

My Faith Journey:
Rev. Carl Kandel
9:1-21

My personal faith journey began at a church in Louisville Ohio. It was a church that was close and convenient and one that we attended very seldom. I was in my late twenties and in the process of drifting from God. My wife and I began a family consisting of two small children. There seemed to be a draw or a need to see these kids in church, so we began to take them sporadically. While God had drawn us to take our kids to church, He also began to work in my wife's life and in mine. It was through the persistent nature of our kids that enticed us to search out Christ.

Ultimately, I came to faith in Jesus Christ when I prayed with a Pastor who gave an alter call over the radio while I was raking gravel in the process of building my new house. This is the day I claim as the day I came to faith in Jesus Christ. My conversion experience was dramatic, and it is a very important part of my ministry now. This life changing event propelled me into a search of God in Jesus Christ. The Church, whose pastor was Reverend Ed Beck, then became a vital part of my discipleship. I began to hunger for all of God I could get. Bible study, discipleship classes, and anything else that I could get became very important to me at that time.

Over the years that I attended Christ Church, a revival was a big part of every year's agenda. It was at a revival service where I then totally surrendered my life fully to Jesus and began to truly grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is another vital step in my faith journey that dramatically changed my life.

Still more years elapsed, and God then began to call me into a full-time commitment to him as a pastor. I surrendered again to his call and began the process of determining my call and affirming my call into full-time ministry. Then over a process of two years, my call was affirmed in my heart, and I became a candidate for ministry. The call from the District Superintendent followed shortly, after the decision was made, and I was appointed to a Church in Sugarcreek Ohio. I served there for 17 years and am now serving Living Grace Christian Church in Navarre

My faith journey is an ongoing thing. It is something that will never be completed until I am with Christ eternally. I recognize the life of faith as a journey and expect to gain important experience and insight into God's Word on a daily basis. My devotional life is what is extremely important in maintaining my desire to continue to grow and develop as a Christian and as a pastor. My personal study and reflection in the Scripture is vital to my faith journey. I hunger more now than I ever have for the presence of Christ in my life and I seek in all that I do to bring him honor and glory. Jesus Christ is Lord of my life and I love Him and serve him in all that I do and say.