

Confirmation Testimony By Katie Johnson

For as long as I can remember, I have been a Christian. I vaguely remember accepting Jesus into my life at a very young age. I've had great role models in my life that have helped me grow in my relationship with Jesus. I grew up going to church here at Dassel Covenant. I went to AWANA and Sunday school since I was very little. When I was in 1st grade, I started going to Lake Beauty Bible Camp. When I was that young, I never really took to heart what the speakers were saying, I was mostly there to have a good time with my friends, and for the fun activities they planned for us. As I got older, I continued to go to Lake Beauty. About 2 years ago, there was a speaker named Rudy. He really related to us, and treated us like young adults, and not children. After I left camp, I read my Bible and prayed regularly, but after about a week, I fell into a habit of not praying and reading my Bible as much as I would have liked to. The pattern continued for a few years. I would go to camp and get something good out of my time there, but I would be too busy with worldly things like school activities and friends that I would forget to talk to God, or take 5 minutes a day to read my Bible. I've learned that even if I leave Jesus, or forget about him, or if I'm having a rough day where I think that God's not there, I remember that he's always with me, and will never leave me no matter what I do. Thinking about that has helped me a lot over the years. It's been hard finding time for God these last couple years. I've been very busy with extra curricular activities like drumline and marching band. I'd come home from a long night at drumline, and forget to pray before I went to bed because I was too tired. This year was pretty much the same as last year. When I found out the rest of my second year of drumline was cancelled because of the CoronaVirus, I was very sad and angry. I'm still very disappointed because you never know when your last show is until your season is over, but now I believe that it's all a part of God's plan to strengthen my faith with him. When I've been in quarantine, I've had all this extra time to spend with God, praying and reading my Bible. During this time, I can no longer have excuses for not praying, or reading my Bible, because I have all this extra time of me doing nothing. All my life, I've read stories, or heard people from church talk about how they felt God's presence. I always believed that that could happen, but it never happened to me. Up until about a month ago, I was doubting if God was even there, because I could never feel his presence. One time I rode my bike to the lake to get away for a little bit. There is a climbing tree by the lake access close to our house which I like to climb. I climbed up pretty high, and just sat there and listened to worship music on my phone. I was listening to the lyrics, and what the artist was singing related to exactly what I was struggling with. I felt the wind through the trees, and it sounds weird, but I just felt God there with me. It was an amazing feeling, and that's when I stopped doubting that God is with me always. I still have a long way to go in my walk with Jesus, but I'm very excited for what God has in store for me in the future. I thank my friends and family for helping me with my faith over the years. Thank you for reading my testimony!