

My name is Clairen Lindsey and this is my testimony of how the Lord transformed me from a self-centered, self-focused and self-seeking individual, to a new creation and a slave for Christ. I grew up in a Lutheran home, was baptized as an infant, and went to a Lutheran private school until the 8th grade. When I went to high school I started interacting with individuals who did not believe in Jesus Christ, and would often times speak of my faith and going to church, but ultimately only viewed being a Christian as “the right thing to do” and had no understanding of what it really was. I was involved in church and youth groups until life at home began to cause me to feel helpless and alone my senior year of high school. I began turning to drinking and partying to draw my attention away from the problems at home. I was living a double life: going to church “professing faith” but going to parties and using alcohol to blur reality. This lifestyle continued for 2 and a half years until I realized that it was no longer bringing me contentment or happiness. I fell into depression and began desperately searching for other things to fill the emptiness I was experiencing. I looked to friends, family, past happy memories; anything. I no longer was searching for fulfillment in what were considered “bad” things, but I was still searching for it in worldly things. My parents became worried about my wellbeing and I came home from my sophomore year in college. They talked about what to do and my mom was fervently praying for me and sharing scripture with me. Finally, my dad decided to send me to a biblical counselor at a church. This woman, Pam, listened to me complain about my life and all the things that supposedly caused my unhappiness and sadness. After about 20 it was her turn to talk and she told me what **really** caused it all: sin. I was focusing on myself, my sadness, my emotions, my experiences and living ultimately for myself, and gently she questioned the sincerity of my salvation.

After that first session I got in my car and cried, and prayed that the Lord come into my life and become my Lord and Savior, begging he change my affections so I no longer live for myself but for Him. From that point on I continued to meet with Pam, and our meetings took a turn from biblical counseling, to a sweet discipleship. Ever since that first meeting, I have seen how the Lord has taken my old, unforgiving, self-centered heart and replaced it with one that desires to love Christ with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my mind. Now, instead of praying for things that would be for me and what I want, I now pray for His will above all else, I pray to see Him glorified through me; for the Holy Spirit to convict me and reveal sin that is deeply rooted within me, and to make me more into Christ’s image everyday so that one day I may stand spotless before Him hearing Him say to me “Well done good and faithful servant”. I now desire to spend eternity in heaven not because I want to avoid hell, but because I want to spend forever with my God praising and worshipping my creator in all of His glory. Today I am not perfect, if anything I see more and more of the things that separate me from my God, but as I reflect I see so clearly that by God’s grace I am not who I once was. Today I am being baptized, as an outward sign of an inward change, in joyful obedience to Christ’s commands in Matthew 28:19.