

## -- Anonymous 1

When you asked everyone to tell you their stories of something that God has done for them, I was excited to hear about all the things God has done for people of our church. But, I knew my story would not be one that would be submitted, because I thought it wasn't exciting or powerful enough. How foolish! I have found that I have been almost disappointed with my testimony, because it has not been filled with big events and unheard of miracles. I am so ashamed to have thought that. I realize now from this "assignment" the mercy and protection He has shown me! So, anyhow, mine is a story of God's hand of protection on my life.

I received Christ when I was little and have always known Him. I was a pretty good girl and can't think of any trouble I got in. But I think of the friends I chose in Jr. High and how in High school God gave me a close group of Christian friends instead. It turned out that the ones from Jr. High were a very bad group of kids who were making bad choices. I could have been one of them easily.

Then I met my husband. I was crazy about him and tired of being the good girl. So, I now had this guy who had made some bad choices and who should have had no trouble giving in to the desires of his flesh, yet he wanted to protect me. I didn't make it easy for him either. How many men would have done that? B\_\_ is the only one I have ever really dated. I can't imagine what might have been otherwise. The same is true in our marriage. You know B\_\_ has struggled with pornography but what you don't know is that I have as well. So, once again my flesh says if we are going to look at things let's just do it together. Talk about Eve with the apple. But AGAIN God protects me from taking paths that will lead to destruction. He gives B\_\_ the strength to say no, to tell me that we know it's wrong and pulls us on the path of breaking free from being captives to this sin. Now we are starting to look to God for His marriage plan for us and are finding freedom.

I look at all the paths I could have chosen, and of course I have made plenty of bad decisions, but His Almighty hand has held mine tight all through my life even when I was pulling as hard as I could to go the other way. So, it might not be one great big life changing experience but I'm realizing that He has never left me. His hand has been steady. And I'm so thankful for where He's brought me! I have learned more about my God and how big He really is since we've been at this church than I have in my whole life. Thank you for this challenge! I won't make the mistake of thinking little of my story again because God has not given anyone a small and boring story to tell. Thank you!

"...He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we have traveled." Joshua 24:17