

My Testimony
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The sun was setting and everyone in the chapel was singing and you feel the presence of God luring over everyone in there. While I was singing I had my eyes closed and I could feel that my arm that was in the air, but it felt like nothing as if someone was holding it for me. This was one of the many times the presence of God was so strong and powerful for me that it would stay with me. Writing my testimony is not the easiest thing because I am still so young and my story is still constantly being written, and it is surely not over yet.

Starting from the beginning of my life not much of it is too special. I was born on September 22nd, 2005 into a beautiful family. **1 Samuel 1: 27 “I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him.”** We are now a family of five and I have two brothers, one older and one younger, along with my parents. I was raised in a Christian household my whole life so we went to church every Sunday and went to church activities like VBS and AWANA. When I was a baby my parents made the decision to have me baptized which I guess was my start to being a Christian, but I never really understood much until I was older. When I was around five I was able to understand the stories a bit more, especially since I had really good Sunday school teachers. Going to children's events for the church really helped set me up really well for the years ahead of me. **Proverbs 22: 6 “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”**

One of the biggest influences in my life in my past and even now is Lake Beauty Bible Camp (LBBC). I cannot even begin to explain the wonderful and amazing things that happen there. I have been going to LBBC ever since I was old enough and now this summer would be my seventh year going. All the times I go are special but one of my favorite and most memorable years was 2017. Every week of camp you have one night at chapel where they focus on us campers to talk and get closer to God. Some campers go back to their cabins to sleep and others stay. I decided to stay and talk to my counselor, Casey, and as we were talking I brought up that I struggle with self-image. That is when I said “I love nature and all the beautiful things God created so that makes me beautiful because I am made the image of God.” That night throughout talking I felt as if all these words were not mine, and it was like an out of body experience. When we were done talking she told me that I was the wisest kid she was ever talked to, and I think that is because the wisdom was not from me. That day will forever be a spiritual awakening for me. **Proverbs 3: 5-6 “ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight.”**

As I grow in my faith I feel that currently in my life my relationship with God isn't really going anywhere and if anything maybe even going down. I just feel as if I have hit a wall and I am not trying to work through it. Instead I just sat down and gave up on trying to fix it. Throughout my journey so far some of my biggest influences would be my grandma Jeanne and my camp counselors showing a life with God and how to live for and to do everything through Him. Ever since I was in elementary school and middle school this verse that was spoken to me

and because of that I have made it my life verse. **Psalm 139: 13-14** “For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in your mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” This is just one of the many wonderful verses that I love. I am not sure what the future holds for me and I don't really want to plan my whole future. I would much rather let it happen like it's supposed to. **Jeremiah 29: 11-12** “ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ”plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”

This where my story stops and is still being written and I'm just waiting for the next chapter in my life to begin.