



From Muslim To Christianity

TWO JOURNEYS IN SEARCH OF LOVE

E's As An Adult. Amir's Starting As A Teen.



There are so many struggles and situations that we can't fully understand them until we are in that position. Life can be overwhelming, so we often tend to detach ourselves and compartmentalize our feelings when we hear of the stories of suffering. To begin, I'd like to share an article from Advancing Native Missions of the Middle East written by Dee Brookshire.

[\(https://advancingnativemissions.com/facing-family-when-a-muslim-becomes-a-christian/\)](https://advancingnativemissions.com/facing-family-when-a-muslim-becomes-a-christian/)

The article broaches the outcomes when a Muslim converts to Christianity. "In the most radical Muslim families, a convert is locked in a room and given three days to return to Islam. If they refuse, they are slaughtered. If they escape, they will be hunted by the family for years. If children are involved when a husband comes to Jesus, they are considered bastards because they no longer have a Muslim father. The children are either given to another family member or killed. In a less religious family, the Christian convert may be taken to the Imam, who may lead the family in beating the believer. If the convert is a woman, her family may force her to marry a Muslim cousin to avoid shame and scandal. Many have been restrained with ropes, burned with acid or hot oil, and subjected to electric shocks. Sometimes families have the Christian Convert committed to a mental institution, to convey the idea that to leave Islam is a sign of insanity. Other Christians are forced to leave home, family, and the only community they know."

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For a Muslim, the decision to serve Christ comes at a great cost and the road worship Christ freely can be dangerous. The Bible says in Matthew 10:34–35, "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'".

E's Story As An Adult

Even though being a Christian can be costly and dangerous, we see unspeakable joy when Muslim converts share their story. E's Story reveals "the peace that flooded my being when I discovered that that someone, Jesus Christ loved me, had a purpose for my life, and valued me

as a woman. These were wonderful memories for me". But E paid a tremendous price for her faith as she was locked in her room, and she was ultimately rejected by her family. She tore pages from a hidden bible, and she would memorize scripture and then flush the pages down the toilet. She was forced to marry a man her family believed was Muslim just to get rid of her. During this time, E prayed continuously for God to work things out on her behalf, and her faith grew stronger in Christ. "It was hard, but Jesus helped me. After the marriage, my husband and I both confessed Christ as Savior! It is wonderful to pray, learn about Christ, and serve God with someone else. God even gave us a son." Now, especially, we pray for our families. E was eventually able to lead her two sisters to accept Christ. Even her dying mother to squeeze the hand of E's son, indicating that she too had accepted Christ as her savior.

Amir's Story And Struggle

Starting As A Teen . . .



Amir (a fictitious name for her protection) became curious about God as a teenager because as she wanted to understand her purpose for living. That question constantly plagued Amir and her family (devout Muslims), but their answers never seemed to satisfy her. While working at Tim Hortons at age 16, Amir would ask her Christian co-worker questions, and they would share their faith with her. One of her friends gave her a bible which she hid from her family for two years. Her father found the Bible and told her to give it back. She only pretended to return it and hid it again. Because she had a car and her family trusted her, Amir was able to move freely.

Amazingly, for four years Amir kept herself rooted and grounded in the Word and encouraged to trust God even though she was not able to attend church or fellowship with other Christians. Amir would listen to Bible studies and worship services on her phone and other devices when her family was not home. As her faith grew, so did the challenge to keep her faith a secret. While in high school, Amir became excited about the newly released Nativity Movie in 2006. She convinced her friend to take her to see it. So, she completed all her school assignments, and skipped school the rest of the day to see the movie. Amir remembers she was so excited that she peppered her friend with question after question about the characters. She wanted to better understand the Christian story. The excitement was still evident as she told her as if it just happened, even though it was over 14 years ago. *See Google/The Nativity Story 2006".

Amir attended college while still living at home and her faith in God continued to grow stronger. By age 21, before completing her bachelor's degree, Amir decided that she no longer wanted to hide her faith from her family but feared verbal or possible physical abuse on account of

her faith and her decision to serve the true and Living God. She now believed Jesus Christ came to earth to redeem her from her sins and she had accepted His Great Gift of Eternal Life.

Amir decided she could stand it no longer and went to stay at a domestic violence shelter. After being there for seven days, she made one of the most important decisions of her life.

Amir left Michigan and went to Dallas, financed by Gateway Church Texas, which she learned from online worship with Kari Jobe. After hearing Amir's Story, the church paid her plane fair to move her from the YMCA Detroit Shelter in Aug 2010 to Dallas, Texas.



It was there that Amir fully embraced her Christian faith and she was God who gave her wonderful six years in Dallas. She was able to find housing and a job and eventually able to live independently. Amir recalls with great joy being able to freely worship and fellowship with other believers. Those years were among her most beautiful in all her life.

As time went on, Amir remembers that she was faced with an emotional dilemma. She was struggling with the joy of living out her faith and her Christian family while missing her own family. She had had no contact with them for over six years. In a moment of weakness, she says she

reached out to them, and they sent for her to come home. She did return home and was able to complete a bachelor's degree. But she felt her family, her father, brother, and mother, wanted control over her.



Amir says she regrets her decision to move back home because nothing had changed with her family. They wanted to dominate my life and monitor my activities. Amir says her family closely monitors her bank account spending and find other ways to track her personal habits and movements. They refuse to allow her to worship Jesus Christ openly. In addition, they feel it's their responsibility to find a husband for her. This

is a new challenge for Amir and one that she resists.

Despite these struggles, Amir continues to grow in the grace of God and says it's His peace that sustains her. With her mind stayed on the Lord, Amir says I am waiting for His direction and I trust that one day He will lead me to a place where I can openly serve and worship Jesus Christ.

