

Baptism Stories - 2017

Pam Entorf

My journey to baptism started 3 years ago when my life had some major changes and I was left alone. I have a good friend who is much further along in the journey and encouraged me to pray and put my trust in Jesus as he was the one who would never leave me. I began reading a spiritual daily devotional and reading the Bible verses each day. I had some really lonely days but when I read my bible I felt so connected to God and many little personal miracles began to show up. The more I prayed the more at peace I felt. I was ready to be born again and be baptized and want to commit myself to Christ.

Jeremiah Turner

I grew up going to church with my grandparents, in a very traditional church. I remember asking Jesus to come into my heart when I was a little boy, with my grandmother's help. I continued going to church until I was 15 years old. At that time I start to do my own thing, thinking that I knew everything. As time passed, I ended up getting in trouble and became a very angry person. I would blame everyone else for the problems that I caused.

In 2002, I married my wife and had our daughter. At that time, I made decisions that put my family in turmoil, each decision being more serious than the last. Because of my selfishness we nearly got divorced. However, what kept us together was my wife's faith and the promise that she made to God on our wedding day.

In 2007, my world was shaken by the passing of my Grandfather. When he was alive I was able to hide the dark parts of my life, but after his passing I felt his presents with me daily. I realized I had to change my ways. I tried to change on my own for years, but struggled.

Slowly, we started to attend church as a family. Our marriage, family, and lives began to change. Life was no longer as hard as it was and the darkness in our home began to lift.

In March of this year, my wife and I took our daughter to a youth conference in Tennessee called Warriorfest. At the conference, I felt the presence of God at an alter call. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, along with thousands of teens and started to speak in tongues. This was an experience that I knew nothing about. Growing up I was told that this was just an act. In an instance the pain, heaviness, guilt, and shame

were taken from me. In its place, I was filled with a burning fire for God that is getting stronger and stronger every day.

I give God all the glory for the changes I my life, and proudly stand before him and say, "I am all in."

Jodi Busch

Church has always been a part of my life, and growing up Lutheran, I experienced all the traditional milestones. Looking back now, I was mostly going through the motions out of obligation. It wasn't until we found Cedarbrook in 2010 that I started truly understanding the difference between having an educational belief in God and having a relationship with God. Since this realization, my life has changed dramatically as I try to put Jesus Christ at the center of my life each day. Throughout this spiritual journey, I have learned so much about myself, which helps me continue to grow to be the person God created me to be. I find it impossible to put to words the level of fulfillment that this journey has brought me. So today my declaration is that I am "all in" for whatever God has in store for me. I am ready to leave my old life and acknowledge that before I am anything else in this world, I am His.

Jerime Borst

Chyrstal Berkel + 2 children

Josh, Belinda, Jonah, Liam Mercer

Josh and I grew up believing in God but we drifted away. Until recently we found our faith in him again.

We went crazy to find sanity. We lied to ourselves and everyone else to see the truth. We walked through hell to understand Heaven. We experienced death to feel life. Addiction could have been our demise, a horrific and lonely end. Instead it brought us to a beautiful new beginning. The madness tore open our souls and introduced our spirits to Jesus Christ.

Now, as a family we choose to walk by faith even when we cannot see (2 Corinthians 5:7) He takes us as we are and makes us more than we ever imagined.

Noah Schoenick

I've recently decided to follow Christ. I have had a lot of turmoil and personal upset in my life recently and found that I couldn't live; not the way that I had been. I wasn't strong enough on my own. That was when I received some of the best advice in my life: Pray. Turn to and trust in God. This is truly a "rebirth" or "renewal" for me and for my life. From now on, God will be the center, the core, of what my new life will be.

Owen Shoenick

When people follow God, they get baptized. He helps us through everything, and wants what's best for us, and protects us from the Devil. Without Jesus, who created everything, we wouldn't be anything. It means everything to me to love and follow him. And through his sacrifice, we can have a relationship with God.

Chloe Schoenick

I want to get baptized because I want a new life with God. To start a new connection with God, a loving, caring, more stable relationship.

Madison Lehman

This year in CBKids through songs, videos, activities and talking in our small groups I learned about what it means to get baptized. I was able to ask KrisAnn the questions I had about baptism. Kris Ann helped me by buying a baptism book for me to read. Now I want to confirm my faith in Jesus and show everyone that I want to follow Him. I also want to forget my sins and put them past me.