

Isah mohammed

Spiritual formation

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### **Guyon paper**

I grew up going to both church and masjid. At the age of 12, I became a Christian, having started going to a local Baptist church with my guardian a few years earlier after encouragement from a friend at my old school. My motivation for going to church at that time was that it was a safe space for me to develop my time and social life and learn more about Christ the Lord. When I asked Jesus into my life, I was sincere. A few months later, I was baptized, and I was able to maintain a healthy social life while learning more about God. After I graduated from high school, I decided to attempt a Christian school, which is Alliance University, so I could understand more about God. I have prayed throughout my Christian life. I never felt the presence of God or heard him speak. So I decided to join a youth group at my church because I much preferred a silent approach to worship than the noisy, happy environment I was used to in a Baptist church. But after reading Jeanne Guyon's book, I came to understand the importance of having a personal relationship with God, which means a personal connection with him. After practicing, I was still in silence for 8 minutes.

When I am still in silence, I see a vision that Jesus is knocking on my door. It was all just in my head; I literally heard three knocks at my front door, and I jumped up and ran to the door, but it was nighttime, so I didn't open it. In 2018, the pandemic entered,

and that's when I realized that Jesus was calling me home; he came for me. I remember reading an article about the African locust and thinking it seemed so biblical, along with the pandemic that shut down the entire country, and I started getting recommendations for listening to them. In my youth years, I recalled learning about revelation, and after rereading it, God changed my whole life. Jesus saved my life more than I even knew at the time, when I was struggling with life or taking the wrong paths. I was able to talk to the Holy Spirit every day. I hear a voice coming to me whenever I'm in the church or listening to Christian music. To make a long story short, I thought I had lost the Holy Spirit, but this week I awoke with the words going over me, and in my mind, I will stand by you. I will stand by you... I will stand by you... the words wouldn't stop coming out of my mouth, so I googled them, and the song was by Rattle and Hum, and they were singing a song called I want to let go. I will stand by you and help you through. I broke down and started crying because I knew that it was the Holy Spirit telling me that he would always be there no matter what and that he wanted me to let go. All the words in the song are actually in the Bible, so yes, the Holy Spirit does listen to you, even when you think he hasn't. The show changed my life. I listen to something about Jesus Christ several times—on the train and every single day and night. I've been feeling His presence for the past two days now when I pray at night. First, it was like someone was holding my hand, and then it was like someone was sitting on my bed watching me while I was praying. I felt my heart beat fast, and I tried not to be scared, and then I felt peace because I was thankful to God and I felt safe. Good things have been happening to me since I started to acknowledge him as my only savior and my light. The Father is

so amazing that it's really touching, and I feel happy when I talk to him or ask him for help and salvation.

Unfortunately, my friends don't want to listen to me talk about God's word because they think it means nothing and they don't want it, but I wish they and everyone in the world would love and accept God. It's beautiful. And I think I want to have a life in which God is the only one and the most important being to me, rather than a life with millions of dollars and no faith in me. I want to be a professional basketball player so that I can support my family in Nigeria, which is why I enjoy praying to God at night, in the morning, at church, or in a quiet place. I believe it is not too late for all of us to return to God and admit how wrong we were when we refused him at times. I've been praying a lot lately to God to help me reconnect with a previous version of myself and to help me deeply reflect on what God and Jesus have done in my own personal journey. God has been deeply bringing new forms of revelation where he will simply remind me of something from the past and rekindle my love for him. Each time I realize a new lesson, it deepens my appreciation and love for God. He is still teaching and growing me through experiences I thought were behind me. Just goes to show God's amazing perspective, in which he sees our lives as a whole, as opposed to us, who are struck in pieces and become disconnected from our own lives.

This morning, on my way to school, I was praying and listening to one of my favorite songs, "Seasons Change," and the words were, "Though the seasons change, your love remains," so as I was listening to this song, there was a part where it said, "Though we worked far apart, you came running with open arms," and then it kept repeating itself, and in that moment, I saw a vision of Jesus on the cross in my head.

