

# [ 4 THINGS YOU NEED TO DO ] TO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE

1. **ADMIT** YOUR SPIRITUAL NEED. "I AM A SINNER."
2. **REPENT** AND BE WILLING TO TURN FROM YOUR SIN.
3. **BELIEVE** THAT JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU ON THE CROSS.
4. **RECEIVE**, THROUGH PRAYER, JESUS INTO YOUR HEART AND LIFE.

## [ PRAY ]

### SOMETHING LIKE THIS FROM THE SINCERITY OF YOUR HEART...

Dear Lord Jesus,  
I know I am a sinner.  
I believe that you died for my sins. Right now,  
I turn from my sins and open the door to my heart and life.  
I receive your forgiveness and ask you to be  
my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me.  
Amen

## [ LAURA AGSALUD ]

I grew up in a Buddhist household, went to Sunday school at Garden of Eatin' Buddhist Church, and offered incense at the family butsudan but never understood Buddhism. My first exposure to Christianity was when I got married. My husband Rizal was a Catholic so we agreed that our children would be baptized and receive First Communion in the Catholic church. As a family, we rarely attended church services due to our kids' sports activities on weekends. In 2002, my husband was diagnosed with cancer and as a result of this health crisis, we tried to attend mass whenever possible to pray for a miracle. During my husband's illness my eldest son Derek helped our family become believers in Christ. I am very grateful that Derek didn't give up on us. Rizal passed away in 2004 and I am comforted in knowing that he is in heaven. My friend, Marlyn Braceres invited me to join her for the Easter service at SBCC in 2004 and I have been coming since then.

I have been thinking about getting baptized for a very long time. Unfortunately my fear of public speaking and having to give my testimony in front of the church prevented me from getting baptized all these years. There are several reasons why I have decided to get baptized at this time. Over the past few years I have had health challenges, and I believe that my faith in God has given me the strength to overcome them. There have been times when I have broken into tears while singing along during worship in church or listening to a worship song at home. I don't know why this happens, but have been told that it's the Holy Spirit. My family and I have received so many blessings. By getting baptized, I will obey God and also show my gratitude for all of His blessings.

*But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.  
They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the  
stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.  
It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."*

*Jeremiah 17:7-8*

## [ GABRIEL BAE ]

I accepted Jesus Christ as my savior when I was 10 years old and then again when I was 19 years old. My mother introduced and encouraged me to go to church with her and pursue Jesus Christ when I was about 10 years old. Over the years, my family started to struggle financially and emotionally. Our family was eventually divided and we stopped going to church. One day, a friend from work invited me to South Bay Community Church on August, 2017. After listening to Pastor Dave's sermon, I wanted to come back to hear the rest of the series. I started to read the bible again and learned more about God and his son, Jesus Christ. I was once again shocked and beyond grateful that God sacrificed his son so that we can have a relationship with him. After accepting that fact, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

## [ AMY BAKER ]

I grew up going to church, and went to retreats two to three times a year making new relationships across the globe, and learning more about his word. I was on fire for Him all throughout Middle School and my earlier years of High School, and even got persecuted for my faith by the people I called my friends. I never doubted His existence and my faith in Him, but I wasn't fully aware of what Christianity was. I was blindly following my mother's footsteps, going to church and retreats, and didn't know where my mother's faith ended and where my own started.

It was during my junior year in High School, I started to doubt if this is what I wanted to believe, and not what my mother wanted me to believe. I started to fall away because this relationship I had with God was based on pleasing my mother and was forced. I surrounded myself with people who didn't lift me up to God and encouraged me to do bad things. I even stopped going to church, and refused to go to summer camp I used to be so eager to go to. At the beginning of camp I refused to open up my heart to Him and drop all my earthly pleasures. Throughout the week I was convicted of my own selfishness and sin, and instead of finding my identity in these things, but to look to Him for contentment. I started to open my heart to Him more, but I wasn't fully trusting in Him.

At a different retreat in the winter, we were all given a task to write a letter to our past self. After listening to a couple of my friend's letters, I felt so ashamed of the decisions I have made, and their testimonies reminded me of my purpose. My purpose on this earth isn't to please myself and do whatever I want, and give my life back to Him before I die. It's to live the life Jesus did, and shine His light through me to as many people as I can. Despite being exposed to the earthly pleasure that people try to find contentment in, "...everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind..." Ecclesiastes 2:11. Here is a little bit of the letter I wrote to myself. I hope it encourages people the way my friends' letters encouraged me.

"Dear Amy,

You made it to junior year. New beginnings and new friendships. With new friendships will come more temptation. You will fall into that temptation. I know you want to fit in and be like your friends. You don't want to be the party popper of the group. You will conform to them, and fall away from God. But your friends will always be there for you, even when you push

them away. Amy, you will say you don't believe in God. That is not true, you love God, you are His precious daughter who's made perfectly in His image. You will bash on something you were once on fire for. I don't think you quite understand the depth of God's love for you yet. He sent his precious Son to die for a 17 year old that got the idea that, "religion is for people who don't know how to live" in her head by the bad people she surrounded herself with? But through this trial and time of wondering, you will finally feel lost and insecure without Him. But stories with Jesus in it always has a happy ending. So dear Amy, continue to pursue to God. Fill yourself up with Him and not anything else because they will not last. The Jesus shaped puzzle piece in your heart is now filled and don't let it get lost.

Love, Amy"

*"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,  
may have power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the  
love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge —  
that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."  
Ephesians 3:17-19*

## [ JORDAN BANEZ ]

God has been with me for as long as I can remember, but I can't say that I have always been with Him. I grew up in a home with two loving parents and out of their love they would bring my sister and I to church every Sunday- and that is how I first came to know of the Lord.

That makes my parents look great, but as far as I was concerned, as soon as I became old enough to get over the Sunday school games and middle school church camps, my church experience turned into me looking for any excuse not to go. If I had to, I would stay in bed on Sunday morning for as long as possible. Then, I would go through the motions, tune out during the messages, and head straight to the car to avoid talking to people and possibilities of being invited to any youth events.

