

Jennifer Rufo – Testimony

I grew up in a Lutheran church. I was sprinkled as a baby for my “baptism”. I grew up being taken to Sunday school and church services every Sunday, but that was the extent of religion in our house. Each week during the church sermon, we would jump around the Bible to different themes about moral living. To me, being a Christian meant being “baptized” as a baby and being a “good” person. We never used bibles in church, nor were we ever really encouraged to study the Bible on our own. The pastor taught us what I thought we were supposed to know regarding the Bible and Christianity. I lived this way until I went off to college.

Once I had the freedom of college life, I had nothing to do with church attendance or God. I was more interested in myself, my college work, having fun, and just being independent. I lived this way until my husband and I began a family.

In 2003, when our older son was 5, a friend invited him to AWANA. He really enjoyed it, so when we moved to IL later that year, I looked for a church in our new town that held AWANA so he could meet new friends in that club. It was at this church’s AWANA(Delhi Baptist Church), we were invited to attend one of their Sunday church services. We began attending, and were shocked at the differences we were seeing and hearing from these services. Everyone brought bibles. People were actively studying them and were reciting memorized scripture. But what struck us most was hearing the gospel message. This was a whole different meaning of Christianity than I knew and experienced. This pastor was reading from the Bible about sin, the wages of sin being death, Jesus(the Son of God) dying as a substitute, and a victorious resurrection. I was confused that what I was taught as a kid was nothing like what was being taught at this church. This different message led me to do some reading and studying on my own. At this same time, I was helping our 5 year old son through his AWANA memory verses and workbook.

God was using His Word, which is sharper than a two edged sword, mightily in me to pierce and convict me of my sin, while the Holy Spirit worked to open my eyes to my sin and need for a savior. In the spring of 2004, I confessed my sin and asked God to forgive me. I believed in Jesus as my Savior from sin and surrendered to Him as the Lord of my life. I was baptized by immersion that same spring of 2004, and have been an active member there(Delhi Baptist) until moving here in July.

I have many favorite verses but some of my favorite are 1 Peter 1:3-6. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by

God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice...

All glory to God,

Jenn Rufo