

HE ABIDES IN ME



- EVANGELINE JOSE » ABU DHABI, UAE

I've been brought up in a household with parents actively involved in the Catholic faith. Thanks to them, my faith life has a strong foundation and all my life I've experienced the grace of God.

In March 2019, I was to appear for my 10th grade exams and there was much expected from me. One subject that proved quite difficult was Science. I do enjoy learning Physics, Chemistry and Biology as individual subjects, but learning it altogether was extremely trying.

On the eve of the Science exam, after my parents and siblings left for Church, I started feeling light-headed. I brushed it off as anxiety though I had never been worried for an exam before. I sipped some water and prayed for a while but in a few moments I started feeling so dizzy that the room seemed to be swirling around me. When my parents returned they said that my brother was feeling ill too. Just as they were speaking, he threw up and I found myself doing the same. Anything I ate after that did not seem to keep itself down. The next morning, I threw up again. My parents were worried about my writing the exam at all but they held on to their faith and calmly trusted that God would lead me. As I left for school, my mother blessed me with Holy Water from Lourdes and prayed over me. At the bus stop I noticed that,

miraculously I wasn't feeling sick anymore.

On the way to school, I was unusually calm and collected. As I was writing my exam, I really did feel the presence of God beside me. The exam was relatively straightforward and that put me at ease.

When I received my results, I couldn't believe my eyes, it was truly all God's doing. I had scored 95 marks in Science and had emerged as overall topper of my school with 97.2%!

All Glory to God! I realise now that God wanted me to go through this experience to serve as an inspiration for those who feel like giving up, let down, beaten and weak

because just as Paul reminds us, God

will always say,

'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'

(2 Corinthians 12:9) ◦