

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, my life was a wreck. I did what I wanted to do. I didn't care if it was a sin or not, I just did it. I didn't feel "good enough" to be loved because my mother left me and my father was too busy drinking to even know that I existed. I married men who were abusive and treated me badly and continued in that same circular thinking that one day it would all work out. I was at rock bottom and feeling very alone. I picked up my son's Bible and started to search for answers. God spoke to me that day, and I knew He loved me even if nobody else, including myself, did. From that day forward I knew I needed to follow the Lord.

Since I decided to trust Christ, my life has changed in many ways. I now know that I do have worth, and I am loved. I am able to really hear what the Lord is telling me now. I have gained so much wisdom just by being still. I now try to live my life as a follower of Jesus. I still make mistakes, but I learn from them. I am excited about life and so full of love. I am on fire for Jesus, and I truly believe in Him.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ I was searching. My life was full of drugs, jumping from job to job, trying to fill a hole in my life that I could never do. After losing a lot of loved ones to drugs and alcohol, I needed a Leader to put me on the right path.

Since deciding to trust Christ, I have more direction. I feel like I am not alone. I feel the Spirit filling the hole that has been so empty for so long.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, I would often question why some things happened in my life instead of trusting God will be with me through it. Coming Sundays to Journey has allowed me to learn and know how much Jesus loves everyone, regardless of their sins. Sundays have truly become the happiest day of the week for my family and me.

Since deciding to trust Christ, he is in my life every day. I spread the word of Christ to believers and non-believers. I recently met someone that lost her mother as a child. She does not believe in Jesus. This absolutely crushed me. I told her God has a plan for everyone. I invited her to church. She has not come, but I know I made a difference by the conversation. She asked me: "Do you think He will forgive me for being angry at Him?" She has asked me to pray for a family member. I felt extremely touched she would ask me to pray. I feel like she is slowly becoming a believer!

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, I was unhappy in a lot of areas of my life, and I think I was continually searching for meaning and purpose. When we first started attending church at Journey, I was completely lost. I was not brought up in the church and did not know a lot about it. I didn't know a lot about the Bible, Bible stories or songs. Looking back, I

am not sure why I felt like I should know all that, but I quickly learned that it didn't matter, everyone at Journey accepted me, they did not judge me.

Since I decided to follow Christ, I see more beauty in the world than I ever noticed before. When I see a sunset, sunrise, or clouds on the top of a mountain, now I stop and thank God for giving us this beautiful place. My decision has caused me to work more towards living Christian, being Christian, and thinking more Christian. For example, I have a horrible potty mouth, and I don't really like it, so I am working to try to learn other words to use. It's hard at times, but if I slip up, I just ask for forgiveness right then and there. I am excited, excited to see what new things I will learn on my journey.

### *My Story*

When I was 13 years old, I went to a Christian camp. It was an amazing experience. I was surrounded by people who loved Jesus and were filled with true joy, love and peace. I wanted what they had!

I prayed the sinner's prayer, but sadly, when thrown back into the real world, I walked away from my new faith and commitment to Christ. When I was 19, I went down a dark and scary road that involved drugs, alcohol, and a very self-destructive path. After a night of partying, I ended up in the emergency room. I had hit rock bottom.

I had chased after everything to fill the emptiness and void within me. There is only one who could fill the God-sized hole in my soul. I remember saying the name of Jesus over and over again that morning at the hospital. I was met that day by the sweet, holy presence of my Savior, and my life would never be the same! He took a broken life and completely restored and made it new. So, today in front of my loved ones and church family, I want to re-commit my life wholly to my first love, Jesus Christ.

### *My Story*

My life before Christ was chaos and a constant daily beat down of myself for all the bad things I have done. I was living every single day in guilt and shame of my mistakes. I was constantly looking for something to make me feel better about myself. I felt lost, unwanted, unloved, and simply not good enough.

