

Brothers and Sisters, Peace in the Lord!

I am Zhang Min, a newcomer to the church. As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to take this opportunity to share my experience of coming to faith in the Lord. Through this, I thank the Lord Jesus for His grace of salvation, forgiveness, and mercy, and I glorify my God!

Due to illness, I was once a devout idol worshiper. It wasn't until my son went to college, suddenly believed in the Lord, and began sharing the Gospel with me that I first heard about it. At that time, I was deeply deceived by idols and not only firmly rejected the Gospel but also strongly opposed and suppressed my son's faith. Every summer and winter break, we often quarreled late into the night. This standoff lasted six years, and neither of us convinced the other. Even when I cut off all financial support for him, his faith remained unwavering. Similarly, I was obstinately resistant to God, refusing to seek Him no matter how much suffering I endured.

Before my son left for overseas studies, I agreed to visit the church to comfort him. Coincidentally, the church taught a hymn titled *"Have You Heard Jesus' Call?"* I was deeply moved by the lyrics, and at that moment, I seemed to hear Jesus calling me. Tears began to flow uncontrollably, and I found myself telling God from my heart, "I am willing to believe in You and come before You." However, I did not keep that promise. Even after being hospitalized twice for severe illness and unable to undergo surgery, I still refused to seek Jesus. It wasn't until the following year, during chemotherapy when I was about to lose my hair, that I prayed to God to bargain: "If You protect me from losing my hair and from my elderly parents discovering my illness, I will believe in You." I thank God for using this illness to bring me to Him, although I was still half-hearted at that time, believing the lack of side effects could also be due to the medication.

Six months after coming to faith, my health took another turn for the worse, and I had to go to Tianjin Cancer Hospital for tests. This hospital is one of the top in the world and is always crowded. It is very challenging to obtain an appointment with an expert. I challenged God, saying, "If You are the true God, please prepare the best expert to provide the most accurate diagnosis for me." Miraculously, through an unknown couple, I was able to see a top specialist who no longer accepted regular appointments due to his illness. He only had a brief window once a week for inpatients, and no one else could secure an appointment with him.

After leaving the hospital, I sincerely thanked God for providing the best specialist for me. For the first time, I prayed earnestly for Him to give me a top Chinese medicine expert so that I wouldn't have to rely on Western treatments anymore. While walking and praying that afternoon, at around 4 p.m., I received a message at 7 p.m. from a friend I hadn't contacted for three years since they moved to Singapore. The friend asked how I was

doing, and when I told them about my situation, they scolded me for not reaching out earlier, as they happened to be an expert in this field! At that moment, I was shocked and realized how I had forgotten about this military medical expert friend of mine. It was clear to me then: our God is truly omniscient and omnipotent!

The trip to Tianjin became a turning point in my spiritual journey. It felt like a veil had been lifted, giving me a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ, who shed His blood for me. From that point on, I placed unwavering trust in God's guidance, relying on Him and submitting to His will. I am firmly convinced of Jesus' selfless love on the cross, and I strive to share this good news with others so that more people may come to know Him.

Over the years, although I have faced weakness, doubt, and various challenges, God has never abandoned me. He continuously uses His Word to nourish me, renew me, and strengthen my faith, allowing my life to become more abundant. I can now sincerely say: that whether He helps me in adversity or allows difficulties to happen, He is still a loving God. He knows my shortcomings and uses these circumstances to mold me, helping me to live up to the identity of a recipient of His grace!

I am grateful to the church for allowing me to testify about God. Brothers and sisters, I want to express how blessed we are to believe in Jesus in this lifetime! Gaining Jesus is to gain the greatest treasure, surpassing all else. I give all glory and thanks to God!