

Conversion and Christian walk

Bart Hungerford

God has saved me. My conversion was gradual, but miraculous. While His miracle, I think I've wanted a dramatic testimony to highlight God's amazing ability to transform my life.

I grew up in a "good" Methodist and Episcopal home observing Christmas and Easter, but never really knowing Jesus. We ritualistically attended church weekly, but I never understood what having a relationship with Jesus Christ meant.

Once married, Mary and I started to attend the Gaithersburg Episcopal church, since my father was raised Episcopalian and Mary was raised Catholic – Episcopal seemed to be an "ok religion" for us and seemed to be "Catholic light" for Mary's family acceptance. During this entire time, I remember Covenant Life Church (as its predecessor name: TAG, and Gathering of Believers) meeting at my Magruder High School. The Lord was working on my heart and was with me even when I didn't know Him!

A year after 9-11 occurred, Mary's brother was saved. He began his relentless quest to be used as the vessel through which God would save Mary and me. After being introduced to the Gospel's saving faith truths, I began reading John and we started to attend the Nazarene church. This is where God saved me. During this entire time, Mary's brother was praying for us.

However, after some time, Mary and I began to question the Church of the Nazarene teaching/doctrine and decided that many of the minor doctrines seemed contrary to the Bible's teaching and the Word.

At this point Mary and I started attending Covenant Life Church, in search of more biblically based doctrine in approximately 2006, shortly after Pastor CJ transitioned the Senior Pastor role to Pastor Josh. We have enjoyed experiencing the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts during these last 30 years of our marriage, children raising, and life. There is still much work that Christ must help me do in my heart and life, but I am working for His Glory and trying to live for His plan in my life.

God, though the Holy Spirit, has progressed my sanctification immensely. I am a sinner; I read and study God's Word every day, work on daily devotions to better understand His love and His faithful Love of me, and try to guide my wife, my children, and those around me in the ways of our Father --- all to strive to become more like Him and increase my personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I am on His path of sanctification.