

BY MARCOS MORAIS REIS



# THE ENCOUNTER WITH THE LIGHT

GOD HEALS, GOD SAVES, GOD SETS FREE



HOLY NOISE  
RECORDS & EDITORIAL

THE  
ENCOUNTER  
WITH THE LIGHT



MARCOS MORAIS REIS

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# INTRODUCTION

In the depths of pain and struggle, where darkness seemed eternal, a story of transformation and redemption is born. “The Encounter with the Light” is more than a personal account; it is a testimony to the divine capacity for healing, salvation, and liberation. As it says:

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news  
to the poor...”*

*Isaiah 61:1*

In this book, I invite you to follow my journey from the roots of a childhood marked by challenges to the discovery of a greater purpose that shines through the shadows. Born into a home where love and affliction coexisted, I grew up surrounded by memories that shaped my worldview. The emotional and physical scars left by experiences of abandonment, struggle, and

addiction were heavy burdens to bear. However, as we read in 2 Corinthians 5:17,

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*

Each thorn encountered along the way became a step toward the light that slowly began to shine in my life. Through every family storm, each battle against internal demons, and each prison, I realized that true freedom is not just the absence of chains but the transformation that occurs within us.

*“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning”*  
*Psalm 30:5*

This book is an invitation to look beyond difficulties and recognize the light that manifests even in the darkest hours. It is a testimony that, no matter how deep the abyss, there is always a way out, a light that guides and restores us. As Jesus reminds us in John 8:12,

*“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”*

Through faith, resilience, and love, I found a new beginning, and this is the journey I want to share with you. Prepare to enter a narrative of overcoming, faith, and hope. May my experiences inspire you to find your own light, the healing you seek, and the freedom that God desires for each of us. Together, we will walk this path of rediscovery and revelation, where each chapter is an opportunity for renewal, and the light never ceases to shine, even in the darkest nights.

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”*

*Matthew 11:28*

God heals, God saves, God delivers. Let's embark on this journey together!

# CHAPTER 1



## MY ROOTS: THE BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY

**B**orn on January 29, 1979, at São Lucas Hospital in Governador Valadares, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, my story begins in a home where love and pain coexisted in a complex manner. My mother, Sônia Reis, and my father, Plínio Morais Silva, had four children: myself, two older sisters, and my younger brother. From a young age, I grew up surrounded by an environment that, while familiar, was marked by emotional and social challenges. As Psalm 127:3 says: “Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.” Growing up like any other child from the outskirts, amid the struggles of everyday life, since

I was little, I dreamed of living in the USA. My father had been living abroad since before I was born. I believe he has been living abroad for about 50 years now, and this sparked my passion for the country. He traveled a lot for work, and our time together was short, but I vividly remember some occasions when he took me to the park in the city center while he chatted with his friends in a bar.

These memories, although brief, are imprinted in my mind like flashes from a time when innocence still reigned. I recall Proverbs 22:6, which teaches us: “Train a child in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not turn from it.” But unfortunately, that was not how I was taught.

## **THE FAMILY STORM**

My mother was a cheerful person, but she suffered a lot in her relationship with my father. I believe she never truly felt loved. My father influenced me regarding women, even when I was only five years old.

I remember one time when he and my mother fought, and she chased him with a knife. To irritate her even more, he picked me up and told me to say, “the pretty lady is out in the streets.”

I received a slap in the face from my mother, a memory I carry to this day. The pain of that moment turned into a physical and emotional scar that shaped my perception of relationships. In Romans 5:3-4, we find comfort:

*“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

Their relationship only worsened, and my father left when I was five years old, and this time it was for good. He went to the USA for work, taking a neighbor with him and having another child with her. Today, I have a good relationship with this brother, James, who is an honest and well-educated person. However, the absence of my father left a deep void in me. As Psalm 68:5 says,

*“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy habitation.”*

Even amid pain and loss, I learned that God never abandons us.

# CHAPTER 2



## GROWING IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS

**M**y mother, my three siblings (Sônia, Sandra, and Plínio), and I lived behind São Lucas Hospital, in a dangerous neighborhood at the foot of the Carapina Hill, Governador Valadares. Life was not easy; my mother, now alone with four children, faced great difficulties.