Despite the fact that at some point I was probably my parent's worst nightmare, they did a pretty good job at staying out of my business and letting me figure things out on my own. Unfortunately, a lot of bad things came from that freedom. That being said, I do not believe that if I had not had that freedom, I would have ever found my way back to God. The freedom my parents gave me allowed my faith to be my own, and not theirs or anyone else's.

My mom and my dad have huge hearts, especially for those who have less. With age I have come to realize that they have always blessed others with the blessing that God has put before them. From time to time people point out that I also have a big heart, and I usually deny because I think loving and caring for other people should be more of an ordinary thing. Unfortunately in this day and age, it's not. However, if I do have a big heart I have to say that it's all because my parents lived such a great example for me to follow, and I'm the man I am today because of them.

I wish I could finish by writing about how my relationship with God is completely fixed, that I've figured it all out, but to be completely honest, we all know that's not the case. My walk with God is something that I am still working on, and something that is growing and changing every day as He continues to lead and guide me down the path He has for me. My biggest prayer is for God to shape me into a good man in His image, and for Him to one day hopefully use me to be an example that someone else can see and be drawn to Him.

## [ KAILE-ANN BUSH ]

I am thankful for my family. I am really happy that my dad brought me into church to praise God. I am thankful for God and all He has done for my family and I.

God has protected me and my family. I'm really happy that He did.

*"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-28*

## [ KJ BUSH ]

I don't remember what I did before I accepted Christ because I was too young to remember. My dad took me to church when I was little and taught me about the scriptures of salvation and that is how I became a Christian. When I became a Christian I learned what was right and what was wrong. I started to learn more about God and who He is. I also learned more about Jesus, and that He died on the cross for our sins.

*"There is one body and one Spirit-just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."  
Ephesians 4:4-6*



## [ ELI CARL ]

I don't really remember what happened before I accepted Christ, my mother and father have been going to church and loved God and Jesus before I was even born, so they started taking me as well. I don't remember when I started going to church, but as far as I can remember, I have always loved God and Jesus. I have always accepted Jesus, but I only made it public last year (not by being baptized), and now by being baptized.

I would have been baptized a while ago, but I thought that I was baptized as a baby. I was still going to get baptized again, just when I was older. I believe that everyone has a chance to have eternal life, but only those who accept that Jesus died for our sins on the cross, and know that they can't reach eternal life on their own will.

My mother and father have always supported me and loved me, because they have accepted Christ as well. My life, as far as I can remember, has always been the same. I have always loved Jesus and knew He has died for my sins. My father devoted his life to Christ about when he was 8-9, and my mother after she met my father.

Every day I try to be more and more like Christ, and I remember this verse, "Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32. God has always loved me and forgiven me, and because I believe in this, I have eternal life with God.

*"...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" Matthew 22:37-39*

## [ FLORENCE FELIX ]

I decided to be baptized because God has been good to me. I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I have seen Him working in my life when I was sick. I was Catholic and my best friend was Christian and she was always praying for me. She made me promise that when I got better that I would choose Jesus to be my Savior. After that I got better and I converted and asked Jesus to be my Savior when I was in Boston. I started to go to church.

I was at work one time and I was falling asleep. A friend came behind me and said, "Flo, Jesus loves you." I think it was a dream. I saw her later and she said "Flo, Jesus loves you," and then I told her about my dream. We both knew that it was Jesus talking to me.

I feel much better and much different. I pray much deeper and I can feel it. I can feel Him.

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10*

## [ CYNTHIA HANSON ]

My name is Cynthia Rose Hanson. I am here today to be baptized and accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

As a baby I was baptized as a Catholic but as I got older I started searching for something more. I was never satisfied until now that I am 60 years old. I finally found what I've been searching for, which is doing the Lord's work by greeting everyone with a smile and asking "How are you?" or simply just "Hello", no matter who they are, which is my gift from God.

*"A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34*

## [ LEAH HARMS ]

My name is Leah Harms. I was born and raised with two wonderful Christian parents. However, in my teenage years, I became a little rebellious. I had my first and only child at sixteen years of age and grew up very fast. I dated a guy for eight years that was raised a Jehovah's Witness. I would try to make things right with him, but our different views on religion would always end in a fight. Although, I believed in Jesus and would consider myself a Christian, the worldly relationship I was in kept me from really living the life God and my parents had planned for me.

Luckily for me the wisdom I learned growing up was always on the forefront of my mind, and I continually felt convicted. When my daughter was 8 years of age, my bedroom where she was sleeping caught on fire. I had just moved into my new house and the landlords had not put up smoke detectors. My TV across from my bed had melted, the cloths in my closet and all of my walls were full of soot. Even the blinds behind my bed had melted off. A month before this fire, my daughter had a fire safety assembly at school where the firemen came in their firetrucks and taught the children what to do in case of a fire. Long story short, when my landlords took pictures of my room, you could see my daughter's little handprints all along the walls, feeling her way to the door knob just like the firemen had told her to do. The only thing that made it out of that fire alive and untouched was my child and my bed where she was sleeping. My daughter was full of black soot, but my bed was untouched. I kept that same bed for eight more years after the fire. I knew then that Jesus was right there all along. You want to talk about on fire. I was on fire for Jesus!

I soon broke up with the boyfriend and started living a new life. However, I once again found myself not truly serving Him. One could say, I just believed. Fast forward to today there have been many more ways which God has shown me that he has incredible plans for my life. I have been single ever since that break up which was eleven years ago and I believe that God has made it this way so that I can spend my life serving others. I enrolled back in college, got my AA and am hopefully starting nursing school this August. After I work for a couple years and gain the experience needed, I want to spend much of my life serving in Africa, doing God's work not mine. I have a servant's heart and I truly believe that it is my calling. The only thing lacking is my Bible knowledge. How can you truly spread the

love of GOD without knowing His word? Which leads me to share about my sister.

