

Brendan Prout Spiritual Bio 2015 short version

Here's the short version of a very long story...

I was raised in a liturgical family, by a Greek Orthodox mother and Irish Catholic father. Faith was very important growing up, and we attended church and Sunday school regularly. I held a childlike faith, not questioning anything until middle school, when I began to question *everything*.

My parents gave me the choice to continue attending church with them if I wanted – it had to be my choice though. Instead of going with them, I began walking to a very conservative southern Baptist church down the street, because that's where the pretty girls from my school were going. After being told that the electric guitar was the instrument of the devil, and that jeans were not appropriate for church, I figured I pretty much had this protestant Christianity thing wired. Don't bring my guitar to church, don't let the ushers see you with jeans on.

We moved to a different area, and I was invited to check out a different church with what was described to me as a very active youth group with LOTS of pretty girls, so I was in. First thing I saw when I walked in the door was a rock band on the stage... seemed in direct opposition to what I "knew" about Christianity and electric guitar, so it piqued my interest. So did the many believers I encountered who talked about having a relationship with God; that was completely outside of my experience, and I wanted to figure this whole God thing out.

After many months of attending church youth group services, during the winter of my junior year of high school, I committed my life to following Jesus Christ while on a retreat with the youth group.

From that point on, I was discipled and mentored by a youth pastor and worship pastor, as well as several of my peers who were Christ followers. After more months of learning to walk the walk, I began serving in the worship ministry: running sound, playing electric guitar, acoustic and bass, and singing backup. After about a year, the youth pastor began having me lead worship with the band.

I headed off to college and continued serving as a worship leader, for Campus Crusades for Christ, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and some local churches. Later on in my college years, I formed a worship band that toured and did retreats, camps, conventions, rallies, special events, and of course services at local churches.

After leading one such worship service, I was recruited to the staff of a small church plant to develop the worship ministry, and my journey of training & equipping others began in earnest. I responded to the call to ministry I felt, and began seminary training, while becoming a pastoral intern and cross training in a wide variety of ministry responsibilities, learning to be a shepherd leader, eventually becoming publicly affirmed and ordained as a pastor.

Over the past couple of decades of serving as both a tent-making pastor and as a vocational pastor at multiple churches, I've been blessed to serve many thousands of people, to help them understand how their unique gifts and abilities are designed to serve still others – helping others learn to lead a lifestyle that glorifies Christ. That continues to be the call on my life: to live and lead a lifestyle of worship of Jesus Christ.

Redeeming love has been my theme and shall be 'til I die.