

I grew up in a non-Christian family, so I didn't really get to know God until I was ten.¹ My parents never really forced upon me any religion, and during my childhood, I didn't really think about religion.

However, when I was reaching the end of elementary school, I began to question my purpose on Earth. What was the point in school? In homework? In life? I

remember waking up after a particularly fearful nightmare and wondering, what happens after I die?



Shortly after, my best friend and neighbor told me about youth group. I was curious on where he went and spent his time during the weekend, so one weekend I attended a game night at Gilead Bible Church. I progressively went to more and more youth group events until one week, I decided to go to the Sunday service at church.

I really don't know when I started to become a Christian and accepted Christ. There was no defining moment that I can really say "Wow, this is when I accepted Christ". Instead, I transitioned from the occasional youth group attender that only showed up to game nights and movies nights, to a weekly church visitor. One of the turning points leading to my growth was when the church embarked on the 40 days of purpose. The words of Rick Warren in "The Purpose Driven Life" really moved me to accept Christ as my Savior.

After I became a Christian, I have been fortunate to see my parents also convert to Christianity in one of the most unlikely ways. A car accident resulting in some terrible initial consequences had really shaken my faith. In those few weeks after the accident, I turned to prayer and the support of Pastor Yot and our congregation. After seeing my father grasp my Uncle Howard's hand during prayer, I slowly saw how such a horrible event could turn into God's blessing. The miracle that my father is fully recovered and that I only escaped with minor injuries just shows God's grace and strengthened not only my faith but my family's as well.

¹ Testimony given at his Baptismal Service on August 28, 2010 at Gatetree Baptist Church, Danville CA.

Lord, as I go to college, I know I'll need your support more than ever. So let this rebirth remind me of what life is truly about, and may I commit to a life on earth that is lived to glorify your name.