

Salvation Testimony – Elder Marcus Lewis

I was raised in a Christian home in a small town in Ohio by my single mother, alongside my grandparents. The Lord graciously placed me in a family that faithfully served Him. My grandfather was a deacon, my grandmother served in the women's ministry, and my mother served as an usher. Because of their commitment to the church, I was there almost every day of the week in one capacity or another. I also developed a close relationship with my pastor, Rev. Adams, and his wife, Mrs. Adams, who occasionally babysat me and took a genuine interest in my spiritual and personal growth. Although I heard the Word of God regularly, I initially viewed it as little more than words that I did not fully understand. I believed that God existed and that He had created everything, but He seemed distant and uninvolved in my daily life. My focus was on behaving well and earning the approval of the adults around me. I enjoyed attending church primarily because it gave me the opportunity to spend time with my friends, not because I understood the gospel or desired a relationship with Christ.

I cannot identify one specific day when I came to faith, but I clearly remember the season in which the Lord opened my heart to understand the gospel. I was active in the church youth group led by Mrs. Adams. Through her teaching, she connected biblical truth with everyday life and helped me understand that every person is a sinner in need of salvation. She emphasized that even faithful church members had sinned and that no amount of good behavior could make anyone right with God. She taught us that Jesus Christ alone is the Savior and that salvation comes by believing in Him. As these truths became clear, I realized there was nothing I could do to earn eternal life. My good behavior, academic success, and desire to please others could never save me. Around this same time, my mother married the man who would become my father through adoption, an answer to prayers I had offered so often. At the age of nine, I told my mother that I believed in Jesus Christ as my Savior. Knowing my fear of speaking in front of others, she reminded me that I would need to publicly profess my faith before the church. Although I was terrified, God gave me the courage to walk forward during the invitation and confess Christ publicly. Rev Adams then met with me over several weeks to ensure I understood the gospel and that baptism did not save me but served as an outward testimony of the salvation I had already received. I trusted Christ as my Lord and Savior in 1982 and was baptized in 1983.

Following my salvation, my desire for church changed. I no longer attended simply to be with friends but developed a genuine desire to hear biblical preaching, study God's Word, and serve alongside my church family. Although I continue to struggle with sin and am far from perfect, the Lord has faithfully sustained and sanctified me throughout my life. My confidence rests not in my own righteousness but in the finished work of Jesus Christ, who redeemed me by His grace. By His strength, I desire to grow in Christlikeness each day and to live in a manner that faithfully reflects Him so that others may be encouraged to follow Christ. I remain grateful for His saving work and desire to spend the rest of my life serving His church, growing in my faith, and bringing glory to His name.