As of today, I have a sister that is struggling majorly with a drug addiction. My sister's addiction is taking its toll on our family. My mother especially. The only thing that is keeping us going is our faith in the Jesus. Before this situation, I was embarrassed to pray out loud and hardly ever opened up my Bible. Because of my sisters addiction I find myself in constant prayer. I'm praying over her in the DMV, praying out loud with my family and reading my Bible a lot. I have found an even greater joy for the Lord. I have realized He is all we need. I believe my sister's addiction has caused me to grow as a Christian, and is preparing me for my next mission in life. Although it is a heart breaking situation, I have peace in knowing He loves her more than we do. I want to be baptized today to show my unconditional love for Jesus. I want this to be the last time I turn my back on Him, and serve Him the way He has served me.

## [ OSCAR HERNANDEZ ]

I used to get in trouble in school. Getting suspended, thinking I was cocaine cause I kept on getting suspended, etc...Using profanity, being disrespectful to my mom. Calling her names, cursing her out. Same goes to my grandparents as well. Lying and disputing about everything.

I had many fake friends. I was hanging out with the wrong crowd. One day my former 12th grade High School teacher Bruce Wullschleger (One of my good friends) told me about his Church, so I attended one of the services with him and I really enjoyed it. I loved the service and the music.

I'm changing my life little by little. Started to go the service every Sunday. Joined two life groups Young Adults and College Group. Met and made new friends at the life groups. I felt really welcome when I came to SBCC. I enjoy coming to church and the two life groups. If it wasn't for my good friend Bruce Wullschleger, I wouldn't have changed my life and made new friends that I can trust.

"Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.  
I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul will be satisfied with the richest of foods;  
with singing lips my mouth will praise you."  
Psalm 63:3-5

*"Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.  
Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live."  
Isaiah 55:2-3*

## [ MONICA HERNANDEZ ]

Throughout most of my life, I held the understanding that my relationship with God was conditional. My faith was determined by a metaphorical checklist. Every action, every prayer, and each Sunday attendance would determine my opportunity for a one-way ticket to heaven.

I accepted the distance that I felt from God, and kept my head down. I didn't attempt to reach out to the Lord until middle school, when the foundations of my family started to crack. At the end of that rough year, my church's youth group went on its annual Big Bear retreat. This was the first time that I opened up to the Lord to do a work in me. However, as quickly as the Holy Spirit filled my heart that weekend, it seemed to dissipate on the journey down the mountain back home. I managed to stow away a glint of my retreat high.

Fast forward to my first year in college, I was experiencing another valley in my life. I juggled the loss of two close friendships that year and a college career with no clear direction, which led me to the inevitable identity crisis. I started doing things that were out of character for me and acting wrongly; all under the guise that I wanted to try new things. At the time my thought process rationalized that I had chosen my way over His way and still managed to scratch my way out; why would I need Him now? But this depression was taking a different form in me, it was just a whole different playing field.

One night when I thought I had reached my limit, I poured out my feelings of desperation to my boyfriend at the time. He asked me how I usually handle my sadness, but I wasn't really sure how to answer because it had never felt this heavy. Suddenly, the remnants of my "retreat high" rushed to the forefront of my memory, and I struggled to recollect my experience from years before. His response took me by surprise. He simply closed his eyes, took hold of my hands, and began to pray for me. I had never experienced this kind of love before. Although this memory is also something that I've kept close to my heart, I know I could not genuinely share my journey to Christ without this piece of me. So thank you for the nudge to begin walking in faith again.

Since that night my road has been rather bumpy, but I am holding steadfast in following Christ. I have dealt with a lot of insecurities of my past and not believing that I was enough for Him. It took a lot of prayer

and faith to open my heart to accept Him, and realize that He had loved me all along. I believe that on that night God brought me to the end of myself, and at the end of myself I found Him. The work that God has been doing in my heart has changed my life entirely; I have so much more love to give because I know that He loves me. And so I've decided to get baptized today because I want to celebrate with my friends and family my decision to walk with Him, and my promise to continue to always.

*"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock*

*Matthew 7: 24-25*

## [ THELMA HORIKAWA ]

"Baptism" is a Christian Sacrament and the most exciting part of our Christian life. The end of an old way of living and a new start. Believing in Christ will help to keep you strong mentally and spiritually.

Attending "South Bay Community Church" service faithfully has been wonderful and amazing for me. I do believe in Christ as my Savior and be baptized with my family here to witness my Baptism.

I have a wonderful caring family-2 boys-Darrin/Hiro, Kevin/Sarah & their daughter Charlotte.

Thank you-"South Bay Community Church"! I'm ready for the good Lord to bless me on my "Baptism".

Received Christ in my heart on: October 18, 1976 at Gardena Valley Baptist Church.

*"I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.  
Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live."*

*Psalms 116:1-2*

## [ AIMEE KIM ]

Today I am only fourteen years old and throughout those fourteen years of my life, I have always been surrounded by some type of church community. Attending church was never a choice I had made on my own since my parents were the ones to make that decision. If I am being completely honest, church just became a part of a weekly routine of me just going through the motions and I never thought much about developing a personal relationship with Christ. It was not until the seventh grade when I was twelve that I actually started to even consider it and part of the reason being I thought I was too young to know Christ and be a self-declared "Christian". Now I obviously know there is no true age to accepting Jesus into your life, but back then (which I guess was only several years ago) I didn't know any better. Anyways, back to the seventh grade where I had been attending the youth group at a church. The youth pastor there and his wife, who also helped lead the youth group, were the epitome of joy. If you already know me, you would know I have never really had the happy go lucky type personality. With the youth leaders, there was something incredibly powerful about the feeling of true joy and that made me want to share and cultivate it within myself.

With those same youth leaders, I was able to share my thoughts on taking Christ into my life and by the end of a long conversation, it had been well explained that true happiness and contentment can only be achieved through following the way of the Lord. One of the verses that stuck with me is Matthew 22:37 which says, "And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Since then, I have taken upon myself the goal of living out this verse and obviously I have had my fair share of ups and downs progress wise. However, it was not in vain because all my trials only fueled my reason to strive for Jesus seeing that He sacrificed his own life in order to save mine and give a way to eternal life in heaven.

