

## **Sidney Howard – Testimony**

My life before I came to truly know Christ was full of anxiety, worry and suicidal thoughts. I grew up in church. And I was baptized at a young age, however it didn't have an effect on my heart and actions. I lived life in a panic mode. I was struggling with my mental health severely and started to think about suicide. I was admitted to the hospital and after was told I needed to give it to God by my Mamaw. I went to Camp Lebanon with my church and during worship one night I felt a tug at my heart. It almost pulled me to my knees, and I knew it was God. I prayed with my counselors and when I got back I talked to my Pastor about rededicating my life to Christ as he has now given me a purpose. I **committed** my life **to Christ** when I was around 17 and knew that I was saved at that time because I **understood** Jesus died on the cross and paid the ultimate sacrifice for me. My anxiety got better and God lead me to a great doctor to help me and **since that time** I have no suicidal thoughts. God gave me a purpose to live. And to live for Him. My life **today** is **more** fruitful. I am married to an amazing spiritual leader, I have surrounded myself with Godly friendships, and love reading God's word. **One of the greatest** blessings I **have** ever received was when God worked in Devin and I's life and **we took a step of obedience for him**. Dev and I lived together before marriage and during this time it was turmoil. There was no trust and it was full of worry and anxiety. We came to Lighthouse and went through foundations and learned that this was a sin. The church lovingly led us in the right direction. **The solution if we wanted to become members of the church was to either** get married or move out. At first this terrified me. I didn't agree at first, but the more I stayed in the word and was led by others in the church, I started to agree. Marriage was not on the table for us. Never even talked about it. We met with Pastor Josh and learned we needed to let God **be in the driver's seat** of our lives and **the things that are** meant to stay will stay and what's meant to leave will leave. Once we did this, marriage became an option. We had been together for a couple years and honestly loved each other. Dev and I didn't talk much about it after that. God started working in both our hearts and he asked me to marry him. I said yes! God cleared away the fog and showed us **the way to be together**. We got married a month later! Since that moment God has given us so much peace. We never fight, we are the best of friends, we love each other as God does. And our marriage and relationship as a whole is a blessing! God gave us peace. We trust each other, we communicate better, we live to serve God and each other.

A few verses that speak to me are:

Psalms 139:14 (CSB)

**"I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well."**

Psalms 46:5 (CSB)

“God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.”