

A Closer Look

“For every one step forward, I took two steps back . . . the more I tried to find myself, the more of myself that I lost and the further I felt from God,” says Lindsey Phillips of his lost years.

From the time his mother knew of his conception, she anointed her stomach every day, praying that he would live for the Glory of the Lord, and if this wasn't to be her newborn's mission that the Lord would take him at birth. At the age of five he performed in front of audiences in upwards of 500 people. He traveled with his grandfather evangelizing throughout the Appalachian Mountain chain. During this time Lindsey faced the divorce of his parents. A single mother and his grandparents would raise him. His grandfather not only became his mentor, but also his father figure.

Throughout his young life, Lindsey entered contests, eventually being sought out at the age of eleven by Nashville producer Porter Wagner. His mother felt that such a step would have been too much for an impressionable eleven-year-old boy and that his spiritual growth was far more important. At twelve years old and with the first song he had ever written, he entered a Share the Fun 4-H contest and won. That same year Lindsey competed at the state level and took second place. He would make a showing at the state level four more times. It was clearly evident that his mother's prayers were being answered.

With his move to college, Lindsey found himself in a backsliding state. Trying not only to fit in, but also trying to discover who he was. This was the true beginning of Lindsey's struggle between good and evil. This is where his real travels began. Lindsey's focus on God and music became replaced by sports and girls. It seemed to Lindsey that he could succeed at virtually anything, but when victory was at the tip of his fingers it would slip away.

Lindsey walked-on to his college cross-country team and earned a scholarship that same day. He ran times that competed with the national level, but a knee injury ended his running career early. Depressed and upset, he tried his luck at the javelin. Throwing further than even the coach he earned a throwing scholarship. He then won gold at the KU Relays and went on to qualify for the National Junior College Track & Field Championship where he ranked fourteenth in the nation. All within three months of picking up the javelin. And although personal success and hard work surrounded Lindsey, he struggled with a bad attitude that ultimately led to his coach dismissing him from the team. He quit college due to a lack of money and began to work.

In his time after college, he began to hang out in the wrong places and with the

wrong people. Every step he took was a giant leap away from God. He ended up as a bouncer at one of the roughest bars in Kansas City. Every night brought about a new fight. As always, in the back of his mind he knew that he was not in the will of God. With that thought, he quit and settled down.

Although settling down changed his lifestyle, it did not change his heart. He met the most amazing girl in the world and knew that he would marry her. At the time, both Lindsey and his girlfriend were very complacent in their lives. He had a great job as a carpenter and had all but forgotten his music, except for occasional writing. They dated for three years and Lindsey saved up for a ring. Unfortunately, his fairy tale ended with the passing of his grandfather. Lindsey thought long and hard about whom would take the place of that incredible man. As quickly as the thought passed through his mind, it came back: "If not you, then who?" That thought echoed in Lindsey's mind consistently for about a year. The Holy Spirit relentlessly tugged at his heart and finally brought him to his knees. "...it was only then that I realized what it meant to be broken before the Lord." Lindsey would learn further down the road what this statement would really mean. Because he uncovered his first love, Christ, he would lose the love of his life, as well as all of the friendships that had been built upon the sands of his "former" life. The girl who was once the woman of his dreams now became his stumbling block and he made the hardest decision of his life: He simply walked away.

His will to keep his life real and to remember where it is that he came from, allows Lindsey's music to revolve around real struggle and human relationship. He feels that his life experiences are recreated in his music and have the potential to touch all that listen. "Following my calling is contingent upon the belief that what I do and what I have given up would be meaningless were it not for the Lord." Lindsey continually returns to his roots and the experiences with his grandfather and the thought remains, "If not you, then who?"