As of now I am still finding my own way and I have to admit, since becoming a Christian there are many times I hit a wall and have to stop in order to re-adjust myself again. Yet it is what makes me human as well as a sinner and I am okay with that, the reason being God is loving and merciful. He is forgiving and although I have not yet faced trials in life to really test my faith in this fact, I know for a fact the Lord will be with me as a guide. This feeling of assurance is not anything I can physically show

anyone, but my best description of it is a sense of safety like the type of blanket everyone has had at one point in their childhood that would always ward off monsters under your bed or in your closet. Although, of course comparing the creator of the universe to a blanket does not do God any justice in how truly awe-inspiring He is, I want to conclude with this: God is everything I am not and I am thankful to have been introduced to Him at such a young age where I can continue this journey of faith and take in everything that may come with it in the future.

*"But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house.  
And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage  
and the hope of which we boast."  
Hebrews 3:6*

## [ ANDREW KIM ]

One of the most important things in life is being able to fully surrender our lives to God. All my life I have been part of the church. Every Sunday afternoon I would go to Sunday school and learn about how much God loves us and how He sent his son Jesus to Earth in order to die for our sins. I never doubted any of this for a second. Christianity was just engraved in my life as a fundamental truth. As I got older it seemed only natural to accept Christ. I felt that since I believed in Jesus and I knew what He had done for us, there was no reason for me not to do so. Although, during this time, I had a basic understanding of what it meant to be a Christian, I never really thought about the magnitude and depth of what Christianity was.

As I began High School, I was exposed to a lot more secular ideals whether it be through school, news, or social media. I was more enveloped with my school work and getting good grades, than furthering my relationship with God. At this point in my life I really struggled and wrestled with the idea of God. I would question who God really was and how He had an impact on my life. Ultimately, for a long time I questioned the existence of God and I felt like I could live my life on my own. I held many of these thoughts until the Legacy Spring Retreat of 2017. At the Retreat I felt and experienced God's presence in such a real way that I could no longer doubt Him. After the retreat these feelings, commonly referred to as a "spiritual high", naturally faded in the routine of life. I found myself praying to God "show me you are real" or "let me experience your glory" almost on a daily basis. A couple of months ago I received a huge wakeup call during one of Pastor Gary's messages. He shared a short anecdote about how when he was a youth leader many years ago he used to take kids to a week-long retreat, where they would experience God in a powerful way. Pastor Gary went on to explain how many of the kids would have a falling out because they "didn't feel God anymore." I saw myself in Pastor Gary's story. I came to realize that my faith could not be based on experience or feeling alone and that if my faith was based on just feelings, I would find myself walking farther and farther away from God rather than toward him. I had to root my faith in God's word and His teachings.

A second turning point in my walk with God was during this year's spring retreat a few weeks ago. The retreat was focused on the topic of how, in order to follow God with all that we have, we must have undivided hearts. An undivided heart is obtainable through Sanctification, which requires the

demolition of our life so that God can fully rebuild us according to His plan. As a junior in high school this came especially hard for me, as I have my SAT's, GPA, and soon college applications to worry about. Honestly, I am scared of God's plan because I know that a lot of times His plans for me are different than what I want. Something that really encourages me is the bridge of the song "Jesus I come". It says "Thank You Jesus, Just as I am I come." It reminds me that I don't need to be perfect to follow Him and that He wants me to surrender both the good and bad parts of my life.

*"I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations;  
I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love,  
reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies."  
Psalm 57:11*

## [ JORDAN KOGA ]

This day has been years in the making. I have been in this church for almost all my life, basically in a baby carrier as a few months old, where I grew up around God and His word. I remember being in the building on 190th by the storage facility and have been on the church's journey as I was "homeless". Unfortunately I did not understand what it meant to be a Christian for much of my young life, as all I did was listen to what my family and others older than me told me. It was a case where my "belief" wasn't mine but what was fed to me, and it wasn't till my fourth or fifth grade year that I understood what my belief meant and accepted it as my own.

Unfortunately my baby years weren't the smoothest for me. Like typical superhero movies where the protagonist suffers something when they are very young, I had something similar. I was two years old when my parents divorced and I lived with my dad. My parents had a decent relationship after the divorce, and I saw both my parents but not for long periods of time - my mom only on weekends where I stayed in Torrance with my grandparents instead of Cypress, and my dad worked many hours and I did not see him often unless it was in the morning. Because of how my schedule went, I was unable to spend time with my friends when I wanted - my school friends I could not spend weekends with them, and the friends in the South Bay I only saw on weekends. It caused me to struggle with my friends and being able to stay in contact with them. I never understood until recently why I had struggles in my early life, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). When I saw this verse things became a little clearer for me. It molded me to be able to understand others' hardships and be able to relate to situations like mine.

It wasn't until my 8th grade year where my initial struggle caught up with me. My relationship with my parents wasn't the best and my life was causing me stress and frustration at every turn. My personal life became a complete mess, my relationships, emotions and my everyday life were being destroyed and it affected my relationship with God. I became irritable and violent with most of my friends, which caused me to damage many of my relationships. My own emotions covered up the depression that I felt. Not only that, but every day I slowly fell more and more - I was losing sleep often and met my own demons during middle school where the typical temptations of teens was slowly trying to get a hold of me. I even had

thoughts of suicide and was offered therapy by my school, and many of my friends recommended it for me. It lasted into the early part of my freshmen year where I still struggled, until I realized I needed God's help to repair my life. 1 Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

It wasn't until my spring retreat of freshmen year where I returned to the church after not showing up for about 4 months. I went on the retreat and was able to talk with many people who I had not seen in many months who noticed something different in me. I recall some of my close friends noticing how I was more positive and less angry than how I used to be. I recall talking with some friends, mainly Gavin and Erich, who noticed the change the most, and even some of my advisors noticed what happened. Not only that, but people said they missed me in my absence, which caused me to wonder why as I was very unpleasant to be around. Talking with people helped ease me back. I owe 5 specific people who helped with my return - Gavin and Erich who knew me for many years and talked to me a lot during that retreat, and two of my advisors, Todd and Ryan, who held me to deals making sure I would be consistent on coming back to church and always listened to my problems. I especially owe most of my thanks to Pastor James who always listened to me complain and rant of my problems and always prayed for me to be back to who I used to be and consoled me as I would cry as I wondered what was wrong with me. He helped me for 3-4 years with my problems and he felt like family who would constantly help me. After God helped me out of my depression and anger, I felt closer to God. I finally understood His plan and the reason everything happened the way it did, and how Pastor James helped me with that journey almost every step of the way. It always took hardship for things to improve, and this helped me get closer to God than I was ever able to before this.