When my father left, he left his retirement of \$ 300,00 dollars and helped a few times by sending money from the USA. I must say, “for my purpose is not to dishonor anyone, but to help in the healing of those who will read this book.” As Philippians 4:19 declares,

*“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”*

In the meantime, I became very sick; they said I was in a deep depression losing all my hair. At the time, I was only five years old, and it was a tough phase. My mother believed that all of this was the result of a witchcraft spell cast by the neighbor, who lived next door and whom my father joined later. They said she put my name in the mouth of a frog, and I became very ill. This situation was not only hard for me but also for my mother and our entire family. In Jeremiah 30:17, we find a promise:

*“I will restore your health and heal your wounds,  
declares the Lord.”*

Throughout this journey, I had a memorable experience during a Bible study. My own stepmother approached me and asked for forgiveness. I was sitting in a chair, looking up, while she stood before me. She said, “Forgive me.”

Curiously, earlier that same day, I was working with ceramics, grouting the floor, and I heard a voice telling me, “Today she will ask you for forgiveness. You forgive!” At that moment, I realized that forgiveness was a necessary step toward healing. As it is written in Colossians 3:13,

*“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*

Yes, this time was not easy, but we moved forward. My mother was an alcoholic and fought daily to support the family. Despite the difficulties, she managed. Today, I recognize her strength and resilience, even though addiction consumed her at many moments, leaving deep scars on all of us.

*“A wise woman builds her house, but a foolish one tears it down with her own hands”*  
*Proverbs 14:1*

Her struggle and determination were valuable lessons that I carry with me to this day.

# CHAPTER 3



## THE ESCAPE AND THE NEW LIFE

**A**t 15, trapped in games of pool and gambling, my job was to collect from prostitutes, marked for death. I realized that I needed to get out of Gobernador Valadares. The dream of going to the USA was always present in my mind like a light at the end of the tunnel. As Jeremiah 29:11 says,

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

My sisters lent me money, 7 thousand dollars, which would now be 20 thousand dollars, the price to cross through Mexico. But my case was different: I used a fake passport that belonged to

a young man from Rio de Janeiro, Ricardo Silva Lemos. I still remember that he was 18 years old, and I was just 15 with a thin mustache. The only thing altered in the document was my photo. Valadares, the town for fake documents for abroad. In 1994, I boarded in Rio de Janeiro and arrived in New York, where the experience of being interrogated by immigration officers was terrifying. Fear and anxiety accompanied me, but the hope of a better life pushed me forward.

*“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint”*

*Isaiah 40:31*

Once I settled in Boston, Massachusetts, I worked hard, 18 hours a day, 6 to 7 days a week in coffee shop and restaurants, living a new life that, although full of challenges, was very different from the life I left behind.

*“I can do all this through him who gives me strength”*

*Philippians 4:13*

At 17, I went to Florida with my sister Sandra. I started attending school and making friends, but unfortunately, some were good, and others,

bad. I ended up being negatively influenced in many situations. From ages 17 to 23, I was arrested more than 20 times in the United States and faced several deportations. My friends were dying or being arrested, and I found myself trapped in a cycle of despair and pain, immersed in alcoholism and drugs, which were very accessible.

Women, friends, enemies, deaths, gangs, fights, losses, luxury, and a lot of vanity... All of this brought hate and terror.

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full”*  
*John 10:10*

# CHAPTER 4



## REFLECTIONS

I want to rewind my mind a little here, and this will hurt, however, I have some sad things to write, “unfortunately and fortunately”; unfortunately, because today I see the evil that I allowed the enemy to do through my life, and fortunately because what I lived brought me here! As Romans 8:28 says

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.”*

In 2003, the year that marked the end of the dark life I led, I was going through a particularly tough month. It was then that I met

a woman named Jennifer, and we got involved. She ended up getting pregnant and gave birth to my daughter Natalia. Later, we also had a son, whom we named Izaak.

