



A Testimony of Faith

Good Morning, My name is Destinee Heikkinen. I feel very honoured that Archdeacon Deborah has asked me to give a testimony of my faith. This was definitely a challenge for me, but I hope with my testimony it will give someone out there the courage to accept God into their life.

I was baptized as a baby but never attended church growing up, only going at Christmas and Easter. My parents were not religious so I had no desire to learn about God. Actually, at one point I felt I hated God, for what my sister and I had to witness growing up. There was so much anger between my parents and it had a huge effect on us, emotionally & physically. I really felt lost and alone, for so many years.

It wasn't until a few years later that I met my husband Chris in high school that I felt a little spark of interest in getting to know who Jesus was. Chris encouraged me to join him at a weekly youth service and from there we started to attend Sunday morning services. I could feel myself transforming as a result of letting the Holy Spirit into my life. I began to like myself again, I was able to forgive things that happened in the past, but most importantly I realized I needed to have a relationship with God. It took me a while to understand how to worship someone who I couldn't see or hear. For the last 3 years that I've attended St. Paul's, I've really searched my heart and soul to find ways that I could connect with God, in ways like music or being in nature. I began fully to accept the Holy Spirit's presence in me and allowed Him to start guiding my life.

God puts you in situations to test you, to see how you learn and grow from them. As a volunteer for Hospice Northwest I've had the privilege to be at the bedside of people who are dying and ready to enter into the kingdom of Heaven. This experience has changed my life and my relationship with God, as I feel His desire to work through me to help share the light of the Lord with these people and to bring heaven here to earth. I praise Him that He would allow me to share this scared time with someone.

My faith continues to grow and that little spark inside of me is bursting with love and belief of an amazing God. I know there will be more hard times and times of doubt, but along with my husband and this wonderful parish family, who accepted my little family into theirs, I know I will have the support I need.