

Trisha Blake (Class of 2004)  
Des Moines Christian School testimony  
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**“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”  
2 Timothy 1:7**

My education at Des Moines Christian instilled into me these three characteristics given by God and enriched by my experiences at the school. First, God did not give me a spirit of timidity but of power; He gave me power to stand-up for my convictions. In all my classes at DMC, the teachers integrated the Bible and its teachings. We were made to memorize Bible verses, and though sometimes this seemed more difficult than the school subject, this Biblical foundation showed me that the only way to grow in God is to read and memorize His word. This also reinforced that my connection with the Lord was not bound to the rules of a religion but embodied by a personal relationship with Christ. This foundation gave me the power and courage to ask those I love most, my friends and family, the difficult questions about their faith. As Christians, we are called to be disciples, witnessing in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit. Des Moines Christian and its teachings empowered my witnessing. I can always recall times when I have been speaking with a non-believer, and an applicable Bible verse will pop into my head. This is the work of the Spirit’s power through me and Christ-centered education.

God gives us a spirit of love. The smaller classes and school allows for close relationships between students. My class, the class of 2004, was incredibly close. We laughed together, prayed together, served in the community together and developed a camaraderie that displays how Christian fellowship is vital to growth. Back at school, on a daily basis, every teacher, administrator and all other staff showed such love for each one of us. They evidenced their care by disciplining when needed but always cared most about the students and our education. My experiences at Des Moines Christian showed me that the love of God radiates from those who know and love Him. Each staff member at DMC had the love of God, and it showed on their faces.

Finally, as this verse states, the Lord gives us a spirit of self-discipline. I will never forget learning to be organized and disciplined in my studies throughout my education. I would not have succeeded to the stage of my life and career had it not been for my organizational foundation at Des Moines Christian, and by the grace of the Lord, I learned I have to take responsibility for my own actions. I learned that though it may be tough, the real world does not give many second chances. Sometimes, a tardy is a tardy or an assignment left at home is just that. One must be diligent and honest in their work, always putting forth your best effort and

never waiting until the last minute. The Lord's spirit of self-discipline and learning from my own "oops" developed my conscientiousness in my career and life today.

I attribute all of my successes to God's power, love and self-discipline instilled in me. I could not have accomplished my education and career goals without meditating on this verse and thanking God for his spirit. Christ gives me the power to live daily for Him, loving others and working with self-discipline by his grace.

As an alumna, I have given financially to this school because I believe in its vision. The foundation from Des Moines Christian was invaluable to my life. The teachers, administrators and staff live by the mission of Christ-centered education, Biblical integration and most importantly showing God's love to each and every student. I believe in Christian education and the vital role it plays in shaping a child's worldview. I would ask that you would please share in the vision of this school and the mission to educate students to have strong convictions and a power to share God's grace, an unfaltering love for Christ, and the self-discipline to finish the race He has placed before us. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

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*Trisha Blake is the daughter of Roger and Junior High science teacher Karen Blake. She graduated from Drake University in 2007 with a degree in Accounting and received her Masters Degree and CPA in 2009. At age 23, she is the youngest CPA with a Masters Degree in Iowa.*