

TESTIMONY of Jennifer Christine Purdin

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Hi. My name is Jennifer and I've suffered from sexual trauma my whole life for as long as I can remember.

My first memory is sitting on my grandfather's lap and having a weird sensation as he had one hand on me and another on a beer. I didn't know until much later that it was wrong.

When I was 12, he tried it again at the dinner table. I punched him and ran in my room. Later, I told my parents and they didn't believe me. My mother asked if I did something to provoke it.

Later that summer I was raped by a 16-year-old boy from my soccer team.

When I was married at 16, I was raped by my husband Ray. He beat and raped me for six hours. He did that on a regular basis for three years until I finally had him thrown in jail.

I was 21 when I gave my life to the Lord and thought my trials were all over...boy was I wrong.

When I was in my 30s there were hurricanes heading toward my state and I took in my son's friend who had nowhere safe to go. He raped me one night. When I reported it, he and his friends came back with guns to threaten me and my children. I snapped. I took the lid to a smoker and went after them. They left and were later caught by the cops.

Years later, I went on a date with a man and he raped me at gunpoint. I reported that, too. He also got away with it. They never found the gun and it was my word against his. I felt cursed.

I've spent about the past ten years rejecting God and angry with him because I felt like he was against me due to what happened to me while I was a Christian. I couldn't understand how a loving father would allow me to go through so much abuse again and again. I was devastated.

I've been used for sex for so long and so many times that it's hard to believe I'm worth anything more to anybody. I feel so worthless.

It's hard to even pray. How can I pray to a holy God when this is all I am. Will he care, will he even listen to me, will he turn me away, am I too dirty to be around him?

Yet, here I am. I have sex with every man I date because that's what I'm supposed to do to make them happy.... Right? But then they leave me anyway.

I'm just so tired.