



## GOD KNOWS HOW TO CHANGE OUR HEARTS!

### Testimony of Julie Henry from the church of Yvetot in Normandy

*To avoid suffering, I preferred to lead those around me to believe that I was someone aggressive, hard, and rebellious. It was my security in order not to get hurt.*

“When I converted to Christianity, I came from a family context and above all a “religious” context that was very legalistic where love was given to me “under the condition that ...” I was in the habit of reacting according to how others reacted and according to what others expected of me.

Above all I did not want to have any outbursts in my behavior (even if in the end, I had all the more !!) in order that I could be accepted and loved by everyone.

And because of this, I suffered very much from the abuse of my affection, always wanting to please everyone.

In this way, I came to the church in Yvetot with an attitude of auto protection which was natural to me, and therefore with all the caution that brought me the fear of be disappointed again, by my brothers, sisters, and even my spiritual leaders.

I also had for sure, a huge reservation in my relationship with God, not being able to believe that He wanted to love me freely, without profiting from my love for Him.

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As a result, I only gave my heart to the Lord partially.

*For me, “love” was a synonym of “suffering.”*

But as a result gentleness, sweetness, but also firmness, the Lord, little by little, pushed open the door of my heart.

*He assured me and showed me through the love that my brothers and sisters, my spiritual leaders, and my family showed me despite my bad character, my reservations, my aggression, and my hard will. Out of love for me, He did not hesitate to suffer, not waiting for anything in return from me.*

He showed me that he does not require anything of me, and that He respects my pace with patience. So one day, at the force of resisting against my desire to be free to express what I was really feeling, and to allow myself to be myself, to be true with others and with God, *I finally decided to accept to give Him my whole heart, knowing that in His great love, He would not betray me.*

Now, thanks to the healing work that Jesus has done in my heart, I know that I can trust him blindly. Even if my demonstrations of love and affection or the expression of who I am might be rejected or manipulated by men, He will never reject me. He healed me of my worries, of my anguish that I might suffer if I invested myself 100% in people and in what I do.

He freed me from the bondage that I had put on myself by making myself out to be someone I was not.

And I had simply the desire to add this verse from Song of Solomon, chapter 1, verse 5, « Dark am I, yet lovely, O daughters of Jerusalem. »

Julie Henry  
Yvetot