

## **MY TESTIMONY**

### **BY: NORAH CARLSON**

It all started on August 8, 2005, also known as my birthday. Growing up I have always known and have been taught about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A good example of this is going to Sunday School every Sunday morning before church. Some of my favorite things about going to Sunday School was that we got to listen to stories about the Bible and then draw and color pages based on the story. That really helped me to understand what I had just heard in the story. It was so fun because you got to draw and eat snacks with friends and teachers. It really let me explore the fun side of learning about Christ.

I do not think I have ever gone through anything without having Christ being by my side. The person who has inspired me in my faith the most is my grandpa Keith Carlson, also known as Pastor Keith. He has inspired me the most because of his great passion and love for God. Sometimes during prayer requests I hear about some of the good things he has done for other people, including going on mission trips to help those people in need. It makes me feel good to think 'that's my grandpa doing those things'. It is an honor to know that my grandpa devotes his life to Christ and to encouraging others in their journey as well. I admire that about him and it is inspiring not only to me but I feel to others as well. The verse I chose also relates to this, that verse is: 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Encourage one another and build each other up". I mainly chose this verse because I relate to it a lot. I like to make people feel better when they are feeling down, it makes me feel good inside. For example, when one of my friends is bummed out about something I will stop at nothing to make them feel better. Or when someone on my team in a sport gets discouraged about something, I decide to bring some positivity to the table. And that is why this verse is very important to me.

Currently what I am doing in my life right now to strengthen my relationship with Christ is going to confirmation class. The struggle I am facing currently is COVID-19, and quarantine and having to be all alone with no people besides your family to socialize with. Along with switching to distance learning and taking your education into your own hands. However, I know that we can get through this because we're all in this together.

I see myself in high school as a confirmed 15 year old beginning my own journey strengthening my relationship with Christ along the way. I will have to learn to adjust to high school and how it works, along with getting familiar with my surroundings. However, I do not think that is going to be much of a problem because I had to do it in 5th grade, also having God to guide me. Currently I am not sure what I plan on doing with my future, nor knowing what I want to be when I get older. I am sure that I will figure it out when the time comes. I think my faith will affect my future by reminding me to do the right at the right time, and to keep my head on straight.

In conclusion, I am excited yet curious on what in my life is yet to come. I am not sure what it is gonna be, but I am willing to wait for it with the power of Christ by my side. I know that at some point in my life I will be faced with discrimination on what I believe. But I will learn to push through and conquer it as I continue to spread the Word of God to others who still have yet to know Him. Thank you for reading my testimony.