

Testimony of Jenny “The Jewel” Jenson
Church of the Messiah | April 17, 2022 | Resurrection Sunday

I want to share my testimony, from my heart to your ears. I was born with Down Syndrome 46 years ago. This makes some things very difficult for me. When I was younger, I spent a lot of time asking God, “Why did you make me with Down Syndrome...why can’t I be normal like other people? I told Him all the time that I didn’t like having Down Syndrome. I kept thinking that “if only” I didn’t have Down Syndrome I would be happy. I thought that somehow God made a mistake when He made me. My Mom and Dad always told me they loved me so deeply, and could not love me anymore, but somehow down deep in my heart I always wondered if they would love me more if I didn’t have Down Syndrome.

When I was in high school, the kids on the school bus were very mean to me...they laughed at me, and mocked me and called me all kinds of bad names. They even told me that my parents didn’t love me. That hurt me so deeply! When I got off the school bus in the afternoon I would be crying. My Mom met me at the door and we would talk and pray every day. She told me that people used to say bad things about Jesus and call Him names too, so He understood exactly how I felt. She told me that real truth is only found in God’s Word, and not in what other people say about you. She challenged me, because she knew I loved a challenge that if I could find anywhere in the Bible where God calls me bad names, or said I was a mistake, she would pay me \$5,000. I spent a lot of time reading in the Bible to find out what God said about me. All the Scriptures I found said just the opposite, so I never did get the \$5,000! Some of my favorite Scriptures are Psalm 139 verse 14, where God said “I am fearfully and wonderfully made; God tells me in Psalm 17 I am the apple of His eye; in Deuteronomy 7:5, God tells me that I am “His treasured possession.

In Philippians 4:8, God tells me to think about whatever is true, noble, right, pure, and lovely. I like to think about the truth that God tells me and spend my time thinking about what God says is true. The last Scripture I want to share is Psalm 119 verse 114 "You are my refuge and my shield. I have put my hope in Your Word." My confidence and hope is in God. I know now that instead of being a mistake, I am the Lord's treasured possession. I like to memorize Scripture and fill my mind with the truth of who God says I am. This understanding has made all the difference in my life. Now, I recognize that God has a plan for my life and He created me just the way I am, for His special purpose. I may still have Down Syndrome, but NOW, instead of saying "if only" I didn't have Down Syndrome, I say "so what...I will glorify God just the way He made me. I know He loves and cares for me with His whole heart. We have a choice to believe and fill our minds with God's truth, which will change our hearts, or listen to what other people say, and be sad. **It's a choice we must each make!** In Exodus 4:10...Moses tells God that he can't do what God told him to do because he was slow of speech and tongue. In verse 11...the Lord said to him..." Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." He made me, just the way He made me, for the special purpose I was created for. There is special work He has for me to do that can only be done by me...just the way He created me. If I spend my time wishing I was different, I will **never** get around to doing those things God wants me to do.

Sometimes Satan tries to put thoughts into my head and tell me that I am no good and stuff like that. That's when I remember the Scripture in John 10:10 that says... "The thief comes **only** to steal, kill and destroy. **I** have come that they may have life and have

it to the fullest.” When Satan tries to put lies into my head, I beat him over the head with the truth of God. I do it over and over again as long as I have to.

I know God has given me special gifts and talents, and my desire is to use them for His glory. I say it often and I mean it...I love my life! God does not make any mistakes...and that's the truth...no matter what we sometimes may think. As Proverbs 3:5-6 says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.

Jesus is my best friend, and I love Him with all my heart. I don't make any decisions without asking Jesus first. I want what God wants for my life, and I want to please Him in everything I do...nothing is more important than that! He is my reason for living, and He gives my life meaning. The best part of my day is the time I spend with the Lord. Jesus fills my heart with joy and excitement. I want to bring glory to His name. I can't even imagine my life without God. I am so thankful that my parents introduced me to Jesus so I could know Him and know the truth of who I really am. I am very happy to be in this church that knows, loves and worships Jesus. A place where everyone is welcomed, valued, and loved. I am happy that our church has a ministry to people with special needs.

If your heart is sad because you wish God had made you different, or if someone has hurt you in your past by telling you that you are worthless, or unwanted, or a mistake...**don't believe that** because that is **not the truth** of who you are. **Read in God's Word the truth of what He says about you, believe it and let Him change your heart.** You have to **believe** what God's says about you, because that is the **real truth. Nothing** is impossible with God. He certainly did change my heart. He is the only one who can

show you the truth about how wonderful you are, and reveal to you the special purpose He has for your life.

My Mom and I were talking some time ago about those hard painful times in high school I talked about earlier. What she helped me to understand was that if I **hadn't** gone through those hard times, where I searched the Scripture, I might have grown up **not knowing** the truth of God, which changed my life in such a powerful way. God used those hard times to teach me about His truth. We all have things in our life that we wish were different, but those are the very things that cause us to press into God. God doesn't always change our circumstances, but He gives us new eyes to see in the midst of the circumstance.

The Bible says in Ephesians 2:10... "We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for Good Works that God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." We can enter more fully into those good works when we know the truth of what God says about us, and who we are in Christ. I am happy when I have a chance to share the power of God's truth to change lives!

Please bow your head, I would like to pray a short prayer... "Lord, I pray for each one here, that **YOU** will fill their heart with **Your truth** of who they **really** are and how **much** you love them. Amen."