

Bruna Castro - Testimony

I was raised by an agnostic father and a half-Catholic mother.

At the age of 14, I had my confirmation. That same year, my sister, who was involved in the evangelical movement in my city, invited me to a party at her church. I went because a free party at 14 sounded great. To my disappointment, it turned out to be a baptism.

It was probably the first time I attended an evangelical worship service, and I was shocked by the freedom of worship among those people. They were crying, laughing, shouting hallelujahs, and calling on God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. For a second, it felt very irreverent, but then I sank into a bench and realized I was the only one who had no relationship with God.

A year later, I was in that baptismal tank, giving my life to Christ. There were no more priests between Him and me, no more repetitive prayers to relieve me from my sins, no more novenas or processions behind an icon. I met Him and entered His presence. The veil was torn, and I could see it.

Unfortunately, I didn't discuss this decision with my troubled family, and as I walked inside my home, my mom noticed my wet hair and asked what I had done. I told her I had done the most wonderful thing I could ever do: I had accepted Christ. In a rage, she hit me, put half of my belongings in the front yard, and shut the door. Despite my sadness about being physically abused, I knew my mother was ignorant and needed mercy, not revenge. And God did restore my relationship with her too.

At the age of 17, I met Gabe. Gabe is a big part of my journey with God. He held my hand. He taught me how to hold a Bible, how to find the books, and he taught me theology, doctrine, Bible history, geography, etc. But most of all, Gabe taught me how to love, serve, pray, and trust God. He is my spiritual leader, my friend, my confidant, and most of all, he is a mirror of Christ to me. When we lost three babies, he pointed me to Christ daily. These past six years here in the States have been hard but so rewarding. We grew in faith, knowledge, and wisdom. And God used every person and situation in our lives for His glory.

It doesn't matter how you're brought up or your current life situation. God is still good, and He has the best plans for our souls. He cares about every detail.

I'm thankful for this church family that loves without measure and has supported us in so many ways.