

Enjoy Being You

By. Sis. Cinthia Calvillo

Before we begin, I want to share a portion of my testimony. I was born in The Church of Jesus Christ and I was blessed as a baby, but for various reasons my family was away for many years. I came back when I was 15 years old and was baptized at 16. It was truly a beautiful day! I married a minister of the Church and now we have a beautiful family with two lively children.

Today I want to share a bit of my experience with dealing with one of my own worst enemies: myself.

It sounds strange, to be at war with oneself, but it's true. We are often the worst enemies of our soul when we let ourselves be discouraged or meander about our service to God and living in righteousness. Confused? You'll see what I mean.

I gave my life to Christ at age 16, and spent the next 10 years trying to change and become a different Cinthia. At this point, you may be thinking, *are we not supposed to change when we come to Christ and become new creatures in Him?*

And that answer is...of course! Those who know me in person know that I am very extroverted, I like to talk, sing, laugh; I love to be involved in everything, but when I first came to the Church, I looked to so many young people who for me were, and still are, excellent women of God. They were worthy to guide others by the ways of the King, but the honest truth was that I was nothing like them! And I do not mean physically, but they were quiet, more patient, they sang well, they were always smiling, they always said words of encouragement to me (surely you can think of someone who is like this in your own branch), and I then found myself trying to be like them.

I prayed, I fasted, I pleaded, I cried, I tried **everything** and guess what? I got nothing. God had been polishing my life, and He changed many of my bad habits, He had made me a better person, but I

was still me, and I found myself trying to be someone else completely.

My hope is that as you read this you understand that from the moment of your very existence, you have been gifted with talents, aptitudes, and a unique personality from God to do wonderful things on this earth.

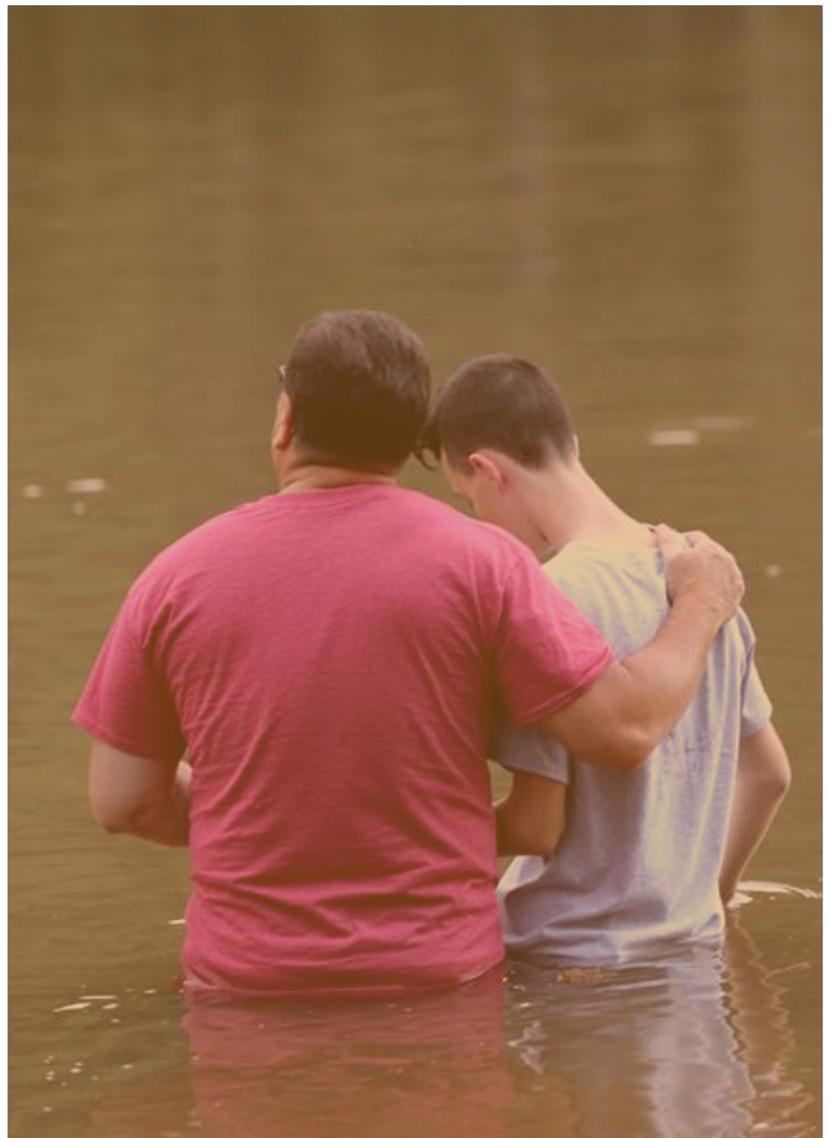


Photo by Duane Werley

With time and the help of God I understood that my joy and my lack of fear when it came to speaking up or speaking in front of others all served a purpose in the hands of God. We must not forget that He endowed us with a spirit of self-control and that we should be governed by the order of our Church and our God.

But do not deny yourself of who you are.

If you happen to be a quiet one, glory to God for it! You will be able to listen to others attentively. If you happen to be the outspoken one, glory to God! You can spread joy and scatter love.

One more thing before I sign off, few would recognize me if they saw a photo of me when I was 13 or 14 years old. I dressed completely in black, listened to music that was far from praising God, I experienced different feelings within myself and my heart was broken. I still remember the times I thought I'd be better off committing suicide. I remember one night in particular, I was only 15 years old and I felt nothing was worth living for, I was crying in my room and it was late and I felt that no one was listening

to me. I said to myself: "Whoever it is, get me out of this and I will do whatever you want, I do not know who is real, Satan, Buddha, Jesus, any god that can, get me out of this feeling."

I felt so very broken. And I am sure you can imagine how the story ended!

CHRIST STEPPED IN TO SAVE ME BECAUSE **HE** IS THE ONLY ONE THAT COULD HAVE LIFTED ME UP!

When I gave my life to the Lord, I recalled that night and how He answered me, so I decided that I would never walk with my head down, that my face and my clothes would never be dark again, and I allowed God to transform me into the joyful person that I am today.

So let us not judge others by their seriousness or their open personality, let us seek where we can use our natural born gifts and talents to serve others and our Redeemer.

Enjoy who you are, knowing that in the wisdom of God, He created you in the best possible version.

God bless you.



This article was originally written in Spanish, and we feel that although it is great in English, there are always pieces that get lost in translation. So we'd like to share the part near the end in Spanish, where the author shares about her experience in her early teens. Her declaration is powerful in English too, but we hope that you can see (whether you speak English or Spanish or any language), that the power of God transcends languages to speak to everyone.

“Les voy a compartir una última cosa, pocos me reconocerían si vieran una foto mía de cuando tenía 13 o 14 años, vestía completamente de negro, escuchaba música que lejos de alabar a Dios me unía a sentimientos y seres distintos, mi corazón estaba roto, aún recuerdo las veces que pensé en mejor suicidarme; recuerdo una noche en particular, tenía solo 15 años y sentía que nada valía la pena, estaba llorando en mi cuarto, era ya tarde, nadie me oía y dije para mí: “Quien sea sáqueme de esto y haré lo que quieras, no sé cuál es el real, Satán, Buda, Jesús, cualquier dios que pueda, sáqueme de este sentir”. Tan triste me sentía. Y ya se imaginan como terminó la historia ¡CRISTO VINO A SALVARME! ¡POR QUÉ ES EL ÚNICO QUE PUEDE LEVANTARTE!”