When I came to Journey, I was looking for a place where I felt comfortable and not judged. I wanted to reconnect with God and hopefully find a place I could set a great example for my children. I wanted to find a community that I could grow in Christ with and finally feel a peace I could only feel by walking with Christ.

Trusting in Christ alone as the Leader and Forgiver of my life wholeheartedly has already been the best decision of my life. Choosing to live a Godly life was the only answer to the holes in my soul. I wanted to once again walk with my head held high, believing I am still a child of God, and he loves and forgives me unconditionally.

My decision to follow Christ has made my life new and different by finally feeling the chains of guilt and shame fall off. I feel hope every morning when I wake up that God will take care of me and my family, that I now have the best armor ever created to protect, teach, and love my children as well as myself, that there is nothing to fear because God has always got my back. I am so excited to see what God has in store for me now that I am living for him and no one else!

### *My Story*

I decided to trust in Christ alone as I realized that I am a wreck without Him. He is my anchor of hope. He loves and accepts me more than anyone ever could. It brings me joy knowing that He is the lover of my soul. He upholds me, gives me perseverance, and blesses me with His abiding love on a daily basis.

Not only has Jesus Christ delivered me from the sin in my life, but He has ultimately given me peace to move forward. I live my life with his help guiding me through. I want to continue to be an example to others, showing them how wonderful the love of Christ is.

My decision to follow Christ has uplifted my life and the circumstances that I have been through. Even as a follower, I have struggled with sin, suffered pain in my heart. I am thankful that I can look to Him for all the help I need.

I have all of the confidence necessary to say that Jesus Christ is there when I need His help to get through anything painful or difficult. He steps in on my behalf and carries me through every storm. My life has grown as I learned from His example, wisdom from the Word, and through relationships with other believers. He has constantly shown Himself to me in many ways to encourage me and uphold me spiritually. I love Him with my entire being.

### *My Story*

Before I decided to trust Christ, I always seemed to be lacking something. I tried for most of my young years to comply, but even that didn't keep me safe, and the feeling that I was "not loved" was always lingering close by. I lived a rebellious life, fought in school, got expelled, lied, cheated. I hated my life story, a pedophile father and a drunk stepdad.

I went to church. I thought if I portrayed to be good, I would be good, but was lying to EVERYONE! God wasn't in my heart. I was deceitful. I was unholy. I was down right BAD! I became accustomed to the sinner life.

I watched my mother and stepfather fight, scream and live unhappily. Years went by, I found myself drifting farther and farther away from the truth. The only person who I ever felt truly loved me died, and I became worse than imaginable. Drugs, alcohol, stealing and still lying. I pushed anyone away that seemed to get close to me and had failed relationships one right after another.

I decided to start over and become better. I had a daughter, life seemed to be getting better, but old habits were hard to break. I started hanging out with the wrong crowd, AGAIN. The lies started back, and the old me was back, and even worse than before. I was unstable, couldn't keep a steady job, found myself insecure and unhappy.

I had a second child, a little boy. My son stayed sick, almost died, I hit rock bottom. I started going to church, got a good job, became involved in the church. Life was good. Then my old church got wind of my old ways and having the not so holy life, and I was shut out. I was all alone. I was afraid. I felt so betrayed.

I found myself dating an abusive man, who drank and treated me and my children bad. I was dating my stepdad, how did this happen? I was arrested in front of my kids. I hit rock bottom, AGAIN!

This time I got on my knees. I prayed. I asked God to help me. I asked him to come into my heart. I asked him to guide me.

Soon after, I met the man of my dreams, a Godly man, a man who would be a good influence for me and my children. I found a new church, and got a better relationship with God and my children.

Since I decided to follow Christ, I have turned over my worries and heartache to Christ. I am happier and more fulfilled having God in my daily life. Now I am ready to publicly commit and show my love for Christ.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, I was angry at life in general. I lost everything. My father died. My brother left. I lost my house and all my possessions.

I didn't believe in the existence of God, but he still watched over me and protected me. I was shot in the chest when I was three years old. It was only by the grace of God that I survived.

