

A Mighty Work of God: The Salvation of Miranda

By: Miranda Corriz

Truly the Lord hath wrought a mighty work in my soul!

I. Background

Ever since I can remember, I grew up going to a church called Calvary Chapel in New Mexico. As I started getting older, it seemed that all I would hear from the pastors was that God loved me, He died for me, and that all I had to do to be saved was to accept Jesus into my heart by saying a prayer. I would go to church every Sunday, and I became religious in form because that was just what my family did. When I got into high school, I fell into wicked sins, and my conscience convicted me every time so that by the time Sunday came around I would just repeat the prayer again. Through this two-minute prayer, I was again and again instantly justified in my sin and would receive a false peace. Jeremiah 23:21-22 says, *"I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings."*

During my freshman year, when I was 14, I was diagnosed with a heart condition called ventricular tachycardia, which means rapid heartbeat. There is no history on either side of my family of anyone that has had this condition. When I found out about it, I was able to choose if I wanted to have surgery. I decided to do that, and at that time I began to say to God, "If this surgery works then I'll follow you." After four hours they weren't able to finish the surgery. If they had finished the surgery, then I would have been forced to have a pacemaker at age 14. The doctors said that I'm one of the 3% of people that have this diagnosis in a certain area of my heart; so my parents chose to do medication instead. I then hardened my heart toward God, and when I reached my senior year I fell into more wickedness and came to the point where I just didn't care about God. I had resolved in my heart to do what I wanted and live my own life. I knew that when I decided I wanted to follow after God, I would just pray the prayer again. All I ever heard was forgiveness and that I can choose my own salvation whenever I want, so I did what was right in my own eyes. Proverbs 14:12 says, *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

My heart condition worsened, and I decided to try the surgery again. I then said the same thing to God, "If this surgery works, then I'll follow you." Hours later I woke up wondering and asking if the surgery had worked. All that the doctors could tell me was no and that they found no traces of me ever having ventricular tachycardia. I just didn't understand why the surgery failed. I then hardened my heart again, so by the time I hit college I was in more wickedness of drinking, immorality, and doing drugs all the time. My conscience was seared, and my face was never filled with shame. I was a reckless sinner. Nonetheless, through these times of much darkness, God was starting to draw me. In light of this a scripture comes to my heart: Romans 11:10-11 - *"Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come..."* I remember almost every time I tried going out or tried to enjoy my sin, God would always allow me to get busted, either by my parents or the authorities. I was so rebellious, self-willed, and stubborn that it didn't matter to me; I still kept hardening my heart to the drawing of God

to salvation. I no longer cared about my health or my heart condition but was in complete bondage to my sin. John 3:19 says, *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”* I loved my sin, and I didn't want to repent from my evil ways.

My heart condition came back again and got really terrible many times, especially when I would do drugs and drink. I would get so fearful that I was going to die, but afterward I just couldn't stop; I had no power over my sin that I loved. After a one month long heart monitor that the doctors put me on, my heart got so bad that I had to be rushed to the ER. My heart rate was at 180 and wouldn't go down, even with all the medication they were giving me - it just seemed to make my heart worse. I began to weep and knew that if I died I would go to hell. I knew that the Lord would say to me, *“I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity”* (Matthew 7:23). I was under so much anxiety and agony. I was throwing up, and my heart was beating so hard and so fast that I thought it was going to stop altogether. I was fearful, and I began to cry out to God that He would save me and that I would follow Him. After that, my heart rate went down, and the doctors gave me the right medication and told me that I now have supraventricular tachycardia. They left me with medication to take. I thought that the Lord had saved me then. It was late October of 2009.