The long wait for this day was told by many people who always said I was ready, but in reality I was far from it. Being in the church for 15 years meant nothing as my walk with God was barely starting. It took some time, but I finally found my footing and I am on the path to Him unwavering.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

*John 14:27*

## [ PAUL LEE ]

I've recommitted my life to Christ... I was a lukewarm Christian at best or just in name for the last several years. I drifted from God and got wrapped up in work and raising our kids. I didn't put God first anymore and my spiritual tank was on empty. But all along God was always pulling on my heartstrings.

I wanted to find a church that would feed me spiritually and in that search I found SBCC. That was last September 2017. Since then I've joined a Life-group and also started serving. I'm on fire for Christ again and it feels so good. I made God first in my life again. My life feels much more enriched and I'm grateful every day to God for everything He blessed me with.

I want to be baptized because God commands us to do so but I also want to set an example for my children, wife, family and friends that I am serious about my love for God.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

I am a new creation in Christ now and I want everyone to know.



## [ PAUL MACABEO ]

As early as I can remember I have always believed in God & in Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior. I have always just known in my heart, soul, & spirit that this is a reality. I thank God for my mother, Mercy, (yes that's her name) for introducing me to the Lord as a child because this would eventually lead to my salvation.

Right around the time I hit puberty I went astray. As the apostle James described it I was "tempted when I was drawn away by my own desires and enticed". As St. Paul wrote "even though I knew God I didn't worship Him as God" and I was "walking according to the course of this world... fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind". The apostle John wrote it this way... I "loved the things in the world" rather than God.

And so I lived this way most of my life. A life of debauchery with women and a 'party-all-the-time' lifestyle. As the Lord Jesus said my heart was "weighed down by drunkenness, carousing, and the cares of this life". This ended up as a lengthy struggle with substance abuse and codependency for many years. As a result of my addiction I ended up in trouble with the law.

So one morning as I was on my way to court I opened my little Gideon New Testament and the Holy Spirit caused it to open directly to 1 Peter 1:6 and I read "in this you greatly rejoice even though now for a little while you have been grieved by various trials"... at that very moment I began to sob intensely as I felt the old man being put to death and the Spirit of Christ filling my heart creating the new man. In many tears I asked God to please forgive me and change me and that I surrender my life to Jesus. I read on to 1 Peter 1:9 "receiving at the end of your faith the salvation of your souls".

That day was March 15, 2015 and since then the Lord has continued to cleanse me, sanctify me, correct me, and teach me through His Word. He has completely changed my life. By His grace I have over 3 years 3 months sobriety. He has cleansed my speech which used to be extremely profane. I have read and continue to study His Word since my conversion memorizing Scripture. As Psalm 119:50 says "...for Your Word has given me life."

With His blessing my goal is to put a Christian band together to proclaim the good news of God's salvation, to be a herald of His word, to preach repentance & the remission of sins in Jesus name, to make disciples of all nations as an ambassador for Christ encouraging others to turn from

darkness to light, and to testify to the gospel of God's grace. For I am no ashamed of the gospel of Christ because IT IS the power of God which saved me & saves all those who believe. God bless everyone in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

"He has told you, O man, what is good;  
And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice,  
to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8

## [ SAMMY MAURICIO ]

Before claiming Jesus as my Lord and Savior I was a lamb with many shepherds growing up. I was raised in a religion where you had God, Mary, Joseph, Saint Anthony, Saint Christopher etc. I always thought God wasn't able to answer prayers all on his own, so He needed help. So God was just, there, blended with all the others.

I went through life confused as to why we did rituals, traditions, and had rules in the name of our religion. Growing up I always had a relentless eagerness to understand. I was pacified many times and at the time seemed to be okay with the answers I received. In my teenage years I couldn't have been more lost and alone in every aspect of my life. I carried a "If you only knew" attitude. By the time I was a young adult I hit my ultimate low. I carried anger, regret, and resentment.

I have had people in my life who were believers plant their seeds in me. I unfortunately was not in a state to listen or care. But I still managed to carry those seeds with me. God knew I would need them later. After going through my lowest point all my questions came back again. I decided to ask once more and turn to people in the religion I was raised in. Once again I received the same answers with no justification behind them. Not even a reference to the Bible that was being read. Finally I asked family and friends who had originally planted the seeds in me. They really took the time to explain with no judgment. They referred all my questions to the Bible. Finally, it set well in my heart and I was at peace. I felt love and the grace of God. I found HIM!

I am overwhelmed with joy. I have been broken time and time again. Finally I have found my Heavenly Father and He took me in with all my sins and loved me. I am beyond blessed in so many ways it's overwhelming. Just the amount of love He has for me. He has given me hope where I had regret, love where there was anger, and faith where there was resentment. I am finally made whole again with Him!

I thank all those who have helped me and continue to help me grow in faith. I pray this testimony reaches someone who needs it. Know that Jesus loves you and Jesus is always there.

*"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near."  
Isaiah 55:6*

## [ PUJA MORRIS ]

I grew up with both parents living in Torrance and had a normal childhood I am the only child and defiantly not spoiled. My upbringing came from a pretty strict Indian (Asian) household. My mother is Hindu and she always wanted me to go to the temple or sit next to her and pray. I always refused and this was the cause of many arguments between my mother and I. I just could not bring myself to pray based on what I didn't understand.

