

# JOEL ROBERT OGLE

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## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

I thank God daily that I grew up in a loving Christian home with wonderful parents. My father is a Pastor, and I was raised going to church every week. I have such fond memories of learning about Jesus as a child. When I was eleven years old, I realized that knowing about Jesus and having an intimate relationship with Him were two completely different things. As I began to seek and pray, I came to understand that I must make a personal decision to believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. That decision changed my life forever.

As I attended college at The University of Tennessee I began to place academics, material possessions, and earthly relationships above my relationship with God. I sought happiness in worldly things. These actions led me to a very lonely place. I was blessed that I had a fellow brother in Christ notice me drifting. He sought me out, prayed for me and encouraged me. This taught me the importance of prioritizing fellowship with other believers. After graduating from UT, I was given the opportunity to lead worship at a small church in Kodak, TN. God used this opportunity to reveal how He wanted to use my love for music for His glory. It was through serving in worship ministry that I realized God was calling me to become a pastor. Throughout the years, the Lord has given me a wide-range of opportunities to serve Him, and I am eternally grateful He has included me in His plan. With those experiences come a deeper desire to be in the center of His will and best serve Him in whatever capacity He has chosen for me.

## MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

### PASTORAL ROLE

As a Pastor I am called to servant leadership. First, I am called to serve Jesus Christ, my creator, sustainer, and redeemer. Second, I am called to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10 states, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." I am responsible for the care of the congregation and should ensure I provide for their spiritual needs while praying for their spiritual guidance.

As a Student Pastor, it is my primary purpose to pour into the next generation, raising up future leaders. I desire to help students understand their spiritual gifts and use them through service opportunities within the church and community. I am passionate about helping students see themselves the way Christ sees them and filter the opinions of the world through Biblical truths and prayer. As a Student Pastor, I would aim to empower youth to be ambassadors for Christ in their homes, schools, and community unashamedly proclaiming the Gospel (Romans 1:16).

## **EVANGELISM**

As Christians I believe we are called to life on mission. It is our purpose, as instructed in Matthew 28:16–20 to reach those around us for Christ, by using a variety of means. I feel that the local church should exist as a place for Christians to eagerly gather together to become empowered to live out the gospel, having open doors to the lost and less fortunate. I feel that by using cutting edge technological innovations, the local church will be able to reach more people for Christ than we could have ever imagined in the past.

## **SALVATION**

Only through grace alone, in faith alone, in Christ alone can anyone be saved. All they must do is believe that Jesus is the Son of God and died sacrificially for their sins. Once one places their trust in Christ for Salvation, there is nothing that can ever take it away. I believe Baptism by immersion to be an outward sign of an inward change and a command given by Jesus Himself.

## **WORSHIP**

I believe worship is not simply something we do on Sundays. Worship is what we were created to do. It gives us the opportunity to say, "thank you" to God for willingly paying our sin debt on the cross. Hebrews 12:28-29 states, "Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." I believe we as believers should never lose our sense of awe and amazement in regard to our resurrected Savior. We should instead continually worship Christ through our actions and praise.

## **REFERENCES AVAILIABLE UPON REQUEST**