My freshman year in high school I started to read the Bible every day to gain an understanding of who God is. Just recently, I decided to give my life to Christ. I came to the realization God has always been involved in my life. The least I can do is give him all of me. I acknowledge God in my life and put in every effort I can to come close to him.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, I had lost everything. I am an alcoholic. I was depressed and had even attempted suicide. I was a broken, beat down man, searching for answers to many questions. I was on the verge of living on the street.

But God wasn't done with me yet. I found Christ and realized I do have a purpose in life. After much thought, I turned everything over to Christ, and this was the best decision I had ever made. I was introduced to Journey Church, and it has changed my life for the best. At Journey, I have begun to find the answers.

Since deciding to follow Christ, my whole life has changed. I am much happier. I feel a high that alcohol could not give me.

I am no longer afraid. It is just an experience I cannot put into words. God really does answer prayers. I was a hopeless drunk. My doctors had even given up on me, but once I came to Christ and wanted his help that I couldn't do on my own, then God restored me to my full potential.

### *My Story*

My life before Christ seemed like I wasn't even living. Every day felt like a chore just to wake up and go through my day. It is like I was devoid of any passion. Church, that my family attended three times a week, was what any small town American was obliged to do in my mind. There was not a connection for me, though I was well-versed in the Bible, doctrine, theology, and apologetics. I even knew every Veggie Tales song. But that was all, just a lot of facts I kept in my head.

I decided to trust Christ alone as Leader and Forgiver of my life when I came to Journey Church and actually saw and experienced Christ's love. The example that Journey set showed me there is more to Christianity than doctrine. There is a spiritual connection as well as a very important personal relationship that must be there.

My life now is, well, filled with life. A life of passion, joy, and purpose. Of course, I get discouraged at times, but I know when I read the words of the Bible, instead of just seeing them, I am comforted by them. The church is my community and family now, not just a philosophy or an obligation. I have been forever changed by my relationship with Christ.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, I was lost. Living in a household that believed in Buddhism, I was confused in whom to believe. I felt alone most of the time.

I prayed. I went to church on Sundays, only to go back and do what I wanted to do—until I went through some hard trials and realized God was real! I decided to trust Christ alone as my leader and forgiver by the help of many awesome Journey Church members.

Since I trusted Christ, I don't dot all "I's" and cross all "T's", but I thank GOD I'm not where I used to be! I am more spiritual. I feel more free, and I finally found the light through the dark tunnel. I am not alone anymore. I have God by my side to back me up. I am starting to see signs of my salvation.

## *My Story*

My life before Christ was filled with anxiety, fears, insecurity, loneliness, and a feeling of hopelessness. I have been in two marriages that both ended in divorces, numerous relationships that all failed, nothing worked for long. I have manipulated people, lied, used people, abused all manner of things, such as alcohol, to escape the pain of my life and to forget the mistakes and failures. I LOOKED like I was happy with the wife, car, house, clothes, but inside I was miserable, always believing disaster was imminent. I was always scared I would not have enough money, in spite of the fact I have always had adequate money my entire life. I was always worried about the future—and regretting my past.

I could not go on another minute by myself. I surrendered to God. I got on my knees with a trusted Christian friend, and with his hand in mine, gave myself and my life to God. I asked God to take control of my life. I knew God was the only one left who could save my broken soul. We are all broken, but God can repair our lives and use our broken souls for His purposes. I was a broken man, and I didn't care who knew it.

Since trusting Christ, I feel happy. The sense of freedom is amazing! I am clean and sober. I am walking in life with more optimism. I can FEEL every blessing God is giving me, and He is asking nothing in return except my love for Him. I know I am forgiven now—I KNOW IT! This great and truly unbelievable gift makes me want to no longer sin. I am asking God to cleanse me of the wreckage of my past sins and to guide me to become more like Jesus Christ. I sometimes feel so full of the Holy Spirit; I am overcome and cry with joy. I want to finally be the example to my children, my grandchildren, family, friends and others of what a man who follows the Lord can do to change his own life and impact the lives of others.

