



Comedian Jerry Seinfeld jokes that the average person is more afraid of public speaking than they are of death. That is both humorous and true. But last month Gabby faced her fears, and shared her testimony in front of 350 students at our Cru meeting. I should let you know that it was only her third time at Cru.

As she took the stage you could tell that she was nervous. She grasped her notes in clammy hands and began to talk about her life in a shaky voice. None of this hindered our attention as an audience, because her story was filled with honesty, vulnerability, and excitement.

SHE BEGAN TO TALK  
ABOUT HER LIFE IN A  
SHAKY VOICE

Gabby described herself as someone who struggled with deep depression. Even though she was surrounded by friends, she felt unknown, and unloved. This caused her to ask many questions about her own value and worth. She doubted that anyone cared about the real Gabby.

All of this was shocking to hear, because Gabby is a very attractive girl. You wouldn't guess that she dealt with issues of self-image, but Gabby talked about how she hid all of these internal battles. Outwardly she seemed totally fine, but inwardly Gabby was insecure.

She wanted to feel validated and loved. Unfortunately, the Penn State culture makes it clear that guy/girl relationships are a way to authenticate our worth. In her deep depression and anxiety, Gabby began to pursue the affirmation of men. She entered the party scene hoping things would get better, but they got worse.



OUR RADIATE CONFERENCE

So how did she come to be at our Cru meeting? How did God move in her heart? The answer is that a good friend of hers, Olivia, pursued her and moved toward her. Gabby said there was something different about Olivia. While Gabby was hiding, Olivia seemed to be completely content with who she was. There was joy that was inexplicable

## PRAY WITH US



Pray for our retreat this weekend. We invited 50 Juniors and Seniors to really consider what God will be calling them to do in the next 40 years of their lives.

Pray that our staff team would continue to find our strength from the time we spend in prayer over the campus. It is easy for us to rely on ourselves.

Praise God for the 937 students at our Radiate conference. 30 accepted Christ for the first time, and 126 pledged to spend one year working in full-time ministry.

Praise God for the 27 Bible studies that are meeting all over campus. That's almost 50 total leaders that God has raised up to guide men and women through His word.

to Gabby. So, as Olivia and Gabby spent time together, Gabby learned about Jesus and about Cru. It wasn't long before Gabby gave her life to Christ. This is what gave her the courage to take the stage and share the things she'd tried so hard to hide.

This is so encouraging to me, because one of our main goals is to help students like Olivia reach out to those around them. We want our campus to be filled with followers of Christ so that God's light would shine in impenetrable places. In this story, Christ's light shined through Olivia and rescued Gabby. He has the power to do the same for so many others.

With Grateful Hearts,

*Tom + Joanna  
Spurlock*