After I graduated from high school I started dating someone who was a believer and started to go to church with him and his family. Even though I was hearing the word of God I still felt a void in my life. The relationship didn't last very long. Over the years I met my husband that I have been married to for over 20 years and have 3 wonderful children with. After going for about a couple of weeks I started to understand that confessing Jesus as your Lord and Savior with your mouth meant a new life..I literally felt like the void and emptiness that I was living with finally was filled. The more we went to church together the more I learned about faith..walking in love..being unconditional with one another and how important it was to pray for one another as well.

Even though life is not perfect and storms do come. My family and I know that Jesus is always enough no matter what. There are times when life gets overwhelming and I just want to throw my hands up and walk away. I sit back and think how God has truly blessed me with my husband, three super awesome kids and just my life. I would not change that for anything. I have learned about forgiveness and having peace within myself and the only way to do that is through Jesus. I have also learned the importance and how powerful prayer is as well. My husband's and I walk of faith has helped us raise our children the same way and showing them how beautiful it is to love, show compassion, forgiveness, faith and how to pray for one another..as well as when you have trying times which you will have, never to turn away from Jesus because he is the only way!!

*"It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.  
He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me  
to stand on the heights." Psalm 18:32-33*

## [ LAURYN MURATA ]

Before meeting Christ, I longed and searched for something to fill an emptiness I didn't know needed filling. Before Christ, I knew my everyday life was missing something. Yes, I received love and affection from my parents, but I wasn't satisfied. I would wake up every morning and go to sleep every night; an endless and repetitive cycle with no meaning or purpose. My everyday lifestyle consisted of the same things; swim, basketball, school, eat, sleep, and repeat over and over again. The so-called void in my soul needed filling, but not by something materialistic. It needed to be filled by something I couldn't see or touch, but felt. I needed the love and purpose having Christ in my life would give me. To wake up every morning and remember that I am loved by Him and He gave me a purpose in life is the greatest feeling one can feel. That you are loved by the Lord himself and He cares for you.

I was first exposed to God when I was younger due to my parents. My parents every Sunday, would bring my sister and I to SBCC to sing songs and color pictures of crosses and Jesus Christ with sheep. Being so young, I didn't know the impact and the weight of praying was or how it worked. I did know though, that there was a God and He watched over everyone and made sure we were loved and protected. I also knew that, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). When SBCC moved in 2012, my family didn't follow to the new location and I lost 6 years of what could've been me growing as a believer and becoming a follower rather than a fan. In the past few months, I have been growing as a believer and although I cannot honestly say that I am where I want to be as a follower, I do dedicate a large part of my life to God and trying to become an "undivided" follower of Christ. I learned that in order to become a follower, I have to be willing to give up everything in my life to really give my all to God. To me, that was hard to take in because I wanted so badly to be a follower who is sold out and gives everything to Him, but there are things in my life I struggle to sacrifice. During retreat, Pastor James spoke of a man named David who gave up everything in his life to be undivided for God. In order to be a follower and not a fan, we have to have an undivided heart and sometimes God has to hurt us to cleanse us and help us, but He doesn't hurt us to just hurt us.

I came to know Christ because of my parents, but it was my faith that kept me in church. I often prayed to God to protect the people I loved, be with the sick, and bring happiness to the people that cared for me. I would also pray for help on acing a test or to help me take first place in a meet.

Slowly at first, I began to see the small, subtle changes in my life. My attitude towards everything I did changed. I stopped internally arguing with myself over the things I did because I learned that everything we do and everything that happens to us is for a greater purpose. He opened up a part of my life that needed to be recognized and changed. Although he filled the void in my soul, there are parts where I still battle internally and have many doubts. I often wonder if because I make the same mistakes again and again if God has given up on me, but through church and my faith, I have learned that He won't. He loves us like a Father would, and His love is so unconditional that He sent His one and only son to die on that cross so that our sins will be forgiven.

*"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.*

*And we rejoice in the hope of the Glory of God."*

*Romans 5:1-2*

## [ HANS PADRON ]

Growing up with an abusive father was never easy, not until my parents separated. It was when I first found peace, when I started going to church once again and learned that I had to forgive my father for what he has done in order to live and move forward with my life.

Throughout the years I was always been drawn to being a center of attention, hanging out with the wrong people, the wrong crowds, smoking and drinking. It always made it easier to forget the past instead of dealing with it. When my mother passed away going on 3 years, it put me in a dark deep hole to the point where I turned back to alcohol and drugs even more. Around that time I met a girl that introduced me to your church SBCC. With her is when I finally opened up my eyes to a new life to having hope again. It seemed like everything was falling back into place looking forward to a new life. She helped me better myself. She showed me there was another way to deal with my pass that didn't include alcohol or drugs.

I did something terrible to her that she can't forgive me and at that time and moment I felt like my whole world was falling apart again. I had 2 choices at that moment-to go back to my old self to drinking and drugs, to forget about all the pain that I was going through and the pain that I caused her, or to remind myself of the good that she has shown me, So that's when I made the decision to turn my life over to God completely to help me change my life around.

The life that I was so tired of living, the old life that I lived for so long, I knew right then, that God has plans for me. Now that I chose the better path everyday has a meaning to wake up and give thanks to the Lord for a clear understanding of life. The pain is still there, it will never go away but I learn to deal with it in different way not just by drinking and forget about it to be reminded later.

Putting my faith in the Lord He has opened new opportunities for work to make new friends within the church that give me support and understanding my situation and not judge me for the things that I've done, but to help me with advice. This church has taught me that it's not just about me but it's about other people in need, things that I never thought about doing for others, the joy that I get from helping. Keeping my faith on the Lord has taught me that it's never too late to turn your life around. He has shown me grace and compassion and a new form of love to have hope again, and also to serve the ones in needs that can't give back something I never saw myself doing...I do not see myself living in any other way than I am today. By His grace I move forward but not forgotten what I've been thru...

