

Faith Journey: Christine Beugelink

[Tom Cochran](#)

[Life Is A Highway Lyrics](#)

September 29, 2009

Life's like a road that you travel on
When there's one day here and the next day gone
Sometimes you bend and sometimes you stand
Sometimes you turn your head to the wind

...

Life is a highway
I wanna ride it all night long
If you're going my way
I wanna drive it all night long

...

There ain't no load that I can't hold
Road so rough this I know
I'll be there when the light comes in
Just tell 'em we're survivors

Jesus Take The Wheel lyrics

Carrie Underwood

...

She saw both their lives flash before her eyes
She didn't even have time to cry
She was so scared
She threw her hands up in the air

Jesus, take the wheel
Take it from my hands
Cause I can't do this on my own

I'm letting go
So give me one more chance
To save me from this road I'm on
Jesus, take the wheel

These 2 songs are “tongue-in-cheek” metaphors for the journey of life.

For me, there is truth in both- a highway- we used to play this song driving up the mountain, gearing up for a great day of downhill skiing, thrills and spills!

There is joy associated with that- and freedom- the open road, the idea of “getting away from it all”- recreation, companionship.

Then I pick up on a word: highway.

“Broad is the road that leads to destruction... but narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Mtt 7:13-14)

So who drives down the “road less travelled”?

There can be a feeling of adventure and mystery going down a quaint hidden path. When we backpacked through Europe, Koen would roll his eyes as he followed me once again down another hidden cobblestone lane- I was off exploring and couldn't resist the out-of-the-way places not visited by the crowds of tourists.

These narrow roads are usually more difficult- narrow- one sometimes travels single file, or even alone.

The second song is about someone traveling on her own, alone, - the verse talks about scary times, sad times, out-of-control times...

And, as people so often do when bad things happen- this one cries out to Jesus.

“Get me out of this mess, Jesus”, “Save me, Jesus”

But more importantly... “take the wheel of my life... take CONTROL”.

Now, that word control- it’s hard to let go! I’m an independent, strong-minded, stubborn Dutch blood, modern woman! I’m supposed to have my life planned out and control my destiny. HAHAHA!

I sure started out on that road... a good Christian girl who asked a loving, kind Jesus into her heart as a symbolic “I do good- You bless me” charm. Things have changed with time, experience, stages of life, and growth.

I now use the metaphor of a “rollercoaster” for my life and faith journey! ☺

That initial step of faith, was my sitting in the rollercoaster cart.

I knew that being a Christian was important and a non-negotiable part of my life.

That was putting on the seatbelt.

The thing about a rollercoaster is that YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL!

Yikes!!!

It starts off slow and steady, oh- look at the view! Look at the people getting smaller on the ground. Ah, I can feel the gentle breeze through my hairrrrrr.....

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

Yeah- that’s when the cart has reached its peak and tilts over the top to ZOOM at breakneck speed down, around, loop-de-loop, upside down, and topsy turvy!

WHEW!

Ups and Downs

Mountains and Valleys

Joys and Sorrows

Life and Death

Health and Sickness

Blessings and Consequences

Laughter and Tears

Dreams and Despair

I’ve come to realize that it’s not necessarily one or the other extreme... rather both co-mingled, the good, the bad, and the ugly mixed in one pot. Parts of life that bring delight, and yet areas of sadness or brokenness.

Many of you know some of my personal experiences on my journey:

The biggies are, in a nutshell:

Being the daughter of a mother with chronic migraine pain that incapacitates, and has gone so far without miraculous or medical healing.

Infertility issues as a married couple.

Adoption as a way to build our family.

Miscarriage

Adoption bankruptcy

Family “issues”- parental depression, financial stress, relational hurt

Depression (SAD)

A lot of these are Losses. Then there are the Blessings- the Grace of God:

A stable, loving marriage

3 beautiful, precious daughters (funny side note- I was on a rollercoaster when Yelissa was born- literally! Six Flags, California- Mexico Trip 2002) ☺

a family heritage of faith

a church community who is family

health, freedom, house, food, clothing, music,

nature, mountain view, parks, flowers, squirrels, and birds

the Bible! Jesus! ☺

I am a blessed woman- but oh, I’ve been bitter and baffled too!

I want to share what keeps me in the cart- gripping the handle or throwing up my hands in the air.

These 2 things anchor me in my faith:

1. God is Good- ALL the time! This is the character of God. He is unchanging: the “I AM”
2. We live in a broken world. Perfection was broken by collective human sin (wanting to be in control). Yet, our Good God did not give up- He started immediately on the work of REDEMPTION- here and now, through Jesus and His followers, and in the future... when there will be a NEW EARTH and HEAVEN, and perfection will be restored. Every tear will be wiped away. No more sickness, death or pain. The ongoing work of God to reach out in love is the BIG STORY. I am a character, but it’s bigger than me. My time on this damaged earth is short: I am a breath- dew- withering flower- (should have written that on my bookmark last week!) ☺

This is NOT to dismiss what we experience as trivial. But it’s perspective!

I’m going to take you on a quick side trip- something I’ve been investigating lately:

Emotions are God-given and a necessary release to express our humanness and our experience on this earth- during our faith and earthly journeys!

We are created in the image of God, and therefore are wholistic: Physical, Spiritual, Intellectual, and Emotional. This last one is too often swept under the rug as Christians- but is very integral to who we are as image-bearers of Christ!

Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, soul, mind and strength! (emotions, spiritual side, intellectual side, and physical)

Not a door-mat do-er... the second command is this:

Love your neighbour as yourself! yes, that means we can only love others in as much as we love ourselves... we serve out of the overflow. Self care is important. Esp as women

who give and pour out in service! For me, it's meant inner healing through prayer partners; signing up for bootcamp; taking supplements and a sun lamp; going for a pedicure; being involved in the community (PAC, Book club); asking for housecleaning help; going on annual marriage anniversary get-aways; being quiet in devotions to listen and rest. I'm learning about Grace (for myself and others) and Rest. This is my journey- at this stage. A bit all over the map- haha 😊

It's all a Journey- the highway, the lane, the rollercoaster, the faith lessons, even the STOPS. Putting on the brakes. The Forced Stops. The Rest Stops. Ah... this is a journey in itself. The discovery of Rest. I am on this particular journey presently. And I look forward to sharing with you my "postcards of pilgrimage"... Each month I will travel with you into Leviticus 23, onto the road of our spiritual ancestors, celebrating the fun, feasts, and fellowship of our communal faith journey. I hope you will join me. Step in...Buckle Up... Hold on... and let go! 😊