

Experiencing Faith for the First Time

Experiencing faith for the first time is something that can not simply be put into words and understood by all that hear it; experiencing faith for the first time is something that can only be understood by those that have felt it. Some experience it at a young age and others until they are much older; I had the luxury of experiencing faith for the first time this past summer and here is my story.

My summer was like many other teens I had a job, went to summer school, and hung out with my friends, I also had 2 weeks of camp to look forward to. Well the days came and went without much happening before the day I had to pack for camp. Now don't get me wrong I love camp but I was in no way a religious person, sure I went to confirmation but that wasn't my choice I had also attended church during the school year also not my choice but in the end I went along with it, I went to camp because I always had a blast pulling off pranks meeting new people you know the whole nine yards, well this year I happened to go to a new camp instead of camp Webb like I normally did I attended camp Whispering Pines, it was there that I met many people who had faith in God and Jesus. I was not one of them I acknowledge that there was a possibility of God and Jesus because well isn't there a possibility for anything? And so I drifted threw the first week without anything changing but I didn't do one thing that I wouldn't normally do I observed why all those kids were gathered there in one place with one purpose and one sound belief and I would think about it late at night when I was unable to sleep (which happened to be often). I would wonder how the other kids around me were able to confirm in something they could not feel, touch, see, or hear, I wanted to know what is it that makes them so sure that there is a greater power beyond human understanding. It wasn't until the last night I was at Whispering Pines that I would receive my answer in the most unusual and surreal way I could ever imagine being given an answer to such enormous questions I had that no human being could have possibly given all the answers I sought.

What transpired that night is not something I will ever forget, that night we were sitting around the nightly camp fire and the head counselor started to talk about cleaning out the closet with God, and what I mean is taking all those things that we try to hide from family, friends, and God and admitting to them with God. This got me thinking and out of nowhere there was this song that started playing in my head, (music starts) and the song was "Bless me indeed" by MercyMe, I have no idea why but the song would not get out of my head. And out of nowhere I felt like nothing ever before and I started to get all these thoughts that came really fast thoughts such as god's real, how could I be so blind, why did I turn from him, and things like that. Soon the head councilor was done talking and said we could go and kneel down in front of the crosses by the lake and pray if we would like and to my amazement everyone got up kids, councilors, staff, I mean everyone got up and went, and I followed to because I felt compelled to do it. There were three crosses and three lines, got into the line farthest from the other two, I also wanted to be last so for about half an hour I waited in line, and then it was my turn and I knelt down and I started to thank God, and at the same time I apologized for leaving him for he never left me, I became so overcome with all these feelings deep down inside my heart that I haven't felt ever.

Before I knew it I felt my cheeks getting damp and I thought it had started to rain but then I realized I was shedding tears, not tears of sorrow, but tears of joy for I finally found what I had been looking for to fill the gap in my heart that had been there for all long as I can remember, I also found a friend that no matter what would never leave me, someone I could speak to and listen to that would give me a purpose to live for, someone who would provide me with shelter from the darkness that lurks in the souls of both myself and fellow men and women a being without physical form and so high in power and foresight that everyone who wanted purpose would have it, a being worthy of the title and name God.