

The Painful Injury That Drew This Memorable TV Star to the Lord

Atticus Shaffer has been making audiences laugh for the past decade with his comical portrayal of “Brick,” the youngest of the three Heck children on ABC’s popular sitcom *The Middle*.

Shaffer, whose nine-year performance officially comes to an end when the series finale airs on May 22, is also an outspoken Christian who openly shares how his faith has guided him through difficult times.

Shaffer, 19, was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, also known as brittle-bone disease, a painful genetic disorder that is characterized by easily broken bones.

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He recently revealed on *’s Pure Talk* that a painful injury due to the disorder a few years back led him to think more deeply about God—and salvation.

“I really committed to Christianity when I was 15,” Shaffer said. “I just knew I had that draw to say, ‘I need to know the Lord. I need to know where I stand. I need to pick a side.’”

Shaffer got baptized in 2015 and hasn’t looked back. Watch him describe his struggles, triumphs and how he came to faith:

The actor also noted that his struggles with the genetic disorder have helped him to be more “empathetic and compassionate,” as he has had to endure –and overcome–extreme pain.

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"I do know pain. I've had many fractures in my life ... I've had plates, screws, rods put in through all my legs, my back is in an s-curve because of it," Shaffer said. "[My disorder has] helped me to be more empathetic and be more compassionate. You get placed in situations where you have to depend on God."

Shaffer also discussed his iconic role as "Brick," a character whom he described as a "role model"—an example of truly living with authenticity.

"The character of Brick ... there's something so important about him in today's times," he said. "Because he is a role model character. He shows it's OK to be unique."

Shaffer said he will miss the cast and crew of *The Middle*, as they formed a family-like bond over the years. The actor also discussed the show's ability to stick to its moral foundations, remaining a safe option for family friendly viewing throughout its nine seasons.

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"It's been nothing but an adventure," Shaffer said. "We really stuck with the morals that we had."

Issues were approached on the show, he said, from a realistic perspective.

"We took real life situations ... that happen," Shaffer said. "It was really sticking to the morals and a lot of the storylines were based on things that the writers went through themselves."

In the end, the actor encouraged Christians to remember that they can have a major impact in secular industries.

"I think we can do some of the best work in the secular world as Christians," he said, encouraging people to be respectful and set good examples for non-believers. "We've been called

upon to be lights in the world.”

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