

Sample Testimony

Ephesians 2:12: *Remember that you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.*

I was separated from Christ, I did not know Him.

Oh, I knew of Him.

“I saw a movie the other day. It starred Tom Hanks. Do you know who Tom Hanks is?

Yes, I know he is. He is a famous actor.”

“I heard a great song the other day by Stevie Wonder. Do you know who he is? Yes, I know he was a child prodigy. He became blind as a very young child. He learned to play piano. He is a wonderful musician. I know who he is.”

And this is how my relationship began with Christ. I knew of him, but I did not know him. To know of Him or to know Him . . . The little word of, makes all the difference in the world.

I knew of God through my Catholic upbringing. My parents were faithful Catholics. We never missed a Sunday at Mass. All 5 of my siblings and I attended Catholic school. I feared God. I knew many bible stories. I knew my catechisms. I knew there was a heaven and a hell. I knew I was created by God. I knew of Jesus. That he was the son of God born of the Virgin Mary. I knew of the terrible death he suffered on the cross for my sins.

My knowledge of God the Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit did not impact my life much. When I was 15 years old, I stopped attending church. God really had no meaning in my life. I had a boyfriend for nearly two years. He was two years older than I. We planned to marry after I graduated from high school. It never happened. We broke up right as I entered my senior year of high school. I was devastated. I began a journey towards God, but it took about 4 years.

I was aimless, purposeless, and lonely. I attend community college, changing my major every year. I thought about God. I wondered if He was really real. It was the faithful testimony of Christians throughout my life who were not afraid to tell me their story, who God put in my path to draw me to him. There was my friend, Aileen who invited me to a bible study at her house. There were the hippie Christians, pot smoking Christians, and a running friend who all invited me to Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa to listen to Christian Rock Concerts. I picked up a New Testament from one of the concerts, read it in a short time, but decided it was not for me.

I had a job in parks and recreation, and there met a guy named Jeff. We had a common interest in playing guitar. He hung out at a music store named The Music Stand. It was through the Music Stand that I would finally come to know Christ.

You see, the owner of The Music Stand was a Christian. He and his wife began to pray

for Jeff and I as soon as they met us. After dating Jeff for two years, and now I am 19 years old, I came to the realization that our relationship was going nowhere. I was in love with him, but I sensed I was more into him than he was into me. Late one night I asked him about where he thought I was in his future. He told me that he liked me, even loved me. But, not in the way that he would want to marry me. Once again I was devastated. Driving home that night, I was sobbing so hard that I could not drive. I pulled over to the side of the road and prayed.

God if you are really real, save me from this mess. I will serve you all the days of my life. I can't live with a broken heart again. I give it all to you. According to God's plan, that next weekend the banjo player from the Music Stand and guitarist were going to give a concert at a local church. Jeff and I, and some other musicians from the Music Stand went to hear John play. I didn't know that John was also a Christian. His concert was very Evangelical. At one point they gave their testimonies and gave an altar call. I went forward in my heart. I felt embarrassed to go forward physically. When I asked Christ to come into my heart all of a sudden, I felt close to Him in a way I never had.

I was once separated from Christ, a stranger. But now, I did not just know of God, I now knew Him. I was part of His flock. Something happened to me that night. I became a child of the King. I was not sad anymore. I was not empty anymore. I was filled with his Spirit, and filled with eternal joy that knows no end. From that moment on I have lived to serve Him all the days of my life. The parable of the wedding banquet tells how God has welcomed the stranger. I love the parable because it is about me and you. I wrote a song about it. Please receive it as my testimony, and God's invitation to any of you who know of God, but don't know him.

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You, too, can be brought near to God. It's as simple as a heart-felt prayer.

Lord, please forgive my sin. I give you my life today. Please give me your Holy Spirit and make me your disciple. Amen.

—JPW