

Kelly Kraemer's Faith Story

My parents chose to give each of their children a life verse or verses when they dedicated them to the Lord. The life verses they chose for me is *Ephesians 3:17-19*. It states: "...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" As I've gotten older, I have been able to understand what this verse really means to me. When I am rooted in the love Christ has for me, it helps me to experience the fullness of God in my life.

As a child, my family has always been a part of the church. From as early as I remember, I have known Jesus. At first when I was very young, He was kind of just a story book character, and I did not completely understand who He was. Although, in Sunday School I did enjoy hearing about the different miracles He performed. As I got a little older, I understood who Jesus really was, and how important my faith is in Him. Sunday school helped me become closer to God and I am glad I got to be a part of hearing more about Him in those mornings. Going to my grandma's house in Bemidji was also very important to the growth of my faith. My grandma has always been a very good Christian example to my family. She has taught me many things about God and how important my faith should be to me. I am very thankful for my grandma and how she has made me better understand the Word of God. *1 John 4: 16* says: "And so we know now and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

Currently I feel that I am facing the challenge of finding the time to read and study His Word. I feel that as a teenager, we become so busy in our lives that we just forget to be devoted to God. This has been a problem for me, but attending church has been a way for me to become more rooted in God's Word. Another thing that helps me stay closer to God is an app that I downloaded on my phone. I tend to spend a lot time on my phone, and so I make sure to read the daily devotions on that app to help me re-group for the day. Prayer has become more important in my life as I have gotten older too. I think as a Christian it is necessary to know that God has everlasting love for you, and that you can find peace through him in anything and at any time. *John 14:27* states: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

In my near future, including high school, I want to be a good example to others. I am hoping that I will get an even better understanding of God's Word as I mature more. After high school, I would like to be accepted into a good college for medical school. During my schooling I know that it will be challenging, so I am anticipating that I will look to God when I need guidance. After college, my dream job is to work in the Mayo Clinic as a Nurse Practitioner. I know that this job will also be challenging for me but that is where I would like to grow in my faith more. Another one of my dreams is to have a big family of my own. With a family, I want to really include God in our relationships, and make sure that we all are good examples of Christians. In conclusion, I am looking forward to the growth of my faith and better understanding God's grace. *In Colossians 2: 6-7* it says: "So then just as you received Christ Jesus our Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted, and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."