*“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring  
a reward from him”*

*Psalm 127:3*

Jennifer went to donate blood for school, and later they sent her a letter, which she had to pick up from the post office, as only with her signature could she receive it. Jennifer called me to go pick up the letter with her. I was in the back seat; Jennifer was sitting in the passenger seat, and her friend Emy was driving. Upon getting the letter, she entered the car, closed the door, and opened the envelope, starting to read. I noticed through the rearview mirror that tears were streaming from her eyes. Quickly, she handed me the letter without even looking at me. Upon reading it, I felt the world collapsing around us. The content of the letter said that she would have to redo the blood test because the current test had returned a positive result for HIV.

*“When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and  
delivers them out of all their troubles”*

*Psalm 34:17*

After a terrifying day, I returned home desperate. I shared the situation with my family, and everyone was concerned about me. We redid the same tests that week. It took about three months for me to learn the result. During this period, I heard a voice inside me saying, “Call Teresa.” Teresa was a lady who ministered the gospel in my life in 1996, as soon as I moved to Florida. I immediately called her and asked, “You once told me that your God delivers, heals, and saves. I want to see if this is true; I received very difficult news, a letter informing me that I have AIDS.”

*“Call to me, and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known”*  
*Jeremiah 33:3*

Teresa promptly offered to meet me and scheduled a day to visit. She, along with her Pastor David Bezerra and the church elder Jean Andrade, came to visit me constantly.

During this time, I had a very strong experience; it was as if time had stopped. In the middle of my room, between the door to my bedroom, from which I had just exited, and the door to the living room, toward which I was walking, my body became paralyzed. There, I heard a powerful voice, like many waters, saying:

*"Today I set before you life and death. Choose  
life so that you may live"  
Deuteronomy 30:19*

When I looked ahead, I saw a man dressed in white, full of light, entering.

When I looked to my right, a little behind, I perceived a being as dark as darkness itself, floating without legs. I already knew that the darkness was the enemy of my soul, as I had been facing many battles in my room, where I often felt something on my back preventing me from getting up and moving forward.

*"But in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us"  
Romans 8:37*

At that exact moment, a powerful voice, sounding just above my head, said again: "Today I set before you life and death. Choose life so that you may live." This deeply touched my spirit, and I chose life, I chose light, I chose Jesus.

During the week, I was with Pastor David Bezerra, Teresa, and Elder Jean Andrade again. They prayed, talked with me, and helped me understand more about the plan of salvation.

*“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed”*

*John 8:36*

Converted to Christianity and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I decided to be baptized two months before receiving the test results. On the day I read the test conclusion, I was amazed at the power of God, as the test came back negative.

*“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is there anything too hard for me?”*

*Jeremiah 32:27*

As the word says: Christ heals, Christ saves, and Christ delivers. I took hold of that freedom in Christ Jesus and was baptized. Jennifer also chose to accept Christ as her Lord and Savior, and both of us were healed!

Literally a miracle!

*“And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”*

*Acts 2:21*

They commented that it could have been an error. Maybe it was possible, but I knew it was not, because I was dead, and Christ Jesus raised me to life. Today, I say this with complete

certainty. My daughter Natalia was born, a beautiful and healthy young woman. Glory to God! We also had a son, Isaac, who is a young man full of health and love, for life and for God.

*“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights”*

*James 1:17*

God was generous to us.

**GOD HEALS**



**GOD SAVES**

**GOD DELIVERS**

# CHAPTER 5



## THE MIRACLE AND THE RESTORATION

I was touched by a miracle and began my studies of the Word of God with a group from the Presbyterian Church. Pastor David played a very special role in my life, almost like a father.

*“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1*

Several men from that group welcomed me, disciplined me, taught me, and supported me. I am immensely grateful to all of them.

Although life moved forward, I was still tormented by my past. It was as if the evil I once carried within me continued to pursue me.

*“The righteous may fall seven times but still get up; but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes”*  
*Proverbs 24:16*

There were moments when I fell, but Christ always lifted me up. Unfortunately, I committed adultery, but Christ, in His mercy, restored my life. Jennifer was very hurt, but she forgave me.

*“The Lord’s mercies are new every morning; great is your faithfulness”*  
*Lamentations 3:22-23*

Due to my dark past, I still carried many burdens, addictions, torments, and demons faced in moments of warfare. Leaving behind that dark world of addictions, hatred, fights, and gangs, the enemy of my soul tried to destroy me.

