

溪邊的樹

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敬畏神的見證人

挪亞被稱為完全人，神也指示他未見的事。敬畏是神的啟動，人能夠回應行動是出於信神的話。預備方舟成為周圍環境中的笑柄，妻兒卻順從，同心同工，全家得救，耳聽神命令，完成使命，築壇獻祭感謝神。與神同工同行，完成了那世代重要工作。

神兩次開口為約伯作見證，撒但妒忌攻擊他。約伯敬畏神，領兒女獻祭。俯伏禱告敬拜，承認神有權柄賞賜與收取。受極苦的熬煉，仍不以口犯罪。忍耐等候神的判斷，最後親眼看見神。

亞伯拉罕蒙神揀選呼召，多次與他交談，稱他為朋友，順服主的話走出去，有屬靈眼光看天與地，專一等候神，對主的顯現敏銳，雖經肉體失敗，即刻順服回轉，生以撒、獻愛子，經歷信心、完全奉獻，築壇獻祭，住帳棚見證更美家鄉，過在地如在天的生活。

約瑟敬畏神是信心活出來。不單有彩衣異夢，從受苦到得榮耀，是服在十字架下、一步步活出來的。他心中有把尺度、知進退。最大印證是神與他同在，性格單純正直不阿，負從主來的責任，不戀美色、不貪權財、居高不驕傲、低囚不自卑、警戒當世人。不敢替代神，祝福眾弟兄，感恩神、不恨人、骸骨葬迦南。

尼希米關心聖城，重建神的見證，恭讀律法書在被擄失落的世代更顯珍貴，艱難中不忘尋求明白神旨意。禱告專心等候神作為，認識仇敵詭詐憑信心與主同工，敬畏神清楚托付恆心修造城牆，不貪財置買田地，潔淨聖殿，為主有忌邪的心。
(雪玉)



浪子回到父身邊

我生長在鄉下的農村，從小看見許多人去廟裡燒香拜佛，父母親也深受這些迷信的影響。因此這些傳統習俗、敬拜諸神的心態便深植我心。當時不清楚神是什麼，只知道有苦難或有所求時，便隨著父母到廟裡去燒香。那時神鬼不分，一概拜為“神明”，卻頗感畏懼、敬而遠之。中學時，每天要走將近兩小時的山路去搭車上學。一次較晚回家，一個人走在一段彎彎曲曲的山路上，伸手不見五指。突然聽見有腳步聲跟著我走，只聽到聲音，不見人影，以為碰上了鬼，心中十分害怕。我加快腳步，那腳步聲也跟著加快；我放慢腳步，它也跟著放慢；我呼喊，沒有回應，把我嚇死了。前面又無他路可走，只有向“上天”求救。這是我首次向“神”呼救，只可惜那時我還不認識那位創造天地的神。

1966年來美國上學，聽說有大學查經班，只是沒興趣參加。學校裡有兩位美國教授星期日常邀外國學生野餐，經不起室友的催促便去參加了。隱約地聽到耶穌，可是我却認為，你拜你的洋神，我還是要拜我的菩薩，自己深陷罪中卻不自知。可是神讓我看見基督徒的愛心，很願意參加這種聚會。其後幾年內接觸到聖經，可是並不知道那就是神的話，是神向人啓示祂自己，讓我們能認識祂。以後我仍保持與那兩位教授連絡，幾十年如一日，他們的愛心深深地感動了我。可是我心剛硬，認為基督教是洋教，不可能相信它。我姊妹是基督徒，常到教會敬拜，我却盡量找理由推拖不去、寧願一人待在家裡。後來在她要求下勉強開車送她去教會，自己卻不進去。我在公司一切都很順暢、似乎沒有“求人、求神”的必要。自我意識很大，相信人只要自己努力便可達到目標、得到滿足，那時遠離了神卻不自覺。

感謝神，祂並未因此丟棄我，反而很有耐性地讓我經歷一些狀況，讓我自傲的心在祂面前謙卑順服下來。就在我事業一帆風順之際，公司讓我升遷到高級財務主管職位，負責多方面的事務，每天工作到深夜仍不得休息，身心都非常疲乏。可悲的是儘管自己努力工作、公司上下都讚賞有加，但在夜深人靜時、却感到空虛無助。我開始思想人活著的意義，到底人每天忙碌為的是什麼？感到世事虛空，不能使人得到滿足，心裡突然生出要追求信仰的願望。

