***Romans 8:28 - And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.***

When I was in my 20’s, I went on a mission trip to Mazatlán, Mexico.

While I was there I experienced something pretty cool.

A couple days in, Sunday morning, I woke up discouraged.

I felt like everyone else was stronger than me, spiritualty stronger.

There were young people, teenagers that were on fire for God.

Who was I?

Some guy that can sing a few worship songs and say a few quiet prayers.

I felt like I wasn’t good enough, that I didn’t pray hard enough, and I felt defeated.

At 1:00pm, we began a time of worship.

This time, instead of the church, we worshipped at this really old fort right on the beach.

I climbed up the side and sat looking at the stage below.

I remember people were around me.

People were worshipping all over the place.

I bowed my head and I prayed while I listened to the music.

After several minutes, I opened my eyes.

No one was around me anymore.

I looked up and a young man was walking straight to me.

He came up and asked if he could share something with me.

He told me that he thinks God showed him something.

He said he saw me in the ocean, that I was surfing.

That waves would come crashing in and knock me off the surfboard.

He said the surfboard was tied to my ankle and I’d get back on and surf again.

More waves would come and, again, I’d fall.

He said he believes the surfboard is God.

That I keep getting knocked down, but I keep standing back on God.

That what I am doing, what I have been doing, is practice.

That I am learning and practicing.

That I will keep falling but I am getting better and I am getting stronger.

He told me that I am faithful and God knows I am faithful.

That I am even stubborn in my faith, which made me smirk because I totally am.

He told me that more waves are coming.

Bigger waves.

But I shouldn’t be afraid because God is with me.

That practice makes me stronger.

Then he told me something I can’t get out of my head.

He told me God is proud of me.

That sipped my heart out.

Until that moment in my life, that thought had never even crossed my mind.

Then he asked to pray with me.

All my life, I’ve struggled with not feeling good enough.

All my life, I’ve always second guessed my performance in life.

And this kid, who I had never met or even seen, came up to me and told me everything I needed to hear.

***John 14:12 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.”***

Later that day, the group I was with walked through Carnival.

As we were walking, I heard someone yell out, but kept walking.

He came up to me and asked if I played music.

I said, “Yes.”

He asked what kind?

I said, “Jesus Christo.”

He told me to sing something.

So, I sang Lead Me to the Cross.

When we finished, he was very thankful.

He said that it was beautiful.

Then he asked why we’re doing walking around playing music and why we were even there.

I said we were there to talk to people about God.

I asked if he believed and he said he does, but he hasn’t been to church in a very long time.

I said, if he wanted to hear more worship music that he should come by the fort where we worship every day.

He said he couldn’t because he was only there for the weekend.

I said I was only there for the weekend too.

He was shocked and asked why I came down here for the weekend.

I said it was to do this.

Shocked again, he asked why.

I said, “It’s a big deal.”

Again he was very appreciative and asked if we could pray for him.

We did.

***Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.***

Interesting, that morning I felt worthless.

But that night, I was able to lead worship, lead my team, and I was able to witness to someone who needed it.

Back then, I never would’ve guessed that I would be able to be used by God to the Worship Director for my church.

I never imagined how blessed I’d be with my wife and two girls.

We have ideas of what we are capable of that God disagrees with.

We have opinions of ourselves that God disagrees with.