## *My Story*

I would consider my life before Christ to have been unfulfilled. With my child and adulthood being pretty toxic, I was sad, mad, lost, confused, and felt incomplete a lot of the time.

I realized if I wanted to be better, I had to do better, and to do better, I had to live a more Christ-like life. I decided that what he had done for me was beyond deserving of my efforts. I wanted happiness, and I honestly felt he was/is the answer. I realized just how much I love God and decided simply being a fan wasn't enough, I had to become a true follower!

From where I was to where I am, things are so much different. Not necessarily the happenings around me, but the way I handle them. Until I decided to try this thing called faith, I let all the negativity fill me up leaving no room for what God had in store for me. I didn't leave room for my blessings. I now have space!

I am now able to understand and receive, making happiness a lot easier to accomplish. I prayed for my purpose and to have a testimony, and I got it. The best part...I know it is by the grace of God that ALL things are possible and to never doubt that someone loves me no matter what!

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, my perspective on most matters came from an egotistical viewpoint. I thought that in order to show myself as being strong, that meant showing anger, and I challenged people in order to exert my confidence. I based my decisions on how it protected my ego. I had to be the most intelligent, the most active, etc. I was disrespectful because of this attitude and even ungrateful. I also struggled with depression. I didn't know who I was supposed to be or what I was going to do with the rest of my life. I was living my life for societal approval and felt like my life lacked meaning without it. I held onto negative things in the past without realizing how destructive that was. My judgment was completely clouded by this way of thinking.

I had to be humbled in order to trust Christ. I simply had to open myself up to receive his love, his absolute unconditional love. Slowly I began to learn to trust and have faith. I had some amazing friends. We challenged each other's way of thinking when it wasn't Christ-like, and I started attending a church. I started to learn the meaning that God will always provide. I began to see things in a new light, and positivity started to seep into my interactions.

I had a personal relationship with God, but did at times fall back into my old ways of thinking. Negativity would creep back into my life and my immediate response wasn't always to ask God what to do.

I experienced a set back that humbled me physically. I didn't know how I would work or how I would support myself. I felt a complete lack of control without having answers as to how I was going to get better. I felt desperate and in those moments of desperation, I cried for God's help and I felt my mind begin to transform on a deeper level. I put EVERYTHING in his hands for the first time in my life. I still struggle physically, but I am more grateful and content than I ever imagined.

I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I am much more gentle when I approach things because I try not to think from an egotistical viewpoint. When I come across challenges, my heart and mind are healthier because I now ask Jesus what to do. I ask myself, "what course of action would glorify God?" before I act. This has shaped me to be kinder, more respectful, and much more patient. I don't feel the societal pressure to be "in the rat race" to be on top. I care about people. I care about sacrificing my time and lifestyle for others. I care about showing God's love. I have meaning.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, I had "trust issues" with God, people, and relationships. Several personal tragedies had left me angry, fearful and wary.

I decided to trust Christ because in my heart I knew I had to. My journey through life had not been an easy one, and I needed Christ in my life. I needed forgiveness, his strength and his blessings to help in times of struggle and to celebrate his blessings and grace.

Following Christ has enriched my life so much. I am so blessed. Christ has guided me, forgiven me, lifted my burdens, and softened my heart. He has answered my prayers in ways I could not have imagined. My trust is in Jesus Christ, no more “trust issues.”

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, my life was spiraling downward. I lied, was deceiving, and put myself before everyone else. I thought I was good enough to get to heaven. I pretty much lost everything. I knew my life was headed for destruction. I was at a play about heaven and hell, and God spoke to me in a way that I hurt all over and was dizzy. I accepted Jesus as my Lord, and it felt like a weight was lifted off my shoulders. It was like all the hurt was gone.

Now that I follow Christ my life is changed. My life seems so much less stressful. I'm more at peace. I now think positively about life. When bad things happen, I pray about it. I'm being blessed now that I'm following Jesus. I've been putting others before myself.

