

*Feature  
Messages*

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# My Thirst For God

by Susana Lim

As a young girl growing up in a catholic country, all I knew about Jesus then was that every year on His birthday, people gather to have parties and gift-giving and that God gave his one and only son so that we maybe save. Save from what I ask myself in my young mind. I wanted to know more about this wonderful Being. There was a Chinese Catholic school in our area. I went there thinking maybe I would learn something from them. They hold children's bible classes on weekends, and so there I would go every Sunday. From them, I came to know some of the bible characters. But after a while, I stop attending.

As I grew older, I never really got to know our Lord, even as we attended church all the time. As I listen to the discourse, sometimes I would question why I needed to confess my sins to another human being, a fellow sinner. And I finally got disenchanted with the catholic church as scandals started to get exposed. So, life goes on for me without knowing the one true God. I went on to university, got a job, met and married a wonderful guy, build our own business, and had three kids and six grandkids. My life was relatively smooth, and as they said, "I am fortunate and blessed." Although everything was smooth sailing, I was not truly happy. I feel a void in my heart. I was searching and searching for meaning in my life. I was thirsting.

Two years ago, our good friends, Annette and Victor, invited us to attend church at ECBC. I came to know Pastor Sun and Pastor Wong, who played a significant part in my becoming a child of God. Pastor Wong gave me the book "How to Find God." This book was a turning point in my life. I went through the book word for word, and indeed, I found God. The God who loved us so much that He sent Jesus, His only begotten Son, and died for our sin. The more I read, the more I thirsted. And now I realized He was there all the time, just waiting for me to open the door.

I am also very thankful to Cecile, who initiated me into bible reading and guide and prepared me for the most important day of my existence, my baptism.

My husband had some major health issues in the last two years. One surgery one year after the other, have I not had the Lord with me all the time, I would have been a nervous wreck. I have learned to put my trust in Him. I am no longer anxious about He said that in every situation, with prayer and petition and thanksgiving, we present our request to Him. Although my husband is not entirely well yet, I felt loved and truly blessed !!! For now, I have in my life the One true God!!!!





# Testimony of Pastor Joseph Jou

Pastor of Fujian Evangelical Bible Church

I thank the Lord for leading me to serve as the pastor for the Mandarin and Amoy Congregations of the Fujian Evangelical Bible Church in Vancouver, Canada. I recently finished my seminary training in Los Angeles, USA and moved here to Vancouver, where I started serving on July 1, 2019. During my ministry here, I have come to know this devoted couple, Brother Victor and Sister Annette Que, who not only love the Lord, but also care for God's people like me. They seemed to have such refreshing energy to live for God. Brother Victor is in the process of completing his autobiography that tells of the saving grace of the Gospel in his life. I am honored by the opportunity to share my testimony as part of Victor's book. May the Lord bless this couple and use the publication of this book to proclaim His saving grace and shine forth His glory.

My father is a busy Christian businessman, and my mother, having grown up in a rural province, follows traditional folk religion. Since childhood, I followed after my mother's religion, but not very zealously. My father was always diligently working, and rarely had time for church activities. However, every year at Christmas time, he would sing Christian hymns to us, his children. I believe that somehow, the Gospel seed may have been planted in my heart over many Christmases. Before I became a Christian, my desire in life was to serve in the government for my own advancement. That is one of the reasons why I came to America to study commerce. After graduating from college in Taiwan, where most of our faculty were also working in the government, I continued to enjoy life and leisure, running after my own dreams and goals just like the rest of my classmates.

Nonetheless, the idea of staying in America changed all my plans. I am now an American citizen, and never ended up working for the government. Instead, I have decided to use my remaining years to serve our Lord—this is made possible, all because of my one decision

to put my faith in the Lord. Proverbs 3: 6 says, *"In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."* In February of 1990, while attending a home bible group, in the midst of singing hymns along with the others, my heart was struck by the fact that Jesus Christ, whom everyone was praising, is truly the One that I needed most! At that time I was single, and so far away from my home in Taiwan. I was a graduate student in Iowa, USA, and the burden of studies as well as the anxiety over my own future had suddenly thrown me into uncertainty about myself. Right then and there, I met the Lord! I just knew that like an aimless tossing ship in the midst stormy sea, Jesus is the anchor that I must cling on. He will lead me ahead. Thus, I requested to be baptized. That one faith, one baptism, saved me from death— it has made my life meaningful and hopeful. After I was baptized, I know that I am born again, and have been counted righteous before God. The Risen Lord has given me a new life through the Holy Spirit, with the assurance of eternal life. I enjoy studying the Bible and learning about His truth, because His Word provides me light and guidance. *"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). Also in John 1: 4 *"In him was life, and life was the light of all mankind."*