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full”* *John 10:10*

In 2007, another difficult year began. One day, when I was in the parking lot at home, ready to

take my children to school, two immigration officers approached and said:

- “Marcos Reis?” I introduced myself, and he informed me about the deportation order that I received in 1997, which I had not complied with. I was taken and imprisoned for six months in Texas after my former boss, the owner of an Italian restaurant with the Greek mafia, reported me to immigration out of revenge, as I no longer wanted to work for him.

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” Proverbs 3:5*

During the time I was imprisoned, I proclaimed the Gospel and preached the good news, rescuing lives.

*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” Mark 16:15.*

Supernatural experiences manifested in that place. People from other religions even tried to harm me, but I felt the Lord’s hand protecting me and working in my life.

*“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”  
Isaiah 41:10*

One of the most remarkable experiences was with a young man who accepted Jesus. At first, he seemed like a monster, but when he confessed Christ Jesus as his Lord, he transformed into a joyful child.

*""If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, and the new is here!""*  
*2 Corinthians 5:17*

I also had another experience with a man named Antonio, who crossed the border in search of a better life in the United States.

He observed me for a few months, and upon noticing my conduct, he decided to convert to Christ. He mentioned that the brightness in my eyes and the way I proclaimed the Kingdom of God impacted him deeply, and he was determined to take this new faith back to his family in Brazil.

Antonio could not enter the country and was deported, but he returned home with salvation. When I called him a few days after being released, his wife answered the phone and began to cry

*""The joy of the Lord is our strength""*  
*Nehemiah 8:10*

She told me that he had returned to reconnect with his marriage and that, because of my influence, his family was now restored in the presence of Jesus. That experience was one of the most beautiful I lived during my time in prison.

*“Those who sow with tears will reap with joy”*

*Psalm 126:5*

While I was in prison, God brought to my mind what He had told me: “They will take you to prison, but through the same door you enter, you will come out.”

*“In the morning, sow your seed, and in the evening, do not let your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will be equally good” Ecclesiastes 11:6*

This gave me hope. There were many things I could share about that period, but I want to focus on one last matter.

A few days before my deportation, I spoke with my attorney, who informed me that there was no possibility of me remaining in the country. He explained that the federal judge had determined that my deportation was inevitable. However, I did not accept that human decision because for God, nothing is impossible.

*“And everything you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive” Matthew 21:22*

I began to fast and pray, crying out to God and placing my family at the center of His will. The Bible says that God’s will is good, perfect, and pleasing, and I believed that.

At 3 a.m., I was called to get ready for deportation. I went to the place where my clothes were stored, as I was wearing the orange prison pants and shirt. It was a huge room with several boxes stacked along the walls. The officer, who was very rude, yelled at me, ordering me to grab my box and change clothes, since my belongings had been stored there since my arrest. However, it was impossible to find it among so many boxes and, whether by bad luck or divine favor, my box wasn’t there. I told the officer that I couldn’t find the box with my belongings, and he searched for it too, without success. He left to get information about what was happening and, when he returned, he said that my name had been crossed off the clipboard and that I should return to the cell.

The next day, they called me again. When I heard my name, I felt confused and anxious. An immigration officer from Miami had come to get me, and once again, I remembered God’s promise: “Through the same door you entered, you will leave.”

*“If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

*Romans 8:31*

I left Texas and was taken to Miami, where I remained in custody for another three days before being released on a \$1,500 bond.

When God decides to change the story, He does it in a supernatural way. When I was taken to Texas, they shackled my legs and hands with a chain around my waist. I was transported on a very large aircraft with several other detainees and many officers.

However, on the way back to Miami, it was completely different: I was dressed in my own clothes, the immigration officer even gave me some money to buy coffee at the airport, and I wasn't in shackles.

*“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”*

*Psalm 23:1*

During the flight, the immigration officer sat beside me reading a magazine. I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to share a message from God's Word with him, and the verse was this:

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

*Romans 6:23*

He looked at me, thanked me, and went back to reading his magazine. I remained silent, but at peace for the rest of the flight.

