

My Testimony: June 29th, 2025

Before I accepted Jesus as my Lord and savior, I was hurt, lost and dissatisfied with myself.

I grew up in a large Catholic family, learning about all the ways I was supposed to earn God's love and approval in this world. I thought that the only way to get to heaven, was doing extra good works and things which I later learned weren't from the Bible. I was going through the motions, saying the same written prayers before bed each night. My dad was abusive in many different ways, and my mother submitted to him despite his sinfulness, turning away from her children in their times of need. By the age of 13, I had developed a panic disorder, which came about as a result of PTSD. This disorder forced my body almost daily to go into violent shaking episodes, losing control over every muscle in my body for hours or sometimes even days at a time. I was scared and lonely. I fell into an even darker place than I was before, asking myself if life was even worth the cruelty that came with it anymore? Then right after I turned 15, I suffered from a severe concussion, leaving me with only a portion of my hearing and drastic changes in my vision, balance and cognitive function. The doctor ordered me to stay in a dark room for 4 weeks straight. During this time, I never felt so broken and abandoned. I spent the next 3 years trying to manage my new life as someone different. When I was 18, I left home and got myself an apartment, maintaining a full time job as a Nurse Assistant and then worked with adults with disabilities. I absolutely loved my job, but I couldn't shake the feeling that something was missing from my life. Is there a greater plan for me? Will my life ever have true meaning? After years of living for myself in the flesh, hanging around the wrong people, picking up bad habits, searching for love and attention from all the wrong places, and never praying or going to church, I happened to become friends with someone who attended Lighthouse at the time.

She invited me to go with her to a Wednesday service, which I accepted. It was the first time I had gone to church in years, and the first time EVER in one that wasn't Catholic. I walked in and sat down, feeling nervous because I didn't quite know what to expect. The first song played and immediately, my heart felt heavy. Pastor Josh started preaching and I felt convicted. It was like everything he said was directed at ME specifically, it was by the end of the service that I knew without a doubt, I was gonna have to turn my life around THAT night.

Through Lighthouse, God brought several people into my life in a short period of time to answer all my questions and guide me in the right direction to be saved. It was with their help, that I got saved a couple weeks later, crying out to the Lord, repenting and accepting Jesus as my personal savior. I wasn't invited to church that night by some crazy chance, I was invited because the Lord wanted me to know I have another chance.

Since then, I've noticed a huge change in my perspective on life. Before, I had seen the world as a place I'm stuck in until my time runs out. Now, I can't help but notice the pure beauty of the world that the Lord has created. I can also feel the peace that the Holy Spirit has brought upon me since being saved. The symptoms from the panic and anxiety that I had been experiencing nearly every day, has reduced itself significantly, allowing me to live a more productive and positive life. I now set time aside every day to

spend personal time with the Lord and I'm more intentional about the things I say and do, so that I may always glorify God with everything I am.

My 2 favorite bible verses are:

Philippians 4:13- "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" and
Colossians 3:2-4 "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the Earth. For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life shall appear then ye also appear with him in glory."