

## **Emily Patterson – Testimony**

At a young age I was forced to grow up fast. An alcoholic father and a mother young and searching for purpose. Both in and out of church they never could find unity or peace leaving them to divorce.

It was during this time I was left alone a lot. I was not only caring for myself but, a younger sister. I started growing anxious, fearful, and alone. Through this time I grew even closer to my mamaw. Although mamaw couldn't be there physically she was always only a phone call away. She preached to me and always prayed with me. She did this through all stages of life.

In 2018 without warning she passed away. There was a feeling that consumed me more than grief, anger.

I continued to pray but felt nothing. I inherited her burdens which only fueled my anger. I was losing my faith and making decisions that weren't ideal.

In 2020 my husband and I welcome a beautiful, healthy baby boy. Becoming a parent is truly a feeling that can't be described in words. We were completely smitten. However, our joy short lived when only 2 months later our baby boy contracted covid. I remember that first day as I watched my 2 month old so ill that he didn't even cry out or flinch when they administered an iv. It was that moment in my life I've never fall so hard on my knees. I begged God to save my son's life and that I was going to start making changes. Nicholas spent 9 days in the hospital and I spoke to God more in that 9 days than I did any staff, friends or family.

Nicholas recovered and was released but, we were not out of the woods yet. Nicholas heart endured tremendous stress forming 2 heart aneurysms. I just kept praying. I received a call from a dear friend of mine inviting me to church. I attend lighthouse in 2021 and I have not stopped attending lighthouse since.

Today I stand before you overjoyed to share that Nicholas heart aneurysms have dissolved and that I have a very healthy, energetic little boy. My husband and I have a 1 year old little girl. My husband now attends church with me. I'm accompanied by my sister and brother in law and two nephews. And most recently my mother in law has started attending.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the lord with all your heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.