When I arrived at the prison, I was held for three more days before being released. A month after the incident, I was called again to the immigration court, located in the same building as the prison. The first person I saw arrive was the officer who had accompanied me. He came up to me, hugged me, and said:

-“Whatever you need from me, I’m here for you.”

*“The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; He turns it wherever He pleases.”*

*Proverbs 21:1*

God truly moved in that man’s life, and I glorify Christ for that.

In the midst of the whirlwind of events, while I was fighting my immigration case, I had to take on the custody case of my eldest son, Marcos Gabriel, whom I had at the age of 17 with a 15-year-old girl named Taryn. Back then, we lived a reckless life together; she went through many arrests and legal issues related to drug trafficking. I don’t say this to diminish her struggle, thank God, she eventually turned her life around. However, I had to fight for custody of my son because she was deeply addicted

to drugs. At the time, my son was nearly 10 years old, and Taryn was teaching him to sell cocaine on the beach. While still dealing with my immigration case, I now had to take on the fight for his custody. The challenges were enormous; my lawyer told me it was impossible to win, especially since I was facing deportation and unable to work to support the child.

*“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.” 1 Corinthians 1:27*

It was more likely that he would be taken by the government and placed in foster care than stay with me or his mother.

It was a very difficult period, but I trusted in God. I felt like the worst person on earth to seek Him, but still, I cried out! I cried out to God with all my strength, I fasted and sought His help.

*“For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”  
Matthew 7:8*

Once again, I experienced God’s miracle. He granted me victory, not only in gaining custody of my son, but also the opportunity to remain in the United States with legal documentation.

# CHAPTER 6



## THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

“When we live in darkness, everything seems calm, but when we see the light, reality becomes more difficult.”

*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

*John 1:5*

I was a father of three children, and still in 2007, Jennifer, who was finishing college, came to me and said, “I can’t do this anymore; I’m out.” I was left confused, not understanding why she, firm in the church

and who spoke so well of me, would make such a decision. That was the end of our marriage; the family was divided.

As I was going to church, I didn't know her plans. She offered me a ride, saying she was going to a friend's house near the church and would pick me up when the service ended. When the service was over, I waited for her, but she didn't show up. I called, but she didn't answer, so I hitched a ride back home with the worship minister. It was a sad moment; I found the house empty, filled with loneliness; she took everything of value that she could.

*“From the day I met you, you have been my friend.”*

*Proverbs 18:24*

I do not blame her; I understand the fear she felt being together. She was worried about the kids, about herself, and even about me, as there was still persecution from my dark past.

*““The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

I carry scars and marks. Yes, there are many scars, some that my parents could never see, that my siblings could not even imagine,

and that my friends did not feel. It was hard, but not impossible. Christ was with me in the midst of the storm.

*“Behold, I am with you always, even to the end  
of the age.”*  
*Matthew 28:20*

I then wrote a song on a Sunday morning, sitting at the breakfast table, with tears in my eyes. The song is on the YouTube channel of my record label, “Holy Noise Records,” and goes like this: “I know that I will pass through the trial and I will overcome, I will reach the other side and I will say, the Lord was present with me... **HE IS MY TRUE FRIEND!**”

I continued my journey, making significant changes. I left drugs and the addiction to alcohol, stopped engaging in prostitution, no longer got into trouble, left gangs behind, and moved to Massachusetts, where I have lived for 10 years.

*“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,”  
says the Lord Almighty.” Zechariah 4:6*

Here, I applied for my American citizenship. In 2017, my application was denied, but God told me to cast the net again.

In 2020, during the COVID pandemic, an immigration officer who could barely speak English, being from São Paulo, said to me, “Calm down, I was young once.” He gave me the opportunity to become an American citizen, and I can affirm: “God is faithful.”

*“God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”*  
*1 Corinthians 1:9*

VI live my life praising, glorifying, and thanking God, proclaiming all that He has done in my life. Only He could make such changes happen.

*“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.”*  
*Ephesians 2:5*

I was dead in my sins and transgressions, but Christ, with His perfect sacrifice and shed blood on the cross, paid the high price for me to have life, and life in abundance.