I was freed from all addictions. I cut off all my friends that I was hanging out with at that time. I went to church almost every day, became a leader in three different ministries, read my bible all the time, and I would even weep over souls. My prayers would even get answered, but I still wasn't saved. I loved so much that was in the world, and I loved my life. At this time I was in cosmetology school to get my license to be a hairstylist. I would speak and tell whoever I could about God and would even get in trouble for it. All I wanted was everyone to know about the Jesus that I thought I knew. I was so blind; I became a religious Pharisee without even knowing it. My teachers began to exalt me in my school. I had many clientele, and a job was lined up for me for after graduation. I would think to myself, "God is blessing me," when truthfully, I was given over to the lusts of my evil heart. I was not following the things pertaining to godliness and holiness but the things of this world and the lusts thereof, thus I was under a deceitful delusion of the devil (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). I began to fall back into certain sins when Satan snared me with a boyfriend. I would get so broken over my sin and would weep and weep over it. I was still in complete bondage to my sin and sin did I serve. As the bible says, *“Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin”* (John 8:34). I was soon to be married to this boyfriend, but shortly after that, the Lord used him to break me when he left me without a cause. It destroyed everything, and I was so broken.

II. The Drawing of God

After this time, I became more religious, and around January 2011 the Lord led me to Eric Corriz, who became my beloved husband December 2011. In between this time, the Lord started showing me many things in the scriptures that were contrary to what the men I considered my pastors were teaching. I knew that something was missing, and I felt like I was just gaining head knowledge about God. I had a good *“form of godliness but denied the power thereof”*; I was *“ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (2 Timothy 3:5,7). All I wanted was to really know God. I began to ask the Lord in truth, "What is your will for my life? I want to do your will, Lord." John 7:17 says, *“If any man will do His will, he shall know*

of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." Praise God for drawing sinners with His cords of love. Along with these prayers, I began to pray that the Lord would open any door for me to come to know Him more. I didn't tell anyone I was praying this, because I wanted to know that this open door, if it came, was truly of God. A couple weeks later, Eric and I talked on the phone, and he told me that he just got off the phone with his friend Masao, who invited Eric and me to visit his church in Texas. All he told me was to pray if it was the Lord's will for me to go and visit. After getting off the phone, I then in my heart asked the Lord if this was His will, and if this was the door that was being opened to me before my eyes.

God began to show me the strait gate and the cost to follow Christ in truth: to be able to forsake all for Him, hating my father, mother and even my own life also to be His disciple, as he commands in his Word (Matthew 7:13 and Luke 14:26-33). The words that the Lord kept speaking to me were, *"Follow Me."* Also, I had always been drawn to this verse in the scripture, *"Immediately they left all and followed Christ"*, and I knew that in my heart I kept making excuses like in Matthew 8:21-22, *"And a certain scribe came, and said unto Him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus saith unto him, the foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head. And other of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, suffer me first to go bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead."* Also in Luke 9:61-62 it says, *"And another said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first bid them farewell, which are at home at my house."* Nevertheless, every question or care I had in my heart, God answered. It was so shocking to me how the Lord confirmed this was truly His will to come. At the same time Satan tried doing everything to keep me in New Mexico by using the means of taking my car, phone, money, and turning all my friends and family against me. The Lord was faithful to show me that it would happen *beforehand*. He also confirmed again His will by showing me this scripture in Luke 9:3-4, *"And He said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor script, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide."*

I truly was alone and started getting so much reproach. I was told that I was being brainwashed and other slanderous things. Barely anyone heard my side of the story but rather judged me based upon what they heard from others. Proverbs 18:13 says, *"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."* I knew this was God though - I couldn't deny it; He had shown me so clearly through His Word. My parents then set up an appointment with the pastor at Calvary Chapel in Los Lunas, New Mexico. In the meeting, I was weeping as I was telling him all that the Lord had shown me and that I knew without a shadow of a doubt this was His will. The pastor then asked me, "So what's your vision? What's your vision? If this is the Lord's will, you will have no contention and everyone will be at peace." In light of this counsel, the Lord revealed this passage to me later on in Jeremiah 23:16-18, *"Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Harken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD. They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace, and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you. For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard His word? Who hath marked His word, and heard it?"* It was so amazing to me how much mercy He had in showing me so much truth and light; especially that these pastors from Calvary Chapel were false prophets. Before the Lord had shown me this scripture, after I got out from the meeting with the pastor, I became really confused and didn't understand...but I just continued to seek God more. 1 Corinthians 14:33 says, *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."*

