



Lifecchange Story of Lance

Who was I before camp? I was completely lost, and I use that word in its literal meaning.

When I got to high school I noticed the 'partiers' because they were popular and fearless. I said, "I want that." The only thing that looked appealing to me was being in the party scene and getting into things that I had no business doing. It seemed like all of the good high school stories came from drinking, smoking and partying all the time. If I wanted to do high school right, I was going to take this path.

About halfway through my junior year things began to slowly spiral downward. I began to lie more and more to do what I wanted to. I would lie to my parents, my friends, people I thought were my friends, and just about anyone I had to so that I could do whatever I wanted. I was breaking my own heart and I knew it was because I wasn't really 'this kind' of a person, but I couldn't stop myself. I began to dislike myself for what I was doing and the worse part was, I had absolutely no one I felt comfortable enough with to be 100% honest. I couldn't talk to my friends because they wouldn't understand how I felt. They were as much into the party scene as I was. When problems started rising, I kept them to myself and they seemed to amplify inside me.

I remember one night when I was laying in my bed and it felt like I had a separation of mind and body. I felt like I was a mind trapped in a body that wasn't mine. This life isn't what I wanted three years ago... At this point I felt awkward around everyone. I couldn't hang out with people one on one because I felt so awkward. I didn't know who I was. I would be one person in front of some people, another person in front of another group of people...I did this routine so much that I truly lost myself. I couldn't help myself...I needed help!

At this time, the thought of Christ helping me wasn't even an option. Even if I believed in him, I wouldn't acknowledge him at all. I attempted to find happiness without Him and became a machine.

Camp changed my life. The moment I surrendered my life to Christ it literally felt like my heart had a new beat. Life excites me now. I felt an unexplained happiness. When I came back home to the 'real world,' it wasn't even like I had to do anything to resist my old ways. Those things didn't even look appealing anymore. I truly do not want to do them. It's like I can see past the 'party scene' and see the actual emptiness there.

I wasted a lot of my life. Living with Christ has already brought me more life than I could ever have imagined.

My name is Lance, and I found life in the knowledge of Him.