

Arcadia Chinese Baptist Church

Baptism Testimony – November 14, 2021 By Jonathan Michaels

Hello, my name is Jonathan, and I am 12 years old. I attend Foothills Middle School, and I like playing basketball. I am here to talk about my path to the Bible, and why I decided to get baptized.

I started going to church when I was only six weeks old! I was still in a crib. It was as if fate was decided then and there. When I was about four, I started to get more memories. I remember being at church, and not understanding anything. They would tell all these stories every time, and I just couldn't wrap my head around anything. I would just sit there, zone out, and just think of anything else. I would often not pay any attention. In my mind, it was a snack paradise. I came to church because my parents went. I had no other reason to go. In my opinion, it used to be boring. I feel ashamed that I did not pay attention. I feel disappointed in myself because I know that God has the best intentions for me, and I seemingly minded my own business and didn't care. In my own mind, church was just a place to have fun. While it is, there is much more to church. It is a place to learn about GOD, and develop trust in him. This was the understanding that I lacked.

When I was about six years old, I started going to ACBC. At this time, I still did not understand the purpose of church. We were doing crafts, and everything was all fun and games in my mind. Of course, we also did learn a lot about the Gospel. Fast forward about two years. It's a typical Sunday morning. I drag myself out of bed, eat breakfast, and then go to church. And I am tired. I find a seat, and after the worship songs, we start talking about how Jesus died. And for whatever reason, that really hit deep. I know I didn't have a personal connection with Jesus, but I realized the importance of what he did. He died on the cross, for us. He did no wrong, yet we did. He sacrificed himself on the cross just so we could find peace in heaven. That really struck.

To know that someone was so kind and loving that he would sacrifice himself. Ephesians 2 reads: "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

And to also know that God gave his only son. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." He did this out of his own free will. He knew what would happen. Something even more shocking is that when he was about to be nailed on the cross, he was offered a painkiller by soldiers. However, he rejected it, wanting to take the pain. This shows what kind of a person he is. From that day forward, I got an understanding about the importance of Christianity. I feel the need to repent my sins because I feel a guilt deep down. I can try to ignore it, but I can only go so long. I realize the need to repent for my sins. It is the only way to get forgiveness for our sins.

Now, when I go to church I see the importance of being there. I see the importance of fully knowing who Christ is, and what he has done for humanity. God's grace teaches me that all things are possible. If he could feed thousands of people with just a basket of fish and bread, surely he could help me on the path to heaven. It teaches me that he is the holy one who

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always knows what is going to happen. God's grace teaches me to love him because he is the one who has planned my life, and guides my path. He is the ultimate savior. I now realize this. When it is time to learn about Jesus, I pay attention. I know how important he is, and I won't let boredom get the better of me. He has shown unbelievable faith through even the toughest situations, all for us. After all, it's only fair that I give my time to him. Knowing Christ has led my path straight. I now think before I do, and remember that everything I do should be the best towards him. If something is so important that even Jesus did it, I should do it. If Jesus got baptized, so could I. I want to get baptized.

People often overlook the Gospel as just a book, but that is just the tip of the iceberg. In the beginning, God was perfect. He created man to be perfect, just like him. However, man sinned, thus making God send Christ down to Earth. Loving God is the meat and potatoes of Christianity. There is much more than just knowing the Gospel. There is much more behind the mask of the Bible. There are stories about Jesus doing the impossible, and apostles preaching the word of God. It is about how God created Earth, and separated the sky from the seas. He was there from the beginning, and he is the reason everything exists. He is life. If he has done all this, imagine what he can do for you. He can take you from a sinner, and save you from the grasp of evil. He can transform you for the better. He can do everything. The Bible is not just a worthless book. It is the key to heaven.

Thank you!