<u>Kaelyn Blevins – Testimony</u>

I came to know Jesus personally when I was 9 years old, during one of the hardest seasons of my life.

My mother passed away that same year. Our home had been a painful place at times, with instability, addiction, and people who did not treat me well. I felt a deep loss and confusion. Everything around me felt shaken, and I didn't understand why life had been so hard so early.

But in that darkness, God met me in a way I didn't expect. I was introduced to the hope of Christ, and for the first time I heard that God saw me, loved me, and had never left me, even in the moments when I felt alone or afraid. At 9 years old, I prayed and gave my life to Jesus. I didn't have all the answers, but I knew I wanted the kind of love, security, and peace that only He could give. (Baptism? – baptized at Baptist Tabernacle in Carlisle, OH)

As I grew, God continued healing the parts of my heart shaped by loss and trauma. He showed me that my story didn't end with pain, that He could redeem it, strengthen me, and use my life for something good. I have seen Him restore joy, protect me, and continually remind me that I am His daughter.

A scripture that reflects my journey is Psalms 71:20-21:

"You have allowed me to suffer much hardship,

but you will restore me to life again

and lift me up from the depths of the earth.

You will restore me to even greater honor

and comfort me once again."

These verses speak to exactly what God has done for me. He brought me through hardship, He restored me, and He continues to lift me up and comfort me. I'm choosing membership now because I want to walk forward in my faith, stay rooted in community, and keep growing in the purpose God has for my life.