

I always knew about God for as long as I can remember thanks to my mom answering any questions I had as a kid. But just because I knew about the Lord doesn't mean that I knew his teachings or how to act according to his word. Before Jesus became the most important person in my life, it was always my little brother from the day he was born. I have always loved my little brother and wanted to be a great big brother that he could be proud of.

At a very young age I have struggled with depression and anxiety. I used to constantly run from my feelings by using drugs. They controlled my life and I did drugs constantly and used every manner of excuse to justify my own actions to myself. I hid all of this from my family because I was so worried about disappointing them and this cultivated into me doing everything on my own because I thought I couldn't tell them about what my life had turned into. Until one day everything came to a head and I couldn't hide anything anymore.

One night two of my friends and I took drugs and one of them could have died that day. But by the grace of God he survived, and in this experience the Lord showed me what my life could be if I didn't change. That night we called the police to help with the situation that had gotten severely out of hand. A few months later we were all being charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Now I couldn't hide anything anymore. I needed my parents' help with my upcoming court date, but most of all I needed God's help in my life. I was so scared to tell my family what happened but I knew I needed to tell them. During that time I prayed every night asking God for help and thanking him for the challenges that he put before me. I didn't know it at the time but he was molding me into a better man, one that I always wanted to be for my little brother. This was the first time that I had ever come to the Lord and asked for his help in my life. But I have only recently given my heart and life to my Lord Jesus and asked him to save me. Only after I started coming to Lighthouse Church and through the guidance of my friend mister Mel Garber who has greatly helped to point me in the right direction at the start of my journey.

But it was God who helped me when I was in the darkest point in my life. My life used to be a living nightmare that I never wanted to face. But the Lord has pulled me away from that life, he has given me a second chance. I have lived a life full of sin, but despite all my transgressions the Lord has still given me so much joy in my life, given me peace of mind, and blessed me with so many people that love me. Christ has made me realize what is truly important in my life.

I am far from a perfect person and I never will be but now that Jesus is the main focus in my life, he has allowed me to change so much for the better. I have become far less self absorbed, I don't live in hedonism anymore and spend my time doing constructive activities. I don't do drugs anymore. Now I occupy my time with working, going to the gym and reading my bible nearly every day. With help from the Lord I have become a completely different person from what I used to be. With God's help I've realized that I want to give my life to the Lord working everyday to become a better Christen through this he has given me purpose in my life again. God has given me everything I could have ever wanted and more. I am so thankful for the mercy and patience that the Lord has shown me. And I am eternally grateful from the bottom of my heart for all the work God has done in my life.

My favorite verse from the bible is Romans 3:23 -for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans was the first book from the bible that I ever read and this verse helps remind me of how my life used to be without Christ. This inspires me to be thankful for what God has blessed me with and has made me realize that we are all equal in the eyes of the Lord.