

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Marisol Ramirez

I live in Madrid, Spain studying for an International MBA at Institute de Empresa, which is one of the top business schools in Europe. As I sit in a class with people from all over the world - more than 60 countries represented, I am in awe. How did I get here? These people represent some of the best companies in the world and are some of the brightest people I know.

An image that has remained in my head over the past couple of months is of a woman who, with tears streaming down her face and a timid voice gradually increasing with power, proclaimed the truth of God's Word, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made... and my stuff is good."

I attended a women's conference last fall. Towards the end of a session that focused on how we are often deceived to have a different impression of ourselves than the one the Lord has for us, we were encouraged to proclaim at the top of our lungs, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made... and my stuff is good." After repeating this a couple of times, the speaker asked those that were not able to say it to come to the front. I was shocked; I didn't realize that there were some ladies out there that were not able to say that about themselves. My first reaction was pain to the heart, but then anger. I was furious that many women have been robbed of the image and future God has for them.

That weekend at the conference, I left the fear of leaving LA again, of doing something different, of not meeting my future husband, and the fear of not being capable to handle what the future would bring. I decided that if I was to move forward, I wanted it to be the whole me—the fearfully and wonderfully made princess who moves, shakes, inspires, conquers, and leads.

When I was a little girl, I remember my mother and someone I admired telling me that God had big plans for my life. I never let go of that! I knew that my life had worth and meaning. The fact that I didn't know what I was to do or where exactly I was going did not deter me. If I look back and look forward I am amazed at the brilliance of God who loves me soooo much to empower me with gifts, talents, experiences, and the ability to gain wisdom.

Now, as I continue through my courses at this business institution filled with some of the brightest people in the world, I've learned that even though I've questioned whether I add value, I am in fact a bright gal too! I am currently working on my second entrepreneurial business plan and learning about finance, economics and quantitative analysis. Fields I never knew I would get my hands on.

I am first-generation of Mexican parents; I am the first-born of three, the first to graduate from a university in my family. I've worked in different industries: film, non-profit, consumer goods doing marketing and public relations. I have traveled the world: Thailand, China, Brazil, Argentina, Turkey, Italy, Poland, Egypt, England, etc. I lived in Greece for two years. I speak fluent Spanish, Greek, English, and I'm working on French. I performed in the Closing Ceremonies of the 2004 Olympic games. I've run the original 26.2 mile marathon from Marathon to Athens. And I'm 26 years old.

But even with all these experiences, my biggest accomplishment has been building others up. I'm driven and empowered by the King. I've been around enough scientists, engineers, lawyers, etcetera, to realize that knowledge and wisdom come from application and diligence—not selective giftedness.

God has created each one of us with potential—lots of potential! And the people who mentor, inspire you, speak into your life, as well as those you mentor, inspire, and touch, all enhance the brilliance that is you! Why? Because you are fearfully and wonderfully made...

the beauty of a rose or the radiance of the sunrays doesn't compare to what God sees in you!



Marisol is a native Angeleno with itchy feet; traveling the world, loving people and living the adventurous life. She is currently in Madrid, pursuing an International MBA.