

Bob Jacobs Spiritual Journey

Bob has served as an Elder since 2001. He and his wife Cheri have been members of FCC since 1997. They have two sons, Dave and Mike and also have one grandson Brandon. Bob is a senior model technician for Anza, Inc. He previously owned his own model and prototype company and was in business for 14 years. Bob's interests include fishing, watching movies and family time. He has served in various ministries including Life Group leader, Jail Ministry Team leader, Servant Heart Ministry, Adopt-A-Block, and Matthew 25 Ministries. He has also served on the ALPHA Team, Capital Campaign Team and Emmaus Team. Favorite Scripture: Jeremiah 29: 11-13.



I was born on July 28, 1952 to loving parents. I was the younger of two children. We attended church when I was a child, but our attendance was sporadic. I remember attending Vacation Bible School and memorizing verses for the Christmas play.

In my teen years, we attended a little Baptist church in Cleves, Ohio. It was there on September 29, 1968, that I walked down the aisle and accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I was baptized, and as quickly as I walked to Jesus, I walked away. I just simply went on with my life. I didn't realize I could or should have a personal relationship with Him.

I finished high school and went on to college and married my high-school sweetheart, Cheri. About that same time my parents moved to Oregon. Cheri and I followed and I finished college there. Cheri gave birth to our two sons in Oregon. In 1978, my father got sick and died from cancer. I had a hard time handling the loss. About a year later, Cheri and I packed up our two sons and moved back to Ohio. I felt I needed to start a new chapter in my life.

At that time I thought I was doing everything right. I was providing for my family by working all the hours I could. We bought some property and built a home on it. I was doing all the things the world expected me to do. But there was still something missing. I didn't know what it was at the time, but later I realized it was that relationship that I started with Jesus when I was 16. That relationship had gone nowhere. It would not start growing for many years yet. I knew about Jesus, but I didn't know Him personally. Jesus was like a neighbor who lived down the street. I knew He was there, but I didn't know anything about Him.

In the meantime, we had made friends with Ed and Marsha Hoffman. Our children had gone through school together. They invited us to a "Bring a Friend" Sunday, so we accepted. We have been coming to this church ever since. We felt then what so many of you have felt when you walked in this place. The love and the grace of the body of Christ. We didn't know what it was at the time, but we knew we wanted more of it! We began looking forward to attending church and I knew it was the thing that I'd been missing in my life for so long.

About a year later, I went on a 72-hour spiritual retreat called Walk to Emmaus. It was a turning point in my spiritual walk with Christ. Here is a portion of what I wrote in my journal after spending that weekend with Christ: In April of 1998, at the age of 46, I found out how important a personal spiritual life with Jesus is. It's the most important part of your life, because it's eternal, not temporary. As I see my life pass by, I realize that life is very temporary. Life in Christ is so much better! Life itself is no different—it still has its ups and downs—but when you make Christ the center of your life, something just falls over you! A new way of seeing things. I was saved by grace. I am so happy to be a part of this! God has a way of just filling you with His love and direction. It's so hard to explain. He helps you begin to take the time to listen to Him. Through this personal, spiritual relationship with Jesus, He begins to guide you and speak to you through your spirit. It's an awesome feeling! I know I have started this journey with Jesus—a journey that will last forever! I had a beginning when I was born and, through His calling me, I will have everlasting life with Him. Praise God!

Since that weekend I have continued to seek a closer relationship each day with Jesus. If I could leave you with one thought, it is this: There is nothing in your life more important than seeking a personal relationship with Jesus! Jeremiah 29:13 says, "If you seek me you will find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Seek Him with all your heart!