*“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*  
*John 10:10*

In the next chapter, I want to tell you about this abundance and share with you my happiness, my joy, and my delight. I could be writing this book now with tears in my eyes, expressing my feelings.

*“My tears have been my food day and night.”*

*Psalm 42:3*

However, if I cry, I won't be able to write, so I hold firm like a warrior, like a child of the Most High, like a man in Christ Jesus.

*“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His  
might.”*

*Ephesians 6:10*

# CHAPTER 7



## TIMES OF GLORY AND STRUGGLE

**I**n 2015, I participated in a large event in São Paulo, where I met one of the most precious people in my life: a companion, friend, and virtuous wife who intercedes for me and prays for me.

*“A wise woman builds her house, but a foolish one tears it down with her own hands.”*

*Proverbs 14:1*

I can say that she is a true warrior. The book “More than a Conqueror,” written by her, reveals a bit about who she is, as well as the

book “Mother of Angel” among others that have yet to be released.

This woman is Evelyn Pinheiro Reis, who became my wife. We met through the screen of a computer in 2015, and upon hearing the voice of God telling me “this is her,” I was immediately drawn to her.

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

*Proverbs 3:6*

She was, and still is, a young woman full of the presence of God, who today shares this journey with me, my battles, and my victories.

In 2015, God gave us a powerful word, and within 10 months, we had the opportunity to meet in person in Brazil.

*“The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”*

*Proverbs 16:9*

We dated for almost a month, and then we got married. Today, we are almost completing 10 years together, filled with stories, tears, joys, struggles, and victories.

*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present  
help in trouble.”*  
*Psalm 46:1*

Evelyn Pinheiro Reis, I want to tell you that I love you and thank you for being by my side on this long journey, my love. It is just as we say: we have difficult times, but we also have times of glory.

*“And we know that in all things God works for  
the good of those who love him, who have been called  
according to his purpose.”*  
*Romans 8:28*

The suffering did not stop me; as I have mentioned, I bear great scars on my body. Satan tried to kill me once again in 2018, but still, the Lord was with me.

*“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dis-  
mayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you and help  
you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*  
*Isaiah 41:10*

Another one of the scars I have was a cut on my forehead that I needed to treat in Brazil, which took over 30 stitches. “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author, and perfecter of our faith.” Hebrews 12:2. This happened because we

live a calling, and in living this calling, we literally disturb hell. This is the purpose of the light: to disturb the darkness.

*“For God, who said, ‘Let there be light in the darkness,’ has made this light shine in our hearts.”*

*2 Corinthians 4:6*

The calling that Christ has given us is to go into the nations, proclaiming the Kingdom and speaking of His love.

*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”*

*Mark 16:15*

This calling that burns within us drives us to move forward, for we cannot stop; life goes on, and we are invited to be light in the world, even in times of struggle.

# CHAPTER 8



## THE TRANSFORMATION OF LONELINESS

**P**rison, a space of solitude and reflection, caused me to reconsider my choices and the path I had taken.

*“For I know the thoughts that I have toward you,  
says the Lord; thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give  
you a future and a hope.”*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

While I was incarcerated, I realized that I needed to change the narrative of my life. Memories of childhood, unhealed wounds, and the

constant struggle against my inner demons began to haunt me. The desire to break the cycle of pain and suffering grew stronger every day.

In this new phase, I began to write!

*“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Psalm 119:105.*

The words became a form of therapy, allowing me to express the pain and anger that I carried. My story needed to be told, and this journey of self-discovery became a crucial part of my search for redemption.

Writing not only helped me process my emotions but also offered me a new perspective on life.

With each page, I allowed myself to explore feelings that had been suppressed, giving voice to my fears and insecurities. This act of writing transformed into a path of healing for me, a form of liberation that allowed me to look back at the past with a new understanding.

*“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

*John 8:32*

I established my own record label, where I compose and sing songs in worship to the Father,

guided by the Holy Spirit who teaches me every day, out of love for Christ Jesus, the beloved of my soul.

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things.”*  
*John 14:26*

As the words flowed, I realized that change was beginning inside me. It was not just about telling a story or singing a song; it was about rewriting my future.