Since then, I have been determined to serve Him. The Lord has also blessed me with a God-fearing wife, and we have been serving Him together. All my youthful dreams from Taiwan have faded away, replaced by a fervent will to follow the Lord. No kinds of earthly pleasure could lure me back to the world. I believe that God chose me and brought me here to America to be found by Him. He has a plan for my life. Although I am a sinner, God's love filled me and redeemed me. Before becoming a Christian, it was just I, chasing after God and clinging unto Him like what Jacob did at the fork in Jabbok. All the while it has been the Lord Himself who enabled me to surrender to Him. Every time I call upon Him, He gives me strength and grace. He helps me to overcome my sin and each time I confess my sin before Him, He leads me into His peaceful rest. Isaiah 30:15 *"In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength."* Isn't this precious encounter the most worthwhile to have?

Since I moved from Michigan to California in 2007, I have continued to serve by shepherding God's people in the church and in outreach ministries. I have served with three different churches in different locations, through preaching, pastoring, and visitation. In the end, I felt the need to become better equipped to serve God better. Thus, in 2015 I entered theological school and attained a Master's in divinity in May 2019. Shepherding God's people has always been my burden; and mission and personal evangelism have always been my passion. May the Lord continue to lead me on; and may my life be counted worthy in the eyes of our Lord.

# Searching for God

by Claire Zhang



I first came to know God when I was 12 yrs old moving to California with my family. And that's when I started to hear and learn about the heavenly father and His truth. The discipline of going to church with my mom and attending fellowship Friday evenings planted the seed of belief in God in me. I've always just expected God to be there for me. I would pray in a selfish way. For example, asking for help or blessing when things weren't going so well. I always felt that God WAS there, and I often felt that He was guiding my path. But deep inside, I also know that my relationship with God was not two-way; I wasn't really committed to my part of the relationship.

Then years went by. I graduated university with a business degree, thrived in my career working in a financial institution. Got married and now have an amazing girl named Leilei. And one of the best parts of the past few years was being introduced to ECBC by Victor and Annette Que and meeting Reverend George Wong – all of that I believe was a part of God's plan for me, as if there are many links in the chain for me coming to Christ. And yet, I found it difficult to know when I would be ready to be baptized, although I had plenty of encouragement from people around me.

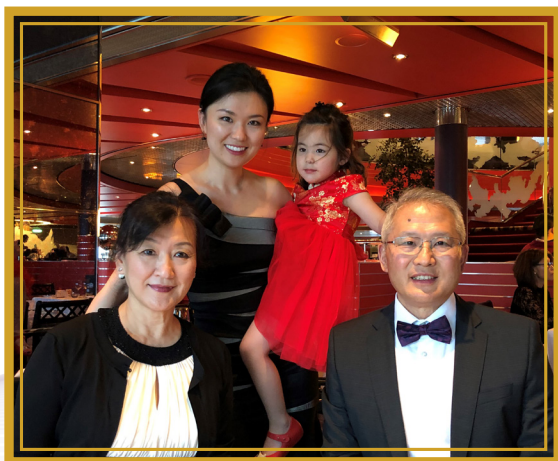
Becoming a mother 4 yrs ago found me searching again for God. In motherhood, God is showing me how desperately I need Him. As a relatively new mom, I struggled and even question my ability to be a mom. If Leilei is such a blessing from the above, why would it be so hard? Of course, living for God does not entitle us to an easy life. In fact, it's quite the opposite. Jesus promised we would have trouble in this life, but He also promised to help us overcome our troubles if we trust in Him. If life was easy, I probably would be deceived into thinking I don't need God and just do everything out of my own human strength. To me, this is how God allows difficult circumstances to show me my need for Him and to draw me closer to Himself. One verse that I found resonating is from 2 Corinthians 12:9, Paul writes: *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will face my weaknesses and inability, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

Through attending Sunday services at this church and recently taking the alpha course with pastor Iris Leung, I feel that I have been growing spiritually and I can see even more clearly the difference God is making in my life from the inside. And I'm learning what it really means to be a Christian; it's the commitment required from my end to build and solidify a two-way relationship with the heavenly Father. I believe God has used ECBC to open the door to me.

