

## **Nyomi Hall - Testimony**

I grew up in a home with two addict parents. The drugs would come first most of the time and there was usually lots of fighting and chaos going on. My mom taught us a little about God and Jesus, but we never read the Bible and God wasn't a focus in our home. While I was growing up I had a few people along the way that shared Jesus, the Bible and the things that God had done in their lives. I loved to ask questions when I could, in order to learn more. We went to church a few times, but never consistently, but I wished we would have. During this period of my life my dad had a friend who would read the bible with me. He presented the gospel to me and I prayed to receive Jesus as my savior at around 12 years old. I would pray most nights, and I felt like I knew God and loved him but didn't know how to live for him. My parents split up when I was 13. I stayed with my mom while my siblings lived with my dad. When I was 14, we were staying in my grandpa's house, and my mom left me while I was sleeping and didn't come back. I then went to live with my dad and his girlfriend. I didn't have much guidance, and I felt alone. At 15 I was admitted to a psych ward for minors because I was planning on killing myself. They put me on meds that didn't really help. I started drinking and smoking weed to try to ease the pain I was feeling. When I was 16 my mom passed away from a drug overdose. A few months after I found out I was pregnant by my boyfriend at the time. I went through the pregnancy pretty much alone. My daughter's dad was cheating on me and abusive. I eventually left, but I was searching for comfort in the wrong places. After this, I began to live with the father of my other two daughters, and this was also an unhealthy relationship. There were some evil spiritual forces at work during this time and things got so bad at my house I was too afraid to be there. I kept reading the Bible looking for answers. God showed me through his word that I needed to stop trying to be in control and let him be in control of my life. I continued to seek God and eventually allowed him to be in control, and he delivered me from that and allowed us to move. After that I knew I didn't have anything to fear because God is bigger than all of it. I became a single mom of three not long after that. I started to fall away from God again. I was sleeping around, getting drunk all the time and doing anything I could to cope with what I was feeling, but it just made it worse. God in his mercy and grace pulled me to himself. I wanted to do better for my kids and God. We started attending Eternal Light Baptist church. It was during this time that I started reading my Bible more and I recommitted my life to Christ. In 2022, while attending this church, I made the decision to be baptized and live my life for Jesus. The Lord has healed me from so much and has allowed me to be a better woman and mother. He comforts me in my hardest times. I struggled almost my entire life with severe anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts. My entire life I've felt alone. I've been left and treated terribly in my hardest times by people I thought loved me and that I loved, but God allowed me to see that he was all I needed. Even the physical needs that I've had he's taken care of and continues to. God has allowed me to heal from things I never thought I could. It takes time, and I still have work to do, but I continue to lean into him. God can do the same for you and he's waiting with open arms. He loves us beyond what we understand. The closer I've gotten to him he's given me a peace I could only dream of and I no longer feel alone. When I'm feeling lonely or overlooked he gives me reminders that I am loved and he's always there. It didn't happen overnight, but in his mercy and grace, he's picked me back up and never gave up on me. He continues to finish the work he started in me just like his word promises. He has changed my heart a lot. I couldn't quit doing those things when I was on my own but through Jesus I no longer drink, I am celibate until God

gives me a husband, I'm more loving and forgiving because of the grace he's shown me. I don't struggle with my anxiety and depression nearly as much and I'm no longer suicidal. I ask God to guide my life and I trust him with whatever plans he has for it. He is truly a loving and good God. I started coming to Lighthouse about 2 years ago. My uncle Toby invited me. I loved it from day one. I really like the way Pastor Josh preaches straight from the Bible, the way he explains things to help us gain a deeper understanding and preaches the uncomfortable topics that people need to hear. I also love the way he always glorifies God, not himself. I love the opportunities for both me and my children to grow in Christ and also in our fellowship. My kids love Lighthouse just as much as I do. They've learned so much from their classes. They love God, love to pray, sing praises and they love coming to church. Everything I wish I could've done when I was a child God is allowing me to do with my children now. Everyone that I've met at Lighthouse seems so sincere, kind, welcoming, and encouraging. I'm so grateful God led me to such a loving God-fearing church. My favorite verses are Matthew 28:18 – 20:

“Jesus came and spake unto them saying all power is given them to me in heaven and in earth, go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded and lo I am with you always even until the end of the world.”

My other favorite verse is Philippians 1:6 “being confident of this very thing that he which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

I love these two verses because I used to worry a lot when I messed up that God was angry with me and would eventually leave me like everyone else had. They are a really comforting reminder that he always loves us and he will always be there and we may mess up, but if we keep seeking God whole heartedly and trying again he will finish in us what he has started, and through his power we can resist sin.