### *My Story*

I realized that the empty feeling I often felt had something to fill it, and that something was the love of Jesus Christ. At Journey I finally realized that Jesus' love was for everyone and not just a select few. His love is there for imperfect people like myself, and all I had to do was embrace it, so I did, and it is amazing!

Deciding to embrace Jesus as my Savior has taken a huge weight off of my shoulders. I realized I don't have to carry the weight of all my sins and the worry they create. Jesus died so that WE could be forgiven, and that WE includes me! I try to put Jesus' teachings into practice on a daily basis and try to forgive others the way he has forgiven me. And though I realize I will never be perfect, I can and will strive to be as much like Jesus as I can possibly be!

### *My Story*

I grew up in church. My dad was a Presbyterian minister, so I was there most anytime the church doors were open. I was christened as a baby and was very young when I asked God to come into my life. I'm much older now and recently have felt the Lord urge me to publicly declare my commitment to him. I have grown in my understanding and faith and my goal is to walk with Christ every day. However, there have been times in my life where I can admit that I tried to be in control over my life and others. During these periods of disbelief, I experienced a great deal of fear, uncertainty, and lacked true

joy. I felt a sense of hollowness, emptiness. I think that I was also very selfish during these times. “I don’t have time for God” “I know what it takes to fulfill me” were some of my attitudes. My prayers focused on praying that God change others in my life. I have learned that I need to be praying, “Change me, Lord.”

My decision to follow Christ has motivated me to make some really painful and scary decisions. Walking in faith is not easy sometimes! But I do experience a true sense of peace. Now I ask God “what do you want?” (versus “what do I want?”) My priorities are different. The way I use my time each day, the way I think about spending money, the way I talk to friends and even strangers at the store—I strive for all these things to reflect God’s desires for me. I think the biggest change, however, is that I focus exclusively on pleasing the Lord. I have struggled with pleasing and caring for others (to a fault) most of my life—fearing rejection or hurting someone. I now ask God to give me the strength and courage to focus on Him. The rewards for doing this are really awesome—joy and peace.

### *My Story*

I would describe myself as spiritually lost, yet seeking what I felt to be missing when I first started attending Journey Church. Before I whole-heartedly trusted my life to Christ, I was a godless, immoral, promiscuous, lying, thieving, horrible person. I only cared about myself and about how every encounter with any situation or person would benefit me. I lived day to day with only instant gratification in mind. I was a cheating wife, a selfish mother, and downright hurtful person.

I decided to trust Christ in waves. Jesus worked in my life before I ever acknowledged what was happening. This past summer I came to church for the first time in years, and as I sat there, I felt God moving in me. I was in tears for no reason other than feeling He was right there with me. I made the decision to truly change my life for the purpose of God’s glory.

My decision to follow Christ has changed my life in so many ways. I have substantially less stress, no matter the situation. I am a better parent to my children. I speak life where I used to spew negativity. I feel peace just knowing that my Father has my back 100%. I still have troubles, trials, and tough days, but I know that I love God, Jesus is my one and only Savior, and nothing in the world brings me more joy than that knowledge.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, I felt lost spiritually. My heart was empty. I was craving guidance and faith. When my father died, I turned away from my faith entirely. I was angry at God because I felt he took my father away from me way too soon. I felt cheated, and I blamed God. My husband and I were in a car accident. My life changed in an instant. The injuries I suffered took away my ability to care for myself. It was a dark time for me. I struggled every day. Two ladies came into my life. These two ladies are deeply rooted in their love for Jesus. They prayed for us daily; offered to help us in any

way. We came to Journey. Our first visit was emotional for me. Strangers came up to me to tell me they had been praying for us and asking God to help and heal us. I was moved beyond words. I cried through the service. The Lord spoke to me, touched my heart. I turned my life over to the Lord.

Now that I follow Christ I am found, happy and free.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ I thought my life was good, but then I realized I had been missing out on so much and really did not have as good of a life as I thought.

