

My name is David and this my story of how New Life Church helped me to grow to love Jesus.

For most of my life I ignored not only church but Jesus as well and chose to only pay attention to the material world and not the spiritual one.

My parents believed in God but were not church goers so I never attended regularly and developed an opinion that most churches were full of judgmental and hypocritical people.

I lost both my parents to illnesses while I was in college and that led to many dark years questioning how God could leave me alone at such a young age.

For the next 20+ years I drifted through various careers in different cities and came to Chicago for a new job in 2008. I was doing well in my profession but the emptiness in my personal life led to deep depression.

The first four years in Chicago were the most difficult of my life but things changed in the fall of 2012 when I met a very special person at my office. Kelly had recently come to the US to pursue a career and I was immediately attracted to her kindness and positive spirit.

We began to date and shortly after she invited me to come to New Life Church with her. When I first attended in 2013 I thought it was a nice church but felt a bit awkward and out of place. I was an infrequent attender for the first couple months but I realized how important it was to Kelly to go together so I began to attend every week.

At first it seemed like a chore but as time went by I began to look forward to church and the inner peace it gave me. As Pastor Joon often says, the true satisfaction that only Jesus can provide.

There were various moments when I first began to feel the presence of Jesus on my heart. Sometimes it was during worship band, listening to others' testimonies and Pastor's sermons.

The one moment that stands out is the baby shower that New Life Church put on for our son Colin. I had never been to a baby shower and thought, to be quite honest, they were for women. So I went kind of dreading it but then I walked into the room. It was decorated so beautifully and there were so many New Life family members (men too!) that I instantly felt the strong presence of Jesus in the room. It was a day I will never forget.

At Oasis the following week I wanted to express the thanks and love I felt but when Pastor Joon asked Kelly and I to come up and say a few words I was too overcome with emotion to say I wanted to share.

Unfortunately when I felt the presence of the Lord the emotions are so strong that I breakdown. I wish I could eloquently say all the joy and thanks I feel in my heart but instead I just cry!

So even though I wasted most of my life ignoring church, Jesus never stopped pursuing me. I know now that the family I have been blessed with is all His doing. By giving thanks to Jesus I feel better about my life and spend less time being negative.

I hope my testimony can help others trust that Jesus is always seeking them and if they accept Him they will experience true peace and satisfaction in their lives.