

## Testimony of Bradford Jeffrey West

Before acknowledging Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I had what I consider to have been a weak or even borderline dead faith. I was brought up in the Catholic Church and was educated about Jesus through the lens of the Catholic dogma. I was “baptized” as a child, attended mass regularly, received first communion, participated regularly as an altar server, and was confirmed in the Catholic faith. However, none of this led to me developing a relationship and knowing Jesus. I was an Intellectual Christian - not a faithful believer. Lacking that relationship with Christ, I left home for college and quickly fell into a sinful lifestyle. Though I did not realize it at the time, I pushed my way through college on my own, never seeking the Lord, and ultimately ran into failure after failure in areas of my life where I thought I was excelling. After a successful four years of education and Air Force ROTC training, I was nearing my dream career of piloting for the USAF – only to be cut down by my own mistakes. I faltered in my last semester of school, but eventually graduated. I married a woman, having never prayed or seeking the Lord’s council on the matter. We did not grow together, missing the third pillar of God in our relationship. As that marriage neared its dissolution, I felt the tug of God. I realized that as a believer in Christ, it was my responsibility to be the spiritual leader of my family. I realized that I did in fact desire a family – something that my first wife did not want. The marriage ended in divorce, but in that dark time I felt my God preparing a way for me. I met my wife Rachel, also having just experienced the pain of a failed first marriage. I was introduced to her through my family, who had known her for over a decade already. She came from an Evangelical family and had a beautiful family of four children of her own. The idea of marrying a mother of four ought to have been more intimidating than it was, but I genuinely felt that this was the path that God had laid out for me. This to me was the beginning of two relationships – a covenant with Jesus Christ, to have and keep him involved in my life from that time on, and a wife and a family to raise to know Him. Rachel and I tried for a year before getting pregnant with our son, Braxton. We were attending an Assemblies of God church and in September of 2021, we dedicated Braxton to Christ before our church family, and I was baptized the same day.

The most marked difference that I have felt since asking the Lord into my heart and accepting Jesus as my Salvation is conviction for my sins and the desire to change. The Holy Spirit guides me through self-examination, helps me to recognize when I have sinned and inspires my longing for repentance. Additionally, I have been so blessed with the responsibility to lead my family – blessed and challenged. At times I have found myself shadowed in faith by the children that I am now charged with helping to raise. Life as the male figurehead of a family of four bonus-children and now a fifth child has been as challenging as one can imagine and more. I've had successes and failures along the way, but I know that I have my Lord to call upon in times of struggle. I know that I will fail and fail again, but even my failures and my choice to seek God in my times of failure is the example that I set for my family. I know that I am no less a sinner now that I was before accepting Jesus’ Salvation, but the knowledge that it was the sacrifice of Christ that saves me from my sin helps me to recognize my ways and repent.

### **How long have you been attending and how did we find ourselves at Lighthouse**

Regarding our coming to find Lighthouse, our oldest, Katelyn, kept expressing to us that the church that we were attending wasn't fulfilling her desire to better learn about and know God. She and Rachel persisted that we needed a change, a more robust church family and structured opportunities to fellowship and learn through. Rachel, and eventually I, came to realize that each of us needed more. We struck out and attempted a few church homes but didn't immediately find what we were looking for and fell back on our AoG church. Katelyn didn't give up. She branched out with some of her friends from Legacy Christian Academy. After a few visits to different churches, she found and loved Lighthouse. Shortly after - in August of 2025 - we brought all our family and immediately knew that this was where we needed to be. Rachel and I dropped in on the 30-40 Life Group, studying Daniel at the time. Each of the kids settled into their own groups and AWANA on Wednesdays. Lighthouse Baptist Church is where we belong.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradford J West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bradford J West