Now that I follow Christ every day is better than before I made the decision to follow Christ. I know that I am never alone and never have to face any problem alone again. I know that he will always love me and accept me no matter what. Knowing that really helps me stay happy, and I look forward to another day serving Christ.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ I lived a very angry life. I took life's stresses to heart, and it nearly killed me. After my marriage ended, I decided that I needed help. No person could provide the support I needed other than God.

Now that I follow Christ, while things are still hard, I no longer have the anxiety I used to, and I have a strength inside I never had before.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ I was just another person asking a bunch of questions I wish I had the answer to. What is life? Why are there so many doubts if there is a God? I decided to trust Christ after I noticed not all my questions would be answered and after so many things that happened just defined God is here and is not leaving.

My decision to follow Christ has made me look at life in a different way. I see myself changing, like how I speak, what I post on social networks. I find myself reading my Bible more and falling in love with Jesus, someone who will always love me no matter what.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, I always seemed scared and worried about things I had no control over. When I was pregnant with our second son, I went into labor early. I was in the delivery ward for two weeks to keep from having him. One evening I couldn't sleep. I was worried and scared. I cried and prayed a lot. All of a sudden my door opened and my doctor asked me what was wrong. I told him I was scared. He told me everything would be fine. The next morning a peace came over me. I had our son four

weeks early with no problems. We felt so blessed. I knew that God had been with me all along.

Since deciding to follow Christ, I try and give all my worries to the Lord and praise and thank him every day for all I have and how he works in my life. I know he is in control of my life.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, I was selfish and lazy, and then I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior! I always felt I was a spiritual person and studied the Bible extensively, but it wasn't until I came to Journey that I felt the Holy Spirit within me. I turned my life over to God. I knew that I couldn't do it alone anymore!

Since deciding to follow Christ, I find myself being less selfish. I think about my actions and how they affect other people. I see more joy and beauty in this world! And for the first time in my life, I look forward to Sundays and worshiping! I appreciate each and every day now that God has given me!

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, everything began to fall apart. I was abusing drugs and had no hope for a future or life itself. I remember having a dream, and in the dream I asked who or what God was. After I awoke, I decided it was time to change my life.

Since deciding to follow Christ, my life has drastically changed. Journey Church has given me what nothing else could: faith, hope, love. I am so thankful, and it's my turn to give back to the church. What a journey this has been for me.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ I was misguided, needing some direction. I always felt unsure about myself. I felt lost and unable to really connect with God. Now that I follow Christ I have finally found a spiritual family to help guide me. My first visit to Journey Church touched me in a way that I've never been touched before. I knew I was at home with a family where I belonged. It is a learning, always growing, process for me. I struggle on this journey, unsure of myself at times. But I know now that I am on the right path.

I feel more at peace with my life and my decisions. I am reading the Bible more and trying to live my life the way God wants me to. I feel like I have a good spiritual family to learn from and grow from. I feel so blessed to have found Journey Church. I can't find the words to say how I feel. I am so moved and filled with the Spirit. It's hard for me to express myself. I feel so many wonderful emotions. But I commit my life to Christ and the journey He has for me.

### *My Story*

Before I truly trusted Christ I was filled with worry and doubt. I was an over-analyzer. I would analyze everything, trying to fix everything and find answers. I would pray, but I continued to try to fix everything on my own. I would get upset that situations were not the way I wanted, yet I wouldn't allow God to show me His plan. I finally realized and accepted the truth. I had to let go and let God, to seek His ways and follow His plan for my life.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, my life was a mess. I let bad influences, alcohol, and other ungodly behavior take over my life. I looked like I was doing fine. Inside I was quickly destroying myself in many ways. I looked to other people for acceptance because I didn't love myself and didn't understand why anyone else would love me for who I really was. So I'd act like someone I was not. I even disrespected my family who have done nothing but love me, because I didn't understand how they could. I've always struggled with self-confidence issues and for the longest time truly hated myself. I contemplated just giving up on life, wishing I would die, and I even remember crying, begging God to take me out of this world several times. When bad things happened in my life, I blamed God, not realizing that I was the one to blame.

