

Church Membership Testimony

Alaina Bowman
Joined by: Baptism

I have always grown up in a Christian household. My family and I commonly attended church and I was very involved. During my entire childhood, my dad was in and out of jail and I only had specific days for visitation due to court orders. My father was physically present in my life most times but always mentally absent. Due to the state of my relationship with my alcoholic father, I blamed God, causing me to grow resentful and lose my connection with the church and my faith. After my stepmother appeared in my life, their drinking together progressed. She became abusive and my father grew distant, choosing her over me. Any conflict they had, I was left to pick up the pieces, thus leading me into becoming a people pleaser. Constantly trying to desperately put broken people back together because I thought it was my purpose. I became very quick to anger, quick to speak, and hear. I held that grudge against my father like it was a hand. The lack of the proper love of a father led me to search for it in other people rather than God. However, the only thing I found in them that resembled him was his rage. A guy I had dated was physically abusing me and instead of opening my eyes, I blamed Christ for letting it happen to me once again. Eventually, after throwing my life away for years, I called out to God. In less than 24 hours he removed my friends who would judge me for considering grounding myself back into my faith.



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The weeks following I had no one but I was yet to realize that the lonely feeling was God telling me to spend time with him. I found myself falling at his feet because I did not need anymore signs, I needed faith. Signs are up to you whether or not to believe in them but faith has zero boundaries. May 11th I gave my life to Christ and I have been plugged into 242, Foundations, and my youth group. Oftentimes I can feel the workings of Jesus radiating through my heart and the words that I speak. I learned to do things from love rather than for love. I am okay with not having those friends in my life anymore because I have God and that is more than I will ever need. And instead of being too afraid to lay everything at God's feet, I've learned to admit that I walked through the wrong door rather than spending my life in the wrong room. I used to lose track of time, of meals, myself. And sometimes, in the mirror, I wouldn't recognize the person staring back. She looked tired, heavy, blurred at the edges. Like a ghost wearing yesterday's clothes. But, God stood with me and gave me strength. So, now, when I miss my biological dad, I run into the arms of my heavenly father. The Bible tells us to trust the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in everything you do and he will show you which path to take. I find comfort in knowing that when there is not a shoulder to lean and cry on, there is always a floor to kneel and pray on. God loves me so loudly that I never have to notice when other people don't.



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So, when you find yourself feeling like you have no one and you wonder, “But, if God loves me, why is he silent?” remember that no one screams when they’re right beside you. So do it, say yes to Jesus. Because I did, and he pours his love into me like the sun spills light. Never lose hope. Just when you think it’s over, God will make a way for you. Romans 8:18 The pain that you’ve been feeling, can’t compare to the joy that is coming.

My Favorite Bible verse is:

“The pain that you’ve been feeling, can’t compare to the joy that is coming.” Romans 8:18



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