

A Journey from Questioning God to Fully Trusting Him

A testimony of Patrice W. Kabore

I. Growing Up

I grew up in a Christian home and I remember when I was seven my parents came back from Bible School (IBTI England) to pastor a church in the village of Kunda in Burkina Faso. Because the village was in a remote area of Burkina Faso, and there was no school in that location, half of my childhood was spent in relatives' homes in bigger city where I could get my education. Nevertheless, I have vibrant memory of scenes I witnessed in the village during my summer vacations. To this day I still talk about some of these events with my mom.

Our home was like a shelter for sick people. Those who strongly marked my memory are those who were demon possessed. My father would pray and fast for them. Paul, an animist was one of them. After God set him free from his violent condition, he decided to get rid of all his idols he thought was gods. On a Sunday afternoon, he brought to the church a dirt bowl in which we found an animal's tail, a little sac and some other objects. My dad instructed us to burn them outside the church. I found it to be fun. We made fire with straw, but every time the flames reached those "magical objects," they kept rolling a couple of feet away from the fire. We chased them seven to eight feet away from the original spot. Someone suggested that we call on my dad to pray over it before we burn it. After we prayed, those objects never moved again and were totally consumed by the fire. That was a demonstration of God's power over the power of darkness. But that did not make me a Christian. Like many others, I thought that growing up around Christians would make me a natural Christian. I remember going to the altar and saying the sinner's prayer at the age of seven, but up to this point I did not personally know God.

II. My Questions About God

October 18th 1986 my father passed away in a car accident. I thought it was over for me. A struggle began inside of me. I started questioning God.

1. Is God Real?

I challenged God to prove Himself to me. Totally lost in my emotional pain, there was no entertainment that could give me joy. As I was

going through this time of thinking and searching for answers, I was invited to perform with a band that was selected to lead worship during a big Crusade with Rev. Reinhard Bonnke. He was said to be a powerful Man of God. The commercial they ran on television was an open call for people who are sick and suffering to come and get miraculously healed. I told God that this was His opportunity to show me what He could do. I stood on the platform with the band right next to the evangelist Bonnke, watching to see what would happen. The place was crowded with millions of people. I don't remember seeing that many people before. There were people all the way to the horizon. I stood there longing for a demonstration. After a simple message that I heard so many times, the preacher began to call on people who were sick. People came by thousands and many were healed instantaneously. I saw the preacher testing a girl who was deaf with both ears. I saw cripples walk on the platform throwing their wheelchairs. It was such a powerful moment that I could not help but cry. I went home with tears realizing that I could not doubt the existence of God any more. Not only He exists, but also He is all Powerful.

Now, knowing that God exist did not give me any peace, or joy. Still, I sorrowed and longed for an answer to another question I had. "I know that you exist, and you are so powerful. I saw the miracles in other people's life, but do you care about me?" That was my second question.

2. Does God Care About Me?

I played in the band the rest of the crusade thinking that I might win favor of the "All-Powerful" God. I started fasting and praying and not knowing even how to pray in these circumstances. Needless to say, I did not have any peace, nor joy in my heart. One night I went to sleep and had a dream. "I found myself in a religious place. It was dark. There were a lot of people and more were still making their way to that place. We were waiting for a service to start, but nothing was happening. I started to feel unhappy. But the moment I looked around for a way out, I saw giant walls, and guards. No one could escape from that place. My sadness increased and I became desperate. But a Man with extreme kindness walked up to me, and asked me if I would like to get out. Like a child I responded to Him, that I wanted nothing else but to get out. Then He said to me: Follow me. The moment He said that, I saw guards run to the south side shouting, "the walls are falling let's go quickly. No one should escape."

The Man led me to the north side where the walls fell as we approached. As we run away from that place, I saw a huge bright light and my heart filled with joy. For the first time I had hope and I was done with darkness. Then in front of me I saw a deep and large hole that separates me from the Light. The Man said to me “do not look at the hole just jump and come to the light. He was already on the other side where the light was. As I look behind I saw that all the guards were after me with bows and arrows. I believed what the man said, closed my eyes and jumped. I found my self in the light. Then I woke up and was filled with indescribable joy.

III. My Experience With God

Since that time I’ve discovered the “All-Loving” God who gave His Son to die on the cross for all of my mistakes. Suddenly, I could talk to Him without fear. I had joy, and peace. I became a different person from that day on. I realized, I was saved from the darkness of religion. An awesome relationship started between God and me. Not only did I know without a shadow of doubt that He cares about me, but also I have that confidence that I can trust Him in all circumstances.

If you are reading my testimony, and haven’t yet experience a divine encounter with the Creator, It is possible for you to do so. God has chosen a very simple way for us to connect with Him. All we have to do is ‘BELIEVE’ in His Son JESUS Christ. Not only He forgives our sins and gives us joy evermore, but He also gives us eternal life.