*“And whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*  
*Matthew 21:22*

Prison, which initially seemed to be the end, became the beginning of a new journey. A journey in search of self-knowledge, forgiveness, and, above all, hope and faith.

## A NEW BEGINNING

Over time, I gained my freedom and began to work on social projects, helping young people in vulnerable situations to avoid falling into the traps that I once faced.

*“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18*

With every step, I sought not only my own recovery but also the chance to inspire others to make better choices.

The love that once seemed distant began to manifest in unexpected ways. I built new relationships, and life began to take on new meaning.

I learned that, although the scars of the past never completely disappear, they can transform into stories of overcoming and strength.

*“Many say of my soul, ‘There is no salvation for him in God.’ But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.” Psalm 3:2-3*

This new beginning taught me that true freedom goes beyond the absence of physical chains; it resides in the ability to transform pain into purpose.

*“Rejoice, young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth.”*

*Ecclesiastes 11:9*

By helping others, I found the healing I had long sought for myself. Each young person I encountered and helped became a reflection of my own journey, and together, we were able to build a more promising future.

As I built new experiences and friendships, I realized that life is a tapestry made of ups and downs, and that every thread, even the darkest ones, has its place and importance.

*“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

Gratitude began to fill my heart, and I became increasingly aware that, despite the difficulties, there was always hope and the possibility of a new beginning.

*“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble.”*

*Nabum 1:7*

# CHAPTER 9



## THE FUTURE AHEAD

**T**oday, as I look back, I see a path filled with challenges but also with growth and learning.

*“Consider the things of old; consider the things of old.”*

*Isaiah 46:9*

My roots, although marked by pain, also gave me the strength to fight and seek a better life.

*“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

*Philippians 4:13*

With the help of God and those who believed in me, I am building a future that is not based on my past, but on the lessons I have learned along the way.

My roots are part of who I am, but they do not define my destiny.

*“The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:1*

I am determined to continue this journey, day by day, seeking not only my own happiness but also that of others who, like me, are looking for a path of light in the midst of darkness.

*“You are the light of the world; a city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”  
Matthew 5:14*

Life is a constantly evolving story, and I am ready to write the next chapters.

*“Behold, I am making everything new.”  
Revelation 21:5*

Today, I love and honor my parents.

*“Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise.” Ephesians 6:2*

I have forgiven everyone from my past, and if I can serve, I am always available!

*“If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last and the servant of all.”*

*Mark 9:35*

With each new day, I feel I have the opportunity to shape my future. *“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”* (Psalm 118:24). I am open to new experiences, ready to face the challenges that arise and, above all, committed to making a difference in the lives of those I encounter.

*“Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

*Romans 12:2*

The past may have been difficult, but it also taught me resilience and the importance of empathy.

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope.”*

*1 Peter 1:3*

As I move forward, I keep the hope alive in my heart.

*“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.”*

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

I believe that together we can create a better world. **“If it were easy, I would want to change the world; if it were easy, I wouldn’t think twice. The change would start with me first; who knows, a better world, you changing too.”**

Where the scars of the past transform into stories of overcoming and inspiration.

*“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”*

*2 Corinthians 4:17*

The future is ahead of me, and I am eager to discover what it holds.

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.”*

*Proverbs 3:5*

# EPILOGUE

## AN INVITATION TO THE JOURNEY

Follow me! Come learn with me, and also teach me what we need to learn! Social media has been a powerful tool for sharing stories, experiences, and knowledge. Through it, we can connect with one another, exchange ideas, and inspire each other.

I invite you to be part of this journey! Each of us has a unique and valuable story, and by sharing them, we can create a space for collective learning and growth.

Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and share the light we have found in the midst of darkness.

If you are going through difficult times or have already overcome battles, your voice matters. Let's build a community of support together, where we can learn from each other and celebrate our victories.

Life is a continuous learning experience, and I'm excited to see where this journey will take us. May we walk side by side, exchanging experiences and building a future full of hope and possibilities.

Thank you for joining me on this journey. I look forward to what comes next!

**GOD HEALS, DELIVERS, AND SAVES!**

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

## PAGE

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And to those I, unfortunately, may have wronged... I ask for forgiveness.



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