

My Testimony

My name is Dustin Rellez and I was born and raised here in Hawaii. I grew up in a Christian home where we were taught to believe in God and attended a Pentecostal Christian Church. Though I always knew there was a God growing up as most people in that time did, I did not understand fully the doctrines of God and what he truly did to save me. I did not learn much of the Bible in the Church I grew up in and I had a shallow faith which basically led me think as long as I do more good than bad I should go to heaven.

Before I had truly received the Lord Jesus into my life, my life was full of sin and I don't think I even realized it. I had joined the Air Force right after graduating high school and pretty much right from the start I became accustomed to the drinking culture that was prevalent in the armed forces. I still felt that I was a better person than others that there were a lot of people who did a lot worse than I did. Basically my life consisted of satisfying my worldly and fleshly desires. I had stopped attending Church and if I was not at work most of my time was being spent going out to bars and getting drunk. I was living life carelessly following the ways of the world. Though I knew there was a God I did not understand how much the way I was living was grieving His Spirit. Being young and sort of a follower by nature I did a lot of things trying to fit in and be like everyone else letting myself be influenced by the world instead of serving our Lord. During those years I always felt an emptiness inside like there was something missing. I attributed it to me missing home.

It was only when I got out of the military at the end of my enlistment and moved back home to Hawaii that I felt the Lord start to draw me near to Him. I thought moving back home would give me the satisfaction and peace I had been missing. After a couple years of being home the feeling only got worse. Even more than before my life had turned into about nothing but drinking and hanging out with friends. One day for whatever reason I felt the urge to read the Bible. Though I had always believed in God I had never read His Word. The more I read the more I slowly started to understand more about Him. It was around that time that I met my wife and after dating for a while she invited me to attend Church with her. We went to a Southern Baptist Church here in Hilo and it was the first time I had ever been to a Church with expository preaching and that was focused on God's Word. This preaching gave me a very heavy sense of conviction and I was living in great distress because of the weight of my sins and knowing that one day I would have to stand in front of a righteous and Holy God and give account for all I had done. I continued going to that Church and continued reading the Bible and learning about God and His grace He gives us through the Lord Jesus. I finally for the first time understood the depth of what God has done in giving His only Son to die for us while we were still sinners. I broke down and confessed my sins to God and confessed Jesus as my Lord and Savior and it was like a burden was removed from me.

Now the Lord has changed my life in so many ways. Though I still sin daily and still battle and struggle with my flesh I know that the Lord is with me and by His grace he has saved me. I have committed myself to the Lord and wish to serve and love Him as best as I can for however long he wills. He has blessed me with a wife and three children and more than enough. Now I try my best to walk in obedience to Him and try to learn more about Him through his Word that I may love and serve Him better. I thank God for all He has done in my life and that He did not let me die in my sins but brought me to a better understanding of Him that I may serve Him. He has led me to a true Church where I am able to learn more about Him and serve Him with other faithful believers. I would like to be baptized to proclaim publicly how good He has been to me and show my desire to serve Him the rest of my days