1990年毅然決定辭職、自己創業。由於沒有預料到創業之艱辛，壓力從四面而來，讓我陷入“掙扎”的困境無法自拔。這時神讓我經歷一件不尋常的事，使我認清不能靠自己，必須仰賴神。在我們搬到 Orlando 後第四年，辛苦經營了多年的事業仍無起色。這時有個接洽多年的大客戶願意與我們合作，這是事業的一個生死關鍵，我們的一切都仰仗這個合作來帶動。我全心全力地準備籌劃，

擬妥了合作計劃，包括詳細的成本及報價資料準備傳給客戶，不料忙亂中拿錯了資料，將那份不該傳給客戶的數字報告全傳去給了客戶。當晚我輾轉難眠反覆思想，想不出任何辦法來挽回這個錯失。這時神讓我看到自己的有限，知道靠自己是無法挽回的。只好來到神面前承認自己的無能，尋求神的幫助，內心開始轉向神，求神饒恕自己種種的不是。沒想到在我還不知道該如何敬拜神時，神已讓我嘗到了主恩的滋味。三週後，客戶竟毫無異議的完全接受我們的條件，開始與我們合作，讓我由衷地感謝神。

從此，我開始陪著我姊妹上教會，生活在神那充滿了愛的家中。那時我尚未將整本聖經讀完一遍，不過我堅持參加週五教會的查經聚會、週日主日學及主日崇拜。漸漸地我認識了這位道成肉身、為我們的罪被釘死在十字架上的耶穌，祂在三天後復活、升天、賜下聖靈讓我們得以重生、脫離罪的轄制。但是，一向頑梗的我，要承認自己是個罪人、需要主耶穌寶血來洗清眾罪，仍有困難。直到一天，聽到我向來敬佩的一位能幹有為的老板、突然患病去世，留下妻兒無人照顧，頓感人生無常。自己多年來辛苦奮鬥雖略有成就，但內心深處仍覺空虛。生活沒有目的與力量，宛如孤舟漂流在浩瀚的大海中，失去了方向。每到夜深人靜，內心無法安寧，在這茫茫世界中，生活的重擔與壓力使我感到孤單無助，許多焦慮侵蝕著我。一日清晨，心突有感，禁不住跪在窗前向神認罪、懺悔，求神赦罪，願意服侍神。1994年1月9日在奧蘭多中華教會受洗歸入主的名下，從此一直跟隨主。這真是神的恩典，讓我認識了三位一体的獨一真神，那失落的浪子終於回到了父親的身邊。感謝讚美神！（戴文秀）



They Feared God

Noah was considered perfect, and God showed him the things to come. Out of faith he responded to God in action to show his fear of God. People might have laughed at him for building the ark. But, his testimony moved the whole family to follow him, and with one heart they completed the task. As they obeyed the word of the Lord, they not only fulfilled the Lord's commission for them, they were also saved from the flood. Out of the ark, Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices to thank God. This man walked with God, and completed the greatest work of that time.

God Himself approved of Job's testimony twice, and Satan attacked him out of jealousy. Job was a man fearing God, so he offered sacrifices for his children. He prayed and worshipped God for His authority in giving and taking away. He suffered great afflictions, but did not sin verbally against God. While patiently waiting for God's judgment, he was able to see God in reality.

Abraham was chosen and called by God. As a friend of the divine, he conversed with the Almighty. When he obeyed God's command and went out, he had a spiritual vision. Although he failed in flesh, he returned quickly in obedience. So Isaac was borne unto him at old age. He subsequently offered Isaac on the altar. His faith was fulfilled in full. As he pitched the tent in Canaan, he looked for the better heavenly home.

