transitioned to a large church and I soon stopped going altogether. I relied heavily on the excuse that the church was too big and not aligned with what I knew and in all actuality I was letting the devil into my life and letting him take over. I did whatever I decided when I desired and fell victim to my urges. I did have a problem with my lifestyle, and drinking heavily. I would even steal without a second thought. I felt or believed what I did was truly not hurting anyone because I was doing more harm to myself and nothing I did was so egregious that God would not allow me into heaven during. This time I made some very disparaging comments such as “God offered me a seat on the bus but the devil handed me the keys.” I thought I was just being funny but in all reality that was showing how I lived my life. When good things happened to me it was because of my hard work and when bad things happened I would curse God's name and blame him. I always said I would attend church when I had kids to raise them in the church and allow them to decide when they were adults what they were going to do but I could never do that. My family and I moved around a bit and I did try to attend numerous churches but I always made an excuse and eventually stopped going.

Then my kids were invited to camp one year which led to us attending Lighthouse Baptist Church. I started to see a change in my kids that was intriguing to me and I wanted to know before I took just one visit to Lighthouse and hearing pastor Josh preach I was hooked. LBC is by no means a small church. I remember the feeling I got from when I was a child at my first church even though I was very stubborn. It took me a couple of weeks or so of coming to LBC before I actually called out to Jesus asking him to come into my heart. I have my children, LBC and pastor Josh to thank for this. I thought I knew the stories of the Bible. I blindly believed I would go to heaven because I was not a bad person but I quickly realized how much sin I was living in and God hates sin but not the sinner. I realized my sins were adding up and I sure would have a spiritual death.

Since asking Jesus Christ into my life I feel more at peace. I am quick to identify when I start to stray and I can make course corrections I still have a long way to go. I have seen where sin crept into my life before and how to stay away from it in the future. I have been able to relax more knowing Jesus Christ is there for me and would not throw anything my way that I cannot handle without him. I feel the biggest change is my praying and reading the Bible. I used to never read the Bible unless it was a verse posted somewhere in the public. Praying was something I just did not do. I feel like my prayer life is like I am having a casual conversation with a friend who I have known all my life As for my disparaging comments

before, I find having a seat on the bus is filled with great warmth and I just enjoy the reality of knowing I am in safe hands.

Some verses that have come to mean a lot to me are:

John 8:32

“and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

John 14:6 “I am the way the truth and the life and no man cometh unto the father but by me”

Isaiah 12:2

“Behold God is my salvation I will trust and not be afraid for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song he also has become my salvation”

Colossians 3:17

“and whatsoever you do in Word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God and the father by him”