There was a period when I had a falling out with several friends who did not turn out to be true friends. I literally cared about nothing at all. After not going to church for months, I decided to go one Sunday. It was that day I realized that God took those fake friends out of my life because they were a huge barrier between myself and him. I remember leaving church sobbing, but they were tears of joy because I finally realized that I didn't need to act like someone I wasn't so that people would like me. Because God loves me as I am, as long as I remember that and follow him, trust him, take time to listen to him, he will take care of me.

Believing in Christ and following him are two totally different things. I was a believer for a really long time, but not a follower. After I chose to follow him, I gained confidence, courage, an inner peace, and finally felt like I had a purpose. I'm still not quite sure what my purpose is, but I know I have one, as all of God's creations do. I used to be shy about my faith which was a barrier between myself and God. I want his love and light to shine through me as an inspiration to other people who may be the way I used to be. I want them to experience the inner joy that I now have. It's a beautiful thing to know that I am his, that we are all his.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, my life was burdensome to everyone around me and eventually myself. I lived in fear of what I would become. I did a lot of partying and rebelling. I had an epiphany about what my true purpose was. This led me to understand why hope, faith, and revolving my life around Christ are imperative.

Since deciding to follow Christ, my life today is very different for the better. Following Christ made me an optimist. He gave me comfort in the fact that just because things are

unpleasant now does not mean this is his plan for me. My faith, my passion to live for him is truly all the purpose I need. The world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, I was selfish and cared only about my wants and desires. I grew up in a Christian home and went to church. I was only going through the motions.

I started to feel convicted for the way I was living my life. I kept thinking about where I was going with my life. I kept thinking of how I would fix my life, but realized that I could not do it on my own. I had tried before every now and then, but always failed.

I kept thinking about Christ and asked for his help. I asked Jesus to be the Leader and Forgiver of my life. I felt chill bumps all throughout my body and was starting to tear up. I was a new person after that. I now have a new purpose in my life. I am no longer living for myself. I know that I still fall short sometimes, but I am very thankful for a forgiving father. I now look to honor him with everything I do. It has been such a blessing to have a wife who is a strong Christian. We hold each other accountable. We have grown a lot spiritually. Looking back, I am thankful for everything that has happened because I would not be where I am today spiritually if it had not happened.

### *My Story*

Before I trusted Christ, my life was lonely. I could not find my way. I felt lost. All the roads and doors I chose to take led me in the wrong direction. I had all the wrong friends and was not going anywhere in my life. I honestly didn't care who I hurt to get what I wanted in life. I held on to so much hatred. It was only hurting myself. I am not proud of my past and have apologized to the ones I could find, but it still feels like that is not good enough.

I wanted nothing more to do with that life any longer. I needed to change. I decided to hand my life over to Christ. I can remember that day like it was yesterday. I had personally seen how Christ works in people's lives through my grandmother (I wish I would have listened to her when I had the chance.) I fell to my knees one afternoon in the middle of my bedroom and sobbed so much that it hurt inside. I asked him to forgive me for all the wrong doings and to help me forgive, let go of resentment, and move forward. On that day I felt so much love and peace inside my heart and soul that I knew He was with me. I knew He had forgiven me and that He was going to help me through whatever I was going through. It is truly amazing to finally see the Truth and what He can do for people if they just open their hearts. I don't know what He has in store for me, but I look forward to every step of the way.

My decision to follow Christ has made a huge difference in everything I do. I have felt like a different person now that I know He is in control. I know it's not going to be easy because I have had some battles already. I feel like I am a better role model for my son. I hope he sees how much Christ has made a difference in my life. I have found some

amazing new friends, and I know that I can count on them for anything. Having hatred built up in me for so long really made things hard, but now it's not there anymore, and I feel that I am a new person, and I am working on who He wants me to be. Thank you for helping me find my way.