

# DIVINE MERCY

*“But God who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with CHRIST, (by grace you have been saved), raised us up with HIM in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come, He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:4-7)*

Since 2005, many life changing events occurred in my life somewhat every year thereafter. It left me emotionally paralyzed, brokenhearted, confused, physically drenched, and lost. I really didn't understand at first why it was all happening to me; oftentimes, people just try to reassure me and said that God will never give us anything that we cannot handle in life. I often thought then of how much a person can endure and when will it ever be enough?

I lost my mother and my husband only seven months apart. Our mom battled a long progressive deterioration of her heart most of her adult life. I always asked God to be merciful and let her go in peace to end her suffering, but she lived long enough to be worthy of God's salvation.

When my husband's unexpected death occurred, I found myself in a totally different situation. I was so brokenhearted and helpless. My children were so devastated and lost and looked up to me for strength; but my feeling of isolation intensified and I became bitter. My quivering faith turned cold; I stopped going to church, and even the simplest prayer was difficult to utter. My anger blinded me from holding on to my faith and trusting in the Lord. I was in complete solitude until I decided to find myself in God's mercy once again. I went back to church, and with such a repentive heart, I asked the Lord for His divine mercy and forgiveness. I cried and begged to please take me back; His lost lamb that has gone astray. I was seeking for HIM to fill that void I have created in my heart. As I was leaving the church, I was invited to join the Solo Parent ministry and accepted without hesitation.

My life since BLD has opened up my eyes to understand all of God's plans for us. As we are all broken and sinful, we learn that HE is the only fulfillment we need and depend on to face all our weaknesses. It is through our weaknesses that we find our greatest strength in the midst of our trials. I have finally found the inner peace of God's presence in my life.

A year after my husband died, I lost my youngest child from a horrific, senseless tragedy. I lost my home and everything that I have owned when my house was set ablaze along with her. The loss of my child was excruciating, unbearable, and unimaginable. It was God's tender mercy for me and His loving kindness that made me feel that I was not alone in my sufferings. I was weak and vulnerable. At times I asked the Lord to walk us through our lives to find our inner strength through His love and compassion, so that we may see the light once again in our moments of darkness. God has bestowed us immeasurable blessings and unconditional, merciful love.

We have to be willing to forgive and fully understand that forgiveness is what God taught us when He had given up His own Son to forgive our sins. It creates an inner peace in our hearts, and redemption of our soul. I thank God each day for the gift of life, for Christine's 20 beautiful years of life with us. I have forgiven those that have caused us great affliction. Christine's now resting in peace. Forgiveness is a selfless act of mercy. God's divine merciful intervention will be our saving grace for our own salvation. Let us all learn to live and follow God's perfect will.