

Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church

Liberty Township, OH



EXAMPLE FAITH STORIES

“These [trials] have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” 1 Peter 1:7

“BEFORE AND AFTER” STORIES¹

“My whole life up until the point that I met Jesus Christ was slowly self-destructing. I was caught in this terrible downward spiral of self-destructive behavior. But then I met Christ. He gave me the power to begin to live a healthy and constructive life. And I’m immensely grateful.”

“I was nothing more than a bored rich guy. And then I met Christ. He has moved me from mere success to significance. In my relationship with Christ, I am finally discovering a purpose for my life.”

“There was a time in my life when I was absolutely certain that the only way to gain God’s favor was to perform, achieve, and strive. But then I met the Son of God in a powerful way and learned that the only way to gain his favor is to accept his gift of grace. Almost immediately, it brought an overwhelming peace to my soul, an end to my useless striving, and a revolutionary change to my entire world.”

“For years I felt empty. I had a hole that I needed to fill, so I searched for things that could fill that hole: a new house, children, new friends, clothes, a new job.... My emptiness

¹ Many of these examples are taken from the book, *Just Walk Across the Room*, by Bill Hybels (Zondervan Books, 2006)

would be filled for a short time, but I never found the "it" that kept the hole filled. One day I heard a message about having a relationship with Jesus. Once I understood, accepted, and grew in my relationship with him, my emptiness was finally filled—for good. Today I am no longer searching for things to fill my life."

"I used to look for acceptance. I used drugs and alcohol to make me feel like I was somebody. I thought God had put me here as a cruel joke. But then I met Christ. He got me off drugs, off of alcohol, and he made me feel worthwhile. I now know what happiness is actually like. The void in my heart is gone. I now know I have many reasons for being here.... One is to share my story to give others hope. My days are no longer miserable; life actually means something to me now."

"I was angry and depressed all my life, thinking that the world revolved around me and I wasn't getting my due. I was cynical and isolated. After finding Christ, though, I felt an amazing love and acceptance for the first time. I began to be liked for who I was by the people around me, and my whole life changed. I came to know the joy of relating authentically with people—opening up with honesty and truthfulness about my life."

"My life was filled with shame and fear. I was all tied up inside and isolated. Loneliness led me to a place of hopelessness. But then I met Jesus. Now I am free from my self-inflicted prison of fear and shame. I am forgiven and loved! I am peaceful about who I am and who God is making me to be. The void inside is now filled with joy—joy in knowing that I am a precious child of God."

"I used to struggle under the burdens of a challenging career, marriage, and growing family. I tried to meet these obligations with my own efforts and sufficiency. As a result, I was stressed out—overworked—frustrated—angry—fearful—insecure—anxious—competitive—and exhausted...all the time! The challenges still exist, but Jesus eases my burdens and is sufficient where I am deficient. Now I focus on what matters to God, and he takes care of what matters to me. I face life calmly and confidently while enjoying God's wisdom and his undeserved blessing."