III. Lost and Undone in Texas

From then on I kept praying that if this was still the Lord's will that He would bring me to Texas. Truly against all odds, when everything seemed impossible, with a Strong and Outstretched Arm the Lord displayed His Power and His Sovereign Hand in bringing me to Texas. It was such a miracle in and of itself; I was blown away by God's mercy in bringing me here. Shortly after I came to Texas, the Lord mightily revealed to me that I had never been saved. He showed me that my idolatrous desire of being a hairstylist and loving the vanities of this life confirmed my condemnation before God. 1 John 2:15-16 cut to my heart. It says, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."* Much that was involved in the hair industry tended towards vanity and the pride of life. It was evidently clear that I loved my life and loved the things of this world. But, *"he that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal"* (John 12:25). Also James 4:4, *"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."* I was friendly. I got along with everyone, and was well spoken of by all men. Luke 6:26 says, *"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets."* Scripture said it plainly that I was truly an enemy of God. It crushed me so much. I was broken. I knew without a doubt that I was lost, yet everything in me tried to justify that I was still saved, but I couldn't deny it. No matter how I "felt," no matter how much I thought I "loved" God in time past, the Word of God says, *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other..."* (Matthew 6:24) If you love the world, you hate Him.

Right after that Satan came in like a flood, speaking "peace, peace" to me when there was no peace: I was wicked and I loved my life more than God. Pastors called me trying to subvert me; my family and friends tried to subvert me as well. It was such a grief and hindrance to my salvation. I even had the police called on me without a cause who, when I had explained my situation, saw no fault in my behavior in coming to Texas. He had told me, "Maybe you should send them (my family) a card," letting them know I was okay; I had already told my parents that I was leaving and that it was the Lord's will, even giving them a letter explaining all the scriptures that confirmed my decision in going. Satan and all the powers of hell did everything and offered anything that my flesh would want to cause me to go back to New Mexico when God was calling me to seek His face in Texas. It was terrible. I knew in my heart that I wasn't a child of God because He showed me plainly through His scripture. I also knew that the only way to be saved was to walk in the light that was given to me by obeying the voice of God to stay in Texas.

I always thought God loved me but hated my sin, but the Lord showed me that God is angry with the wicked every day in Psalm 7:11, and also that the Lord hates all workers of iniquity in Psalm 5:5. Truly, *"Salvation is of the Lord"* (Jonah 2:9). Romans 9:15-16 writes, *"For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy."* It's so shocking! The whole time, since I cried out to God in the hospital room, I had thought, "I'm surrendering my life to the Lord and I'm going to live for Him only." I marked

that as my salvation because I had made a decision I was going to start living for Him, when truly He is the one that chooses when and whom He saves. It's all His sovereign mercy.

Habakkuk 1:12 declares, *"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity."* I then began to not understand how a Holy, Pure, Righteous, Just God can look on an unsaved person when His eyes are so pure; He can't even behold evil. Praise the Lord, Psalm 34:18 says, *"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."* Day after day, night after night I cried out that the Lord would have mercy on my soul, that He would save me. And He didn't. He just kept passing me by and showed me more and more of the hidden idols in my heart that I needed to forsake. Because Luke 14:33 says, *"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."* I feared the Lord so much, knowing my wretched state before a Holy and Just God. His wrath was continually upon me, and I kept crying out to the Lord as if hell was opening up underneath me. I was afraid to even go to bed because I thought if I fell asleep the Lord was going to kill me. I then began to know the fear of the Lord. Job 28:28, *"Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."* I was so disgusted with myself; I knew I was a cursed thing. I couldn't even look at myself in the mirror, knowing I was a child of the devil, unconverted, and I began to truly hate my life so much because all that I could see was my sin. Isaiah 59:1-2 crushed me; it says, *"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."* Psalm 145:18-19 reads, *"The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them."*