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast."*  
Ephesians 2:8-9

## [ JOHNNY SABEDRA ]

Both my wife and myself were saved 26 years ago and my son and daughter were saved shortly after that. We have been married 35 years and been together for 39 years. We met in 9th grade and are both 54 years old. We attended the same church for a long time and eventually my wife, son and daughter were baptized. I never got the chance to get baptized and my wife has been on me since then to get baptized. We stopped going to church for the past 15 years and have been looking for a new church to attend. My son who is married now invited my wife and myself to South Bay church and we loved it and knew that we have found our church. I'm ready to be baptized and begin my new life as a Christian.

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
the old has gone, the new has come!"*  
2 Corinthians 5:17

## [ CAMILLE TOM ]

I accepted Christ into my life at a young age. Both of my parents are Christ followers, so they raised me in the church. I remember learning about Jesus in Sunday school, and singing songs like “Jesus Loves Me”. Every night my mom would pray with my brother and me before we went to sleep. From a young age, my parents taught me to love God, and to always put Him first.

Looking back, my life was like a triangle and 3 things consumed my life. On the bottom corners were school and family, and at the point of the triangle was gymnastics, which basically consumed my entire life. Right after school, I would go straight to the gym to practice for four hours. After practice I would go home, eat dinner, finish homework, and then go to sleep. Every day would be the same: school, gymnastics, sleep, repeat. Since my schedule was so busy with gymnastics, I missed out on a lot of things, and youth group was one of them. Before I came to SBCC, youth group was on Friday nights, but it started an hour before my practice ended. I knew leaving practice early was not an option, but I didn’t want to show up an hour late either, so I just didn’t go. Missing out on youth group made me kind of sad at first, but since church wasn’t a big priority for me, I was fine with not going to youth group. During this time, I wasn’t taking church seriously, I didn’t pray as often, and I felt like the odd one out in my group of church friends, since I never went to youth group.

Then, towards the end of 2016, my family moved to SBCC. I was finally able to go to youth group since they met on Sunday afternoons, and that’s where I met a bunch of amazing people who are now my best friends. Gymnastics still took up most of my time, but I started taking my faith more seriously. I remember one day at service, the message was about prioritizing our time with God. I started asking myself questions. “What are my priorities right now?” “Is God my number one priority right now?” When I realized that I was not putting God above everything, I wanted to change that. I wanted God to be the point of my triangle.

This year I really started to make God my priority. Before, I never would pray and ask God to help me with my problems. I would always complain to my friends or my parents instead of bringing it to God first. Now, anytime I have a problem, I pray. I’ve noticed how it feels as if a giant weight has been lifted off my shoulders once I ask God for help. God is truly amazing, and I can’t wait to see where He will use me next.

## [ NICOLE YEE ]

Hi everyone! For those of you that don’t already know me, my name is Nicole. Today I’m sharing with you my testimony. To begin, I grew up in a Chinese church called Bread of Life, which is often referred to as the Costco church, since we were located right next to it. My parents had been attending BOL since before I was born. I can remember every Sunday my parents would send me to Sunday school, and hating it at first because I didn’t like being away from my parents. But then, as the years went by, I enjoyed Sunday school because I met some of my closest and lifelong friends. Still to this day, these brothers and sisters have been by my side. Growing up in the church, I attended AWANA, VBS, and many church retreats. I grew up learning a lot of Bible verses and singing songs to remember all the books of the Bible (which I still use today, as I sing it in my head!). As someone who grew up in a Christian home, I was taught that there was a God who loved us so much that He sent his precious son to come and die for our sins. But as a kid, I didn’t really think much of it because I was too preoccupied with coloring sheets, crafts, snacks, and play-time.

People always talk about having “God moments”, but I had never experienced one until my first year at summer retreat. I can remember it clearly: It was Praise Night and everyone was so on fire for God. We were worshipping and praying with each other and I remember I just broke down and started crying uncontrollably. “How He Loves” was playing in the background and I remember listening to the lyrics and thinking, “Wow there’s a God out there that loves me so much regardless of everything I’ve done. How could this be?” I felt so ashamed, broken, and grateful all in the very moment. Then, I walked up to my counselor and she just prayed for me, holding me in her arms. I didn’t realize how powerful and impactful prayer was until that night. God was showing me people I could turn to for support, love, or advice.

My second “God moment” happened when I was on a mission trip to Mexico. We spent the weekend putting on a Christmas carnival for the children of migrant farm workers, feeding the families, giving out vaccines and organizing a clothing drive. During the clothing drive, I remember towards the end of the night, we were running low on coats and shirts, so we had to limit each person to only 3 items. Seeing the disappointed looks on these people’s faces when we told them this broke my heart.

desperately wanted to help these people in some way. These people had little to nothing! They were living in tiny shacks, the size of a walk-in-closet, with 5 or 6 people crammed in one home. But despite their living conditions, these people were always beaming with happiness and love for God. All of the kids at the church were so eager to learn about God. After a long day of worshipping, teaching, and entertaining, the lead pastor of the mission gave us a sermon about giving thanks. There was a song that went: "Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He's risen. And now let the poor say I am rich, let the weak say I am strong, because of what the Lord has done for us" that he sang to us. Again, the lyrics of this song really struck my heart and made me realize how ungrateful I was for the easy, blessed life I had. Everything I had I took for granted; maybe only a few times was I truly appreciative. I broke down again and asked God to forgive my selfish nature. I remember being so humbled by that experience seeing that the Mexican people had little to nothing yet they were so happy and grateful for what they had.

