



## Journey Story

This is my journey story of how I came to this beautiful juncture in my life when I stopped living in a traditional bubble and started living an authentic life with Christ.

I grew up in the church as a preacher's kid and the youngest of eleven children. The church was my safe place. And the church was all I knew. I was familiar with *"how to have church"* with manmade church traditions. Although I was raised in the church, I didn't know who the **God of the Bible** was!

I never knew how to be the church. I thought "having church" was the preacher preaching loud and the music rising even louder, with the congregation in audible support. Boy, was I wrong! God's Word challenges professing Christians who "have church" without "being the church."

During my childhood, I endured devastating life challenges such as sexual abuse, neglect, and teen pregnancy that resulted in death.

As I finished my college experiences, I seriously thought about my actions and where my life was headed. I knew it was time to get committed to Christ. After leaving school, I began to grow my relationship with Christ. I got married and was on my way to motherhood.

Motherhood blew my world apart. I was bringing a little person into this world, and he needed more than I could give. He needed to know the Word of God. I wanted him to have more than just a good church attendance record.

So, I set out on a monumental journey of reading and understanding God's Word with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Man, was I in for a treat! I found the best treasure in the world. I fell in love with The Bible. I never knew all that awaited me as a believer in the Word of God.

I can't put into words what reading my Bible did for my family and myself. Everything looked different, and there was an inner awakening for my soul. I found healing, peace, wisdom, knowledge, and so much more in the Bible. One of the most important lessons that I learned is that:

Reading God's Word is our responsibility as Christians, and we should not delegate that to others! It is our *"me time"* with God. I continue to experience the Word of God personally in my life, over and over again. Out of those experiences grew a genuine desire to please God.

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. –James 4:8(NKJV)

*Dara V. Rose*