

Disappointments and Revivals - My Spiritual Journey in the Last 10 Years

Sister Lily / 2024-03-31



I came to the United States at the end of 2013. With my faith in God, God arranged for two angels to help me. One helped me pass the TOEFL exam, and the other helped me transfer credits so that I could obtain my undergraduate certificate in two years and eight months. God helped me achieve my greatest faith by allowing me to move back to City T from the small town of M. Matthew 17:20 If you have faith like a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move away; and there will be nothing that you will be unable to do.

My husband moved to a small town 20 years ago to manage his mother's properties. For the sake of my children and my own career development, I asked to move back several times, but my husband refused. He said very firmly that if he moved away, his mother would disown him. After I kept praying and was convinced that God would open a way and provide for me. It took me a week to finish the last subject. Although I had not found a job yet, I came to City T and rented an apartment alone. Three months later, God prepared a financial job for me. Then I started working full-time during the day and studying for graduate school at night. Then God caused my

husband to change his mind, and his mother understood him and moved to City T to be with me. For me, our family's move from Town of M to City T is like what Matthew said, like move a big mountain from north to south. If God hadn't given me the faith to rely on Him, and if God had not opened the way for me in many things, this would not be possible to achieve.

Next, my life, study, and work went relatively smoothly. I took it for granted that life would always be this way because I was a child of God. I have always felt that the church should be a paradise, a holy place. In the past two years, I have personally experienced several mental blows.

First of all, the deception of fellow Christians. When she and I were strangers, my husband and I helped her because she encountered difficulties with physical injuries. Since she had no family in CITY T, we invited her to our home and she became our friend. She was also very grateful to us. But here it is, when I purchased the life insurance from her, she did not disclose important information about the policy, and when I found out, she still lied and tried to cover it up until she could no longer justify what she had said before. She did not hesitate to sacrifice the love of friends for money, and her behavior of repeatedly crucifying the Lord really made me mentally depressed.

Then, there was internal strife in my previous church. My heart was broken. I couldn't tell who was right. But the way they tried to make each other look bad in public made me disagree that either one of them was good shepherd. Proverbs 10:12 Hate can stir up strife, but love can cover up all faults. I don't see love in the church or between brothers and sisters. Although it didn't happen to me personally, I was very sad.

Later, when I was working on tax returns for clients at a CPA firm, I saw an individual pastor using his reputation to set up a ministry and then use the ministry to design his career plan to make huge amounts of money. All of this made me suddenly have serious doubts about the church and Christians. I wonder what their purpose is in going to church. Some of them seem to be very devout and enthusiastic, actively participating in church services. When I was suddenly faced with many ugly aspects of the church and Christians, I was lost and discouraged. Although I had not fallen yet, I stopped reading the Bible and rarely prayed. The spiritual life of mine was very dry. But unable to do anything, I went to American churches, but I didn't find a sense of belonging.

During this period, I was busy taking work exams, buying property, and was very busy. Last year, one of our rental houses encountered very serious vandalism (identified by the insurance company), and I was very angry with the tenants because I thought I was treating them kind, not only waiving their late fees, extending 20 days for them to move out, and allowing them to use half of the deposit to offset the rent. They were grateful at the time, but they did not follow through on their commitments. When I had to file for an eviction order, they retaliated by destroying our house like crazy.

Following this, we met a very bad contractor again during the next renovation. He said that he was a very religious man, listened to the Bible every day, and did some volunteer work in the church, but he yelled at the workers. And in front of people, he lied to others, cut corners, and his skills and attitude were very poor.

For a while, the situation around me seemed to be unfavorable to me. Not only did I lose money, but I was also entangled in a lot of bad things every day. To make matters worse, in mid-November last year, the company I worked for was acquired, and the company adjusted its personnel structure, and I was laid off. The lack of financial resources made me even more worried and uneasy. I was very anxious, blaming the tenant for repaying kindness, blaming the contractor for not doing a good job, and even blaming my husband for his inaction.

Proverbs 19:21 A man's heart plans his own way, but the Lord directs his steps. The end of man is the beginning of God. I know that relying on myself will only lead to exhaustion and discouragement. I started to kneel down and pray to God, and there was a voice in my heart shouting: What kind of Lord do you believe in, and how does the Lord teach you? Does your life glorify your God? I began to turn my thoughts to God. I began to recall the words of the Bible, trying to find wisdom and comfort from the Lord's words. He wants us to be joyful, to have no worries, and to be grateful at all times, and to pray at any time. When the Lord's words began to work in my heart, I felt a peace that surpassed all understanding. I started praising and thanking the Lord. I said, Lord, no matter what the circumstances and results are, whether they are good or bad, I will always come to thank you. Because I know everything is out of your good will. I do what I have to do and leave the results to the Lord.

Once I let go of myself and surrendered completely, the Lord immediately started working without any delay. We got the compensation from the insurance company very quickly. When the renovation work was about to be completed, a Christian

couple in Texas came to me and asked me to find a rental house for them. They later rented my house. The Lord causes all things to work together for good for those who love God. Within two weeks of being unemployed, I found a company with more room for advancement.

I also began to be grateful to my husband. Over the past ten years, he has shouldered the responsibility of supporting our family without any regrets. Because of my gratitude, our relationship as husband and wife has become closer.

I tasted the grace of the Lord again. On the first day of the New Year in 2024, I made up my mind to read the Bible again. God's words are our daily bread, our way and the truth of life. The love of the Lord has taught me to no longer focus on people, but to look entirely to our Lord. I have been looking for a church where I can feel a sense of belonging, find a spiritual partner, and help each other grow spiritually. The Lord listened to my prayer and brought me to Agape church through sister Lin. The Lord even gave me an unexpected surprise. Here I found brothers and sisters with whom I could play ball. The Lord often gives you more than you can imagine. Thanks to brothers and sisters, let us forget what is behind, work hard on what is ahead, and run straight towards the goal, and receive rewards from the Lord. I believe we will all meet in heaven one day.