

I would like to share with you how my life has changed after I met Jesus Christ a year ago.

My mother is 4th generation Christian, so I grew up hearing my mom's prayers and praises all the time. I came to know Jesus when I was in kindergarten.

When I went to a summer retreat at the age of 13, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and got baptized at the age of 19. I was always involved with church and I thought I was a good Christian.

After graduating from college though, I began to walk away from God. My passion for God grew cold over the years. I was a prodigal. I wanted to take control of my own life. I was wondering if there is something better outside of God's guidance. I was a hopeless, rebellious and wayward wanderer.

Although I was going to church, my Christian life was very empty, dry and dissatisfied. I was just going through the motions week after week. When my previous Korean church had a split, I was more confused and lost spiritually. I never had an experience like that before, so I was hurt and very disappointed in people, church and God altogether.

Then I started attending Willow Creek Church for the next six months. I had some time to think about my true identity in Christ. Then I was reading the Bible one night, these verses really struck me hard: Matthew 7:21-23

Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord" will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evil doers!

After reading these verses, I could not sleep that night. When I examined my own life, I discovered that I was not a real Christian. I knew I had to do something about it. I wanted to cry out to God, but couldn't pray and didn't know what to do. Then my mother kept mentioning an English service at her Korean church. I kept putting it off for three months then finally decided to check out Palatine Oasis service in December 2014.

When the worship team was singing "One thing I ask" God opened my heart. The song reminded me of the good days when I was so in love with Jesus Christ.

When pastor Joon mentioned that we shouldn't give God our left over time, I broke down in tears.

God was not a priority in my life. I just lived my life the way I wanted it to. I realized that I completely neglected my relationship with God.

After pastor Joon blessed us with his prayers one by one, pastor Timothy and the prayer team came over and prayed for me as well. I began to cry and someone even handed out tissues for

me to wipe my tears. I was so touched by their prayers, kindness and love in Jesus Christ. Through their prayers, Jesus asked me “Where have you been?” He told me that He knows all my circumstances. He has always been there for me and he never left my side. I thought that God didn’t care about my life, but Jesus told me that He loves me so much and He is even crazy about me. I misunderstood His love for me all those years. I was so overwhelmed by His unconditional love. At that moment, God helped me to remember my 1st love to Him and my heart was filled with peace and joy.

After they shared the Lord with me, I began to repent and began to read the Bible. As I continued to read the Word, God began to turn my life around. Joyful songs of praise flooded my mind. I no longer had interests in my favorite TV programs and radio pod casts. I meditated and prayed about what I heard that night for the next 7 days.

The following Sunday, we had prayer time for Pastor Leo and his wife Esther at church. Pastor Joon invited people to come and surround them with prayers. When I was also stretching my hand toward them, I began to feel heat in my heart and my heart was on fire. As the prayers got louder, the fire in my heart got stronger. I had never personally experienced when the Spirit of God touched me, so I was very thankful and it was an amazing experience for me.

From that moment on, the Bible makes sense to me. I went to church all my life, but didn’t understand about the true meaning of Christmas and Easter. I finally understood why Jesus was born and died for my sins. As I continue to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, I even went to a Bolivia mission trip for the first time in my life. I have learned so much about God’s provision, presence and promise of my life over the year. I learned that God is very real and loving God means putting God first in my life. I learned that prayer is a two way conversation with God. I learned that I can only grow spiritually when I am in the Body of Christ. (That is that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith. Romans 1:12). I have received so much love and encouragements from the congregation at New Life Covenant Church and I am very thankful to be a part of the church.

Thank you so much, Palatine Oasis team!

Through your prayers, encouragement, kindness and love in Christ, I was awakened from a deep sleep. I received a spiritual CPR and met Jesus that night. My life is not the same anymore.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20