

MY RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE: My Faith Journey

Randy Schreurs

My two-year-old brother, Leon, died 8 months before my birth. This meant my mom carried me in her womb, while she, dad, and our family grieved the loss of their son and brother. Studying my family history decades later lead me to believe that God called me into the ministry because of my mom's prayers while nurturing me in her womb. I grew up as the 4th of 6 children in a traditional family in the small town of Cedar Grove, Wisconsin.

While in my early teen years, the large Reformed Church we attended semi-regularly seemed legalistic, boring, and irrelevant, which led me to focus on other areas of my life. I went through years with a rebellious, know-it-all attitude. During this period, my family had a falling out with the pastor, and we stopped attending church.

When I was 15-16 years old, I went through a period of searching for meaning and purpose. I wondered, Why do we exist? What's the purpose of life? I was led back to the church where I eventually heard the concept of forgiveness, that God had forgiven my sins through Christ. This was an amazing discovery for me and was a powerful encounter with the Living God. This led to a deep hunger to know God.

I publicly confessed my faith in Jesus Christ. With good teaching, nurture, and encouragement, my faith grew. I began attending the church youth fellowship. The next Easter, some of us young people agreed to share our testimony with the congregation. After that, several people suggested that I should become a pastor. I resisted for months because I had other plans but came to believe that I could not be happy or fulfilled unless I accepted God's directing me to study for the ministry.

During this time, our mom was diagnosed with terminal cancer and passed away. This was a crisis for our family and my new faith. I had prayed for God to heal her; so when she died, I could not pray for months.

While I was in college, several mature believers challenged and encouraged me to grow deeper in faith. I became part of a small group of guys, which taught me the value of a small, faith community. We were taught the value of spiritual disciplines.

Years later, when my wife Jane and I had our children, the experience of being a father/parent taught me about the depth of the Heavenly Parent's love and covenant with us, God's children.

Jane and I participated in the Cursillo movement that renewed and deepened my trust in the Holy Spirit's ministry.

John Calvin Presbytery
June 2nd, 2024

Called Meeting
Community Presbyterian Church
Forsyth, Missouri

In 2005-06, I struggled through a period of severe chronic pain, fatigue, and depression. God used several friends and a pain clinic to help me move forward in a way that offered hope and encouragement.

Over the years, following Christ has led me through deep, dark valleys and up to mountain peaks. I have gone through dry deserts and the rivers of spiritual renewal. Through it all, God has guided and provided for me faithfully.