

## Stephanie Sandoval's Testimony

At an early age I began experimenting with cigarettes, alcohol, and weed. I remember always saying, "I'll never use hard drugs," little did I know sin always takes you deeper than you plan to go. When I was 15 years old, I began using hard drugs. Because of this, I was sent to juvenile detention numerous times and to two drug rehabilitation centers by the time I was eighteen. I thought a change of scenery would fix my drug problem, so I moved to California, but things only got worse. I knew I needed help but everything I tried did not work. Soon after moving back to Las Vegas, New Mexico, I became pregnant. I desperately wanted to be a mother, but I knew if I did not get help, I would lose my baby. At that time a pastor told my dad about a church/rehabilitation home in San Angelo, TX named Joshua 1:2 Fellowship. Days later I checked into the church and after hearing the pastor preach about how Jesus could change my life, I made altar call and as I wept in my mother's arms, I gave my life to Jesus Christ. From that day on something inside me was different, unfortunately I chose to leave the Church after 2 ½ weeks, but this was the start of a new journey. This was the first time in years I stayed sober longer than 3 months.

I still struggled with addiction, but with less frequent relapses. I knew I no longer wanted to live like this, but I did not know how to get free for good. By the time I was twenty-two, I was strung out on heroin and still trying to keep up with the ways of life. After my first marriage and my second child I turned to God again. My deepest desire was to be free from the cycle of backsliding I was stuck in. My prayer was that God would heal me and bless me with a family that I would quit destroying. After two years of prayer, God blessed me with another husband. It seemed as if the drug life was all behind me, but there were many hardships living in a blended family and to cope, I turned back to drugs. My husband did not know how to deal with this because he had never experienced living with a drug addict. He tried so many things to help me, but after 6 years my drug use was out of control. The last episode was the worst because it tore our family to shreds. At that time, he gave me an ultimatum, he told me that if I did not get real help he was leaving. I knew then that if something did not change in me, I would lose everything. It was then that I returned to the Joshua 1:2 Fellowship. I knew if I did not completely surrender my ENTIRE life to Jesus, I would lose my family for good! I also feared that I would spend the rest of my life on and off drugs and eventually end up in prison or dead. It did not take long to know that God had taken me back to finish what He started.

In 2018, God planted our family in San Angelo to help serve in the Joshua 1:2 Fellowship ministry. We are following God's call for our life. For the past four years I have seen Jesus restore my life in ways I never thought possible. My husband and I are happily married and God has blessed our children with a mother who loves and cares for them. God is still in the process of restoring my life, but he has blessed me tremendously with peace, joy, my health, our finances, and many other things! When I completely surrendered my whole heart to Jesus, He changed me 100%. There are no words to express my gratitude to God for sending His Son to die for my sins, a no-good drug addict who was always back and forth in her faith and who many times was bitter and angry with God was now set free from that life FOR GOOD! Jesus laid down His life to set me free because He loves me just like He loves you! I give Jesus Christ all the glory and honor for the salvation of my soul and the forgiveness of my many sins.



*John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*