IV. Forgiven and Saved

I sought the Lord with my whole heart that I might find Him. I was utterly broken and helpless because I knew that I couldn't save myself; it was all up to the Lord. The Lord showed me again His full wrath through the preaching of His Word, and my entire body was trembling about all of His fierce judgments that were upon me. His wrath was so fearful for me to behold. I just knew that there was no hope for me; I was hopeless...but Isaiah 66:2b says, *"...to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."* Then the preaching turned to the atonement of Christ which I have heard so many times throughout my life, but this time was different. Even though I knew that Jesus had died on that cross, it was so impossible for me to believe. All I had to do was believe and I just couldn't! It broke me. I had the head knowledge, but I couldn't muster up this faith on my own. Truly it is a gift! It is not of ourselves; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8). Days went by, and I still wasn't saved. But I didn't give up; I kept crying out to the Lord for him to have mercy on me that He would save me. Another day went by, and He still didn't save me. The Lord had not granted me the saving faith to believe on His Son.

Jesus says in his Word to *"STRIVE to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:24). I kept seeking the Lord with my whole heart, and the Lord revealed this scripture to me in John 14:18, *"I will not leave you Comfortless: I will come to you."* Also in verse 23, *"Jesus answered and said unto them, if a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."* Through those scriptures the Lord started giving me a little bit of faith to believe that He was going to

save me. I then got desperate with the Lord. I was on my face so much crying out to God, pleading and striving with Him, pouring out my soul unto God. And then...out of nowhere, He flooded me with so much Peace and Joy! The words that spoke to my soul were, *"It is finished."* My soul truly felt like I was lifted up out of hell and all my sins were washed clean through His blood. I felt so clean. I was just weeping. At the same time, I didn't want to receive a false assurance; I refused to receive a false peace, but I knew that the Lord would confirm me through scripture if I had been born of His Spirit (John 3:5). During this time I went on to the next chapter that I was going to read, John 15. John 15:1-4 says, *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."* It was through verse 3 that the Lord confirmed me especially saying, *"Now ye are Clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."*

So much Joy flooded my soul; I was so overwhelmed that I could not stop weeping. I then prayed that the Lord would put it on some of the women's hearts here at this church that I was saved because I didn't want it to be based upon my emotions. The Lord then quickened to me John 15:7, *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you; ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."* Shortly after the Lord confirmed it to three of the sisters here that I was saved before I even shared my testimony, it was surprising. Immediately afterward Satan came in like a flood telling me that God hadn't saved me. I was being so attacked in my mind, and I fell into unbelief that the Lord had ever done a work in my soul. I was still seeking for confirmation: for the Lord to either confirm me or to save me, if He hadn't yet. The next day He gave me so much revelation: a vision of Christ on the Cross, this perfect lamb, this wondrous sacrifice, and I truly could hear God's just wrath being poured out on my behalf so that I could be pardoned. I felt like the Lord was telling me as He did to Thomas in John 20:27, *"Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless but believing."* He truly gave me the faith to believe, and He had spoken to my soul these words, "I have forgiven you." I knew without a shadow of a doubt that I was indeed forgiven and saved! He showed Himself so mightily in the power of His salvation on my soul, I couldn't deny it.

V. The Fruits of Salvation

The Lord has never been so real to me before; my eyes are truly open now, and scripture has never been so alive! Truly I can say that *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"* (Galatians 2:20). Being made a new creature in Christ, truly ALL things have become NEW! The sin that I once loved and was in complete bondage to, I now hate and have power to overcome it through Christ Jesus. I no longer love my life unto death but have been given grace from God to die daily that Christ may reign in this mortal flesh. Before, I was self-willed and did whatever my carnal heart desired, but now I delight to do the will of God. Christ through His grace has given me power to be Holy as He is Holy and to walk even as He walked. I now put my life in subjection to His Holy Scripture, and His commandments that were once grievous to me are now a pure delight to my soul! Jesus has become the Lord of my life and I desire no longer to save it.

The scripture has it right when it says in Mark 8:35, *“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it.”* Passing from death to life, I can say that I am born again. What a Miracle of God to take a vile, wicked, hell-deserving, wretched sinner, giving them a new heart of flesh and taking out the heart of stone through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit. Truly the cry of every awakened sinner is... *“Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is IMPOSSIBLE; but with God all things are possible”* (Matthew 19:25-26). Praise the LORD!