



James Bootsma

IM Media Productions

My journey to Jesus Christ:

As a child growing up in Phoenix, AZ I attended a Christian Reformed Church with my family. I participated in our weekly Sunday School Catechism classes from grade school up through high-school. I was convicted of my sin

as the Holy Spirit worked on my heart and I called out to Jesus to save me from the wrath of God.

While growing up I lived in a performance-based family and so my relationship with Jesus Christ became a performance-based relationship. In my senior year of high school, God chose to rock my world. A young man 15 years of age took his life. I attended the viewing and funeral services and recommitted my heart to Christ after realizing the truth from God's Word, "you do not know what tomorrow will bring" (James 4:13- 15).

Several years later God rocked my world yet again but this time it struck really close to home. It started when a close friend, Tony, took his own life outside his home. Then in November 1997, my sister took her life in a hotel room just outside of L.A.

After this experience, the Lord led me to Calvary Community Church Phoenix, AZ and I was under Calvary Chapel's leadership for close to 10 years. I grew in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18) as an active member serving in the children's, young adult, and college-age ministries and sang in their choir.

In 2004, a close friend from church invited me to a small transformational group led by Steve Phinney. My walk with Christ grew even more as I became aware of many truths rooted in Gods' word such as the exchanged life found in Galatians 2:20, "Not I but Christ who lives in me." I learned of how the first family, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, relate within the triune God Head and how our earthly families are to reflect and function in like manner. The Heavenly Father study was incredible as I discovered who He says He is in the original Hebrew text along with the many other Hebrew words describing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In 2006, I was encouraged to leave Phoenix, AZ and take up residence in Des Moines, IA in order for me to get to know my birth father. God has blessed my life in incredible ways since my relocation to Iowa. The scripture stated in Malachi 4:6 in how the Lord restores the hearts of the fathers and children towards one another has been happening in my life for many years now. My birth father, Larry Thompson and I are close friends

and my relationships with my father, Elevern Bootsma, and father in law, Donovan Maxwell, are as close and genuine as can be.

I have served in 2 church fellowships since moving to Des Moines, IA the first being Real Life Church located in Ankeny, IA. I was apart of their leadership group and Worship Ministry leading their congregation in worship from 2006 -2009.

My wife, Dawn, and I joined Grace Church in 2011 and I have been serving in their Worship Ministry.

Musical background:

- 1982 -1984 I took 2 years of piano lessons.
- 1984-1989 I was classically trained while singing in the Phoenix Boys Choir which was lead by Dr. Harvey K Smith. While singing in the Phoenix Boys Choir I had the privilege of singing on 2 overseas tours, at President Reagans' mother-in-law's funeral service, and on several commercials and concerts.
- 1991-1995 I sang in the Choral small group and the Jr./ Sr. High School Choir at Phoenix Christian High School.
- 1993 -1994 I was selected to sing on the Arizona State All-Region and the All-State Choirs.
- In 1993 during my junior year of high school, I began to write music using the piano and wrote my first song. My sister Laurie, was the first person to hear this song as we sat together at the piano before she passed away. I always think of her as I play this special song.
- 1996- 1999 I met David Hilker, co-owner of Wild Whirled Recording Studios, and was taught some basic knowledge in sound recording/mixing and wrote several songs during my time with him.
- 2000- 2006 I continued writing songs using a laptop and midi keyboard while serving in the children's ministry and choir under Brad Eberly at Calvary Community Church.
- 2006- 2009 I was invited to serve on the Real Life Church's worship team under Luke Strahan.
- 2011- Present - I currently serve at Grace Church with the Worship Ministry under Marty Kelly and Michael Hoskinson singing on worship teams and in the church choir.