My most recent "God moment" happened when my grandfather passed away last February. The death of my grandfather hit me really hard, as I was very close with him and my grandma. Growing up I spent many afternoons and weekends playing at my grandparents' house, and I remember them always taking me out to Ruby's, Hot Dog on a Stick, and Disneyland. My grandpa was always super funny and helped me with my math homework. We loved it when my grandma would make us ice cream sodas or cookies for us to enjoy. The night that I found out that he was getting really sick was the same night as Inspired to Love. I had just spent an amazing night worshipping and watching my friends perform, but now, all of a sudden, my grandpa was dying. As soon as my mom and my uncle told me the news, I couldn't stop crying. How could this happen? I was angry at first at God for taking my grandfather away from my family. That weekend, I had talked to a lot of people, who prayed with me and consoled me. During that time, I also grew closer with a friend of mine who reached out to me in a way I never would've imagined. His comforting words and prayers meant so much to my grieving heart. When my grandfather did pass away, I felt at peace knowing that he was in a better place in heaven watching over me now. It still makes me sad that my grandpa is no longer with us, but I've realized that even in the darkest times, God still managed to shine a light in the form of some extraordinary people who helped me see his boundless love. On the day of his memorial service, I remember the weather forecast was rainy and cloudy. But as soon as we boarded the

boat for the burial at sea and said farewell to my grandpa, the sky cleared and rays of sun shone down on our boat. Dolphins were also swimming by our boat, and maybe it's just a coincidence, but I think that God and my grandpa were giving my family a sign---a sign of protection, love, and peace.

This past year has been a rollercoaster of emotions- school, college apps, my varsity dance team, finding a balance between studies and a social life...but through it all, I had God by my side to tell me that everything was going to be okay. I'm also so thankful for all the wonderful SBCC brothers and sisters I've gained---you guys have been so welcoming and loving, always bringing happiness and laughter into my life. I've learned so much about myself this year and have trusted God through it all---a comforting thing to have amidst anger, confusion, and discouragement.

Throughout my life, God has demonstrated his everlasting love and forgiveness to me. I am so grateful for all the wonderful mentors, brothers and sisters in Christ that God has placed in my life, and now I am ready to live my life wholeheartedly for Him!

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed,  
for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"*

*Isaiah 41:10*

## [ MICHELE YOSHIDA ]

I was baptized as a Lutheran when I was just 2 years old. My family wasn't what you would consider a traditional Christian family. We bounced around churches and definitely did not attend service every Sunday. Even so, my mom made a great effort to ensure I had a good foundation in Christ. As I got older, there was a period of time where I refused to believe God existed. I had convinced myself of that.

It wasn't until I graduated high school that I began to feel a tug on my heart. At first, I wrote it off as simple curiosity-just another part of trying to find myself in adulthood. When I got into college, I started to question that tugging and decided to explore where it was coming from. I found myself sitting in a different church every time I had the urge to go (which was not often at all). Fast forward two years, and I've been consistently attending services at a church in Long Beach with my older sister for about four months. I think I have found the end of the rope that was tugging on my heart and began to follow where it was leading me. Fast forward another two years and here I am at SBCC. I've been attending this church for about a year, off and on-but not missing a service for six months. I say that loosely because half of those services were caught on YouTube channel. Nonetheless, I feel like I've found where the rope starts and all that's left to do it take one final step forward.

My journey following this rope has been an uphill battle, but it has been insanely rewarding. I'm not only happier in general, but I am happier with the person I have become. Before, I was crippled with anxiety and self-consciousness. I felt like no one knew the real me, and even if they did, they definitely didn't like me. I was constantly searching for something, but had no idea what it was. Now, I'm confident in who I am and I know that I am truly loved. From this, I have ultimately found comfort and it's reflected in my everyday life and relationships. I know my worth. I know I'm on the right path. I know I'm finally home. It's time to commit and fully immerse myself in a life chasing Christ.

*"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart."*

*Psalms 91:4*

## [ DONNA YUKIHIRO ]

I was baptized 27+ years ago on an Easter Sunday at the church I was attending.

My husband and I were attending their new member's class and at the completion of that class everyone who came to know Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord were encouraged to be baptized. I was beginning my journey as a Christian and learning more about Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit.

Prior to my baptism, my personal testimony and the reason I wanted to know Jesus as my personal Savior was because of my daughter. Loriann, an avid basketball player in high school, tore her ACL and needed surgery to repair it. She had her surgery at the hospital I was working at. I'm a registered nurse and arranged every aspect of her surgery that I could. I spoke with the OR educator to go into the OR during her case and go to the recovery room after her surgery. I didn't trust God to manage her care but felt I needed to control every aspect. Of course I was very anxious and worried about all the possible complications and events that possibly could go wrong. Loriann was not anxious, worried, fearful, or concerned. Her high school church friends all prayed for her the day before her surgery. The day of surgery she was smiling, waving, and talking to all the people, strangers that passed by in the pre-op room she was in. She had an uneventful recovery and is an avid surfer girl in Hawaii to this day. I was a wreck the day of her surgery and she was calm, peaceful, and trusted that the Lord would take care of her. She was very confident of that and I wasn't. I thought I was a Christian because I went to church every Sunday and prayed occasionally when I had a need but I did not trust or have faith in God. I wanted to have what my daughter had- faith in Jesus Christ and a personal relationship with Him.

Several years after my baptism a friend from church invited me to attend Bible Study Fellowship. I started in the Minor Prophets Study. Not having read the Bible so deeply, I was overwhelmed with so many names I couldn't pronounce and places I'd never heard of but I found that I was really learning about God's plan for the people in the Old Testament, His love for them and His love for me too. You can only know more about God by reading and studying the Bible. Attending church is great for fellowship and learning about different themes/aspects of God but you are listening to what someone else learned when they studied certain passages.

God speaks to everyone differently in the same passages. He knows what circumstances you are going through and answers your prayers when you read the Bible. It's really a one to one Bible study, you and God, a team approach that will grow you into a mature Christian.

I'm getting baptized again because I, God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are a team. I know them, they know me (they still have a lot of work to do) and I'm not a baby Christian anymore. I really felt the need to rededicate my life to them. My office at home and at work are decorated with verses of encouragement, healing, power, protection, and whatever verse hits me in the heart and the Holy Spirit guides me to write down.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

Amen.