

How have I come to see myself as a sinner who has sinned against God? How did I come to the decision to make Jesus my Lord and Savior?

God, I think I've always known that I am a narcissist and that I care so much about how people perceive me. That's why I often choose certain relationships over others- I care about clout and value that over more meaningful relationships. I've always known that I purposely try to keep a confident and put together front because I thought appearing vulnerable would make others look down at me. I couldn't bear the thought of singing or being physically intimate with my family because I- for some reason- cared so much about my reputation of being cold. It is so incredibly hard to apologize or even give thanks to my parents. My pride has always led me astray- I hated badminton because I hated being worse than the 12 yr olds in my class. I wanted to end my life because I thought only returning to my old life where I received attention and validation for ballet would make me fulfilled. I struggled so much with ballet all my life because I only cared about being the best, winning awards, and being recognized for those achievements. It was so hard for me to accept SJSU as my school of choice even if my heart wanted it because I felt that the name would reflect badly on my intellect and status. I neglect help from others because I think I can handle everything myself- and that is so far from the truth. I have only led myself spiraling into a life chasing for something that's not attainable. I don't tell others my burdens because I don't want them to think I don't have my life together or am weak and I don't want to burden others. I am so grateful Leadership 2 helped me realize that true friends would never think that of anyone. Vulnerability is met with love and support and respect because it's not something that is easy to do.

I've realized that in pushing you away for the sake of popularity, pride, and superficial stimuli, I've only been more miserable. And, I don't want that life anymore. Sean, Dad, Verina, Trini- They've never stopped praying for me and encouraging me towards you and I am so incredibly grateful for them and for you for calling them to bring me to you.

I want to live an abundant life with you-filled with meaningful relationships, joy, forgiveness, self reflection, love, and knowledge. I know in doing so, I will have to risk losing relationships with people who don't support my faith, I may not be able to do whatever my friends may be doing, I may sacrifice being part of the "popular crowd", I will have to swallow my pride and forgive others even when I don't want to, I may have to sacrifice other aspects of my life such as school/career so that I can serve you, I will have to say no to my inner desires and will because my life is no longer dictated by me and my self-made morals. My life is in your hands if I return home and choose to let you tear down my broken parts and build me back up. I know doing that will be incredibly difficult and I will resist often, but I believe a life following you and your word is worth that suffering.

I am a great sinner, have rejected you countless times-but still you sacrifice your son to pay for all my sins so that I am saved. I have done nothing to deserve this gift and so, I am so extremely blessed and grateful for you. I trust that you and your word will lead me to a better life and I pray that I will always be working towards rebuilding my relationships with you and not

falling back towards my temptations and reject you again. I pray that I will spend eternal life with you here and eventually in heaven. Thank you again, oh heavenly father, for being my lord and savior and for keeping on sending people into my life to bring me to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.