Joseph feared God out of his living faith. His story of colorful cloak and strange dreams shows how he was lifted to glory from suffering. The lesson of the cross was lived out in Joseph's life. He had a ruler in his heart that out of his fear of the Lord he enjoyed the divine presence. Whatever his role of the time, be a slave or a prime

minister, he was a responsible person, just and pure. As a slave, he did not show self-pity. As the prime minister for Pharaoh, he did not abuse his power nor show any pride. He told his brothers that he dared not to take God's place. Instead, he blessed them and glorified God. In the end, he was returned and buried back in the Promised Land.

Nehemiah had a great burden for the holy city, the rebuilding of the testimony of God. In those desolate years, he led people back to the word of God. With all the hardship and threat around him, he never let go of the will of God in the life of His people. With fear and reverence, he prayed and waited for the Lord to lead them to full victory against the adversary. With faith he completed the rebuilding of the wall. He personally did not show greed of money for his own good, nor purchase land for his own use. His reverence led him to share the jealousy of the Lord, and to cleanse the temple. (Sherry)

Coming Home to the Father

Growing up on the farm in Taiwan, I saw various idol worships as a boy. My parents were also heavily influenced by such superstitions. With this kind of tradition, we went to the temple to "pray" by asking the gods whenever there was a need. We did not know who they were, but always treated them with fear. During my high school days, I had to walk two hours to catch a bus. One time I came home late, and walked alone in the dusk along the winding mountain road. Fear over-powered me when I heard of footsteps behind me. I could hear it but see no one. I could only cry out to the "heaven"; that was the first time I prayed to God, yet I did not know him as the one who created the heavens and the earth.

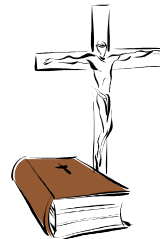
In 1966 I came to the U.S. to study. On campus there were Bible study groups, but I was not interested. Two of my American professors often invited students to picnic on Sundays. There I heard about Jesus, but was determined to worship my Buddha. However, I was drawn to those people because of their love. In years to follow, I came in contact with the Bible, but did not know it to be the Word of God. My wife was a Christian but I tried all kinds of excuses not to go to church with her. Later on she requested me to take her to church on Sundays. I would take her, but refused to enter the building. My career went along well, and I did not feel any needs to ask anyone for anything, including God. My ego was big, and I believed in myself and my diligence for reaching my goal. I was far away from God.

Thank God for His patience till I humbly laid down my pride. At that time, the company promoted me to the bursar position. I worked hard until late at night everyday. I was tired out both physically and mentally. Everyone praised my work, but sadly, I felt empty and helpless every night. I began to question the meaning of this life. Why so busy everyday? Suddenly there was an urge to have a religion.

In 1990 I decided to resign from my job and started my own business. All the pressures of a new business forced me to rely not on myself but God. During the fourth year, the business still did not pick up much. A major customer agreed to collaborate with us. It was a turning point in the business. I carefully prepared the entire business plan and all the cost estimates. But at the last moment, I faxed the wrong pages to the customer with all the secret information in it. That night I could not sleep, truly realizing my own limitation. I began to pray to God, asking for His help and His forgiveness. I did not yet know how to worship Him, but He showed me His way. Three weeks later, the

company agreed without reservation to work with us. My heart was filled with gratitude.

From that time on, I went to church with my wife. I did not even finish reading the whole Bible for once yet, but I insisted on attending the Bible study and Sunday School. Gradually I came to know this incarnated Jesus, who died on the cross for us, and rose on the third day. However, my heart remained to be hardened and I could not confess myself as a sinner. Then, I heard of the sudden death of a former supervisor, survived by his wife and children. Considering my own life, I found neither meaning nor purpose. Late at night I often felt like a boat drifting in the storm of life. Suddenly one morning the Lord brought me to my knees by the window to pray for His forgiveness. On January 9th, 1994, I was baptized in the Orlando Chinese Church. It is the grace of God that I came to know the true triune God. Praise God that a prodigal like me can return home finally to the Father. (Dai)



感謝與代禱

請弟兄姊妹繼續為 11 月 27 日開始的感恩節特別聚會代禱，求主藉著講員們賜給我們祂屬天的話語。

Prayer and Thanksgiving

Please pray for the Thanksgiving Special Meeting starting from November 27th. May the Lord continue to speak to us with His Divine Word through our invited speakers.