## Salvation Testimony – Savera Miller

I grew up in church. My mom made sure of that! 😂 Church was just part of my life. I sang in the choir, went to Sunday school, and did all the things Southern Baptist church kids did. I was baptized around age 10 and then again as a teenager. To be honest, my understanding of baptism was more about becoming a church member than surrendering my life to Christ.

As a teenager, I started paying more attention to God, but my faith wasn't consistent. As an adult, I found myself going in and out of my relationship with Him. I would get close to God, life would get hard, and I'd pull away.

Then, in January 2021, I started working at the Berean Baptist Church as an IT Support Specialist. And I wasn't looking for Jesus! I was looking for experience! I had just graduated from FTCC, and nobody wanted to hire me because I didn't have enough experience. So, when the church gave me an opportunity, I took it. But God had a bigger reason for putting me there.

Being around the church and the people slowly started changing my heart. My desire for a relationship with God increased. I began to understand that being around church wasn't the same as belonging to Christ. In October 2021, I was baptized again, but this time it meant something completely different. This time, I wasn't going to walk away no matter the circumstances. This time, it was personal.

And then, six days later, I was in a car accident that almost took my life.

I wish I could say that after that I thought, "Okay Lord, I get it!" 😂 But that's not exactly how it went AT ALL! Since then, I've walked through some of the hardest seasons of my adult life. I've struggled with one of my children. I've tried to help save my nephew while carrying my own struggles. I lost a 20-year marriage. I've experienced financial struggles, lost my father, lost my brother-in-law, and now I'm dealing with serious health issues.

There have been plenty of moments when I've asked God, "Why?" And struggled with walking away yet again. But through all of it, my God has kept me.

My life hasn't gotten easier because I chose Christ. In some ways, it's gotten harder. But I am learning every day that salvation doesn't mean we won't suffer. It

means we don't have to suffer alone. I still cry. I still question. I still get angry. I still get tired. I've even had moments where I'm sure God was looking at me like, "Girl, didn't we already talk about this?" 😂 But He (God) never left me.

Looking back, I thought I was just a kid being forced to church. I thought I was just getting baptized. I thought I was just taking a job because I needed IT experience. But God was writing my story the whole time. My salvation testimony isn't that I've had a perfect life or that I've always had perfect faith, ABSOLUTELY NOT THE CASE! My testimony is that God has been faithful even when I haven't been.

If you're reading or hearing this and you're struggling, questioning God, or wondering why following Him hasn't made your life easier, I want you to know you're not alone. Both of my hands and feet are raised! I am still learning not to mistake a difficult season as God's absence. Sometimes we don't understand what God is doing while we're living through it. We don't want to. But keep holding on. Keep praying. Keep seeking Him. Keep showing up even when you don't feel like it. Because if I am constantly learning anything in my walk, it's this:

God may not always keep us from the storm, but He will meet us in it.

And somehow, through every storm I've faced, I'm still here.

And that's not because I'm strong (because once upon a time, I believed that wholeheartedly). However, it's because God is.