

Testimony

Hello, my name is Jimmy Choi, I am 22 and attend George Mason University studying athletic training hoping to work in the NBA. I have been attending KUMC of GW and KUMC of Koinonia for almost all my life and this is where I met Christ. When I was 13 I went to a retreat in the summer and at the time Pastor Seungsoo was our youth pastor. Now before that, I never knew what it meant to follow Christ, but one thing I did know was that I loved to sing worship songs, but I didn't know why. I had two very close friends with me and they always asked, "Why do you sing so loud?" during service on Sunday in children's ministry and I didn't know how to respond. They were my closest friends and to hear that from them made me not want to sing again and I kept quiet. So, going back to the retreat in the summer, it was my first retreat as a youth student and I realized how amazing it was accepting Christ for the first time. God made me realize that singing these songs pleased Him and to me that meant a lot. I wanted to sing worship songs for God and at that point I wanted to serve Him. That following year, we moved to KUMC in Manassas and that is where I began to serve on the worship team. We had a tough time in the beginning, having no pastor, not having a lot of kids, but God was faithful and we had a couple of pastors and more and more people and kids began to come out. During that time, I was still getting used to serving, I didn't know what it meant to serve and how to serve, I just knew how to play the drums a little bit and the electric guitar. Then we moved to Centreville and this is when I began to understand what it means to serve God and follow Christ. I continued to serve on the praise team, I continued to go deeper with God, I continued to understand what it means to be a Christian. In 2011, I went on the Mexico Mission trip and this trip made a big impact in my walk with Christ. I experienced super natural things, and I wanted to share a story. We had a big team that went out, about 20 of us and we were halfway done with our trip, but we were very exhausted and tired from doing a lot work. We decided to have a time of prayer together as a group and Pastor Keon, who was in charge at the time, decided that we all go around saying a prayer each and I was sitting directly across from him so it took some time to get to me, but once it was my turn the first word I said was "Father" and all of a sudden rain just started pouring down really hard and I couldn't say anything. It was raining so hard that I couldn't hear myself pray

and I was really shocked. Now you could say it was coincidence, but for me I had a tough time and I had gotten sick and I started to question God, but that rain showed me that God is alive and that He was really there. After this mission trip, I realized how real God was, how Christianity wasn't just about coming to church on Sundays and having service, but that it was a lifestyle, something you live out. I began to read more of the Bible and learned so much and realized that it is God who changes you completely. It is God who made me realize that I am so broken and sinful, but that He forgives me and that He loves me for who I am and that He sent His Son to die for us and because of that, that made me want to change and become like Christ, but I knew that it was going to be hard. It was especially difficult when I had gone to college and I wanted to do what I wanted to do. However, the grace of God pulled me back to Him once again telling me to trust Him. I have been through a lot at this church and I am proud to be here because of what we as a church have gone through. We've had many great times, but we also had hard times and it is those hard times is why I am proud. We've been through many situations, but as a church we continued to pray together, encourage one another, and support one another to get back on our feet with our faith in God. I believe God is with our church, that He has so much faith in us to become true followers of Christ, and I pray and hope that we continue to have that same faith in God. That we rely on His love, His grace, and His power to keep us going. I pray that we will not come to church as a duty, but as joyful followers of Christ wanting to serve Him, wanting to worship Him, wanting more of Him.

And here is one of my favorite passages.

1 John 4:7-21

God Is Love

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.