In a way, the fact that I am standing here about to be baptized is an example of my commitment. I have never felt as strongly as I do now that God is calling me to not delay this day. I've come to

realize that baptism is an important step; it's both a symbol and a celebration; a symbol of my sins being washed away and a celebration of the start of new life with Christ in me.

I have accepted Jesus into my heart, and through his actions of dying on the cross, my sins have been forgiven and I have the promise of eternal life. To finish, I'd like to share a verse from Isaiah 41:10 *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*



# Who Needs to Believe in Jesus Christ?

Pastor Michael Chua Chi



1. Nicodemus, a man of the Pharisees and a ruler of the Jews visited Jesus one night. Jesus told him that he must be born again to see the kingdom of God. He must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. This means he needed to repent and accept Jesus as personal Savior to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (John 3:1-5)
2. An Ethiopian eunuch, who was a court official of Candace (queen of the Ethiopians) and was in charge of all her treasure was traveling along the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. He was a religious man who had come to Jerusalem on the feast of Pentecost to worship. He was on his way back and was on his chariot reading a passage of Scripture. Philip, as directed by the Spirit, went and joined him in the chariot to explain the Scripture to him. Philip shared with him the good news about Jesus Christ. The Ethiopian eunuch believed and was baptized. (Acts 8:26-39)
3. Cornelius was a centurion of the Italian cohort. He was a devout man and one who feared God with all his household. He gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. He once saw a vision while praying. An angel of God told him that his prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. The angel told him to send for Simon Peter. Peter came and shared the gospel of Jesus to him, his household, and friends. While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. This means they all repented and accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. Afterwards, Peter baptized them. (Acts 10:1-48)

Conclusion: Just like Nicodemus, the Ethiopian eunuch, and Cornelius, we all need to believe in Jesus Christ, accept Him as our personal Savior to receive the gift of eternal life.

*Acts 4:12: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."*





# USANA in Spiritual Way

by Pastor Wilson Go Kiao

**U** - Unless God sent someone from heaven to earth, no one can go to heaven. He had to send His one and only Son Jesus Christ from heaven to earth to save mankind.

**S** - Sins are the problem that prohibits us to enter heaven. Jesus had to separate the sins from the sinners that is why He had to die on the cross to shed His blood for the cleansing of our sins. That we may be made pure by His Holy Spirit so that we can stand in the presence of the Holy God.

**A** - Atonement is done! Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb. He died for us but resurrected on the third day and now in heaven praying for us.

**N** - No one can take us away from Christ. We belong to Him forever for His Holy Spirit is within us forever.

**A** - All are invited to have this free gift of God. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* - John 3:16



# The Triumphant Cross of Christ

by Dean De Castro

**"...triumphing over them by the cross..."** (Colossians 2:15).

The cross of Christ symbolizes His triumph and victory over His enemies. Through Christ's death on the cross, He has defeated humanity's seven main spiritual enemies: Satan, Sin, the World, the Old Man, the Flesh, the Law, and Death.

**Satan.** *"The cross of Christ has disarmed Satan and his fallen angels' powers over God's children."* (Col. 2:15). Although a defeated foe, Satan is still alive and well. He uses lies to deceive people into doing his will. If he could get you to believe his lies, he could then control your life.

The only way to combat Satan's lies is through God's truth. Jesus calls Himself the Truth (John 14:6). If we stay close to Christ, we will know the will of God that would reveal and disprove all of Satan's lies. Indeed, God's truth shall set us free (John 8:32) and empower us to live a victorious Christian life.

**Sin.** *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23) The penalty for sinning is death. Someone has to die, either you or a heaven-sent substitute. Jesus was the sacrificial Lamb that God killed to take our place.

The Chinese word for righteousness consists of two characters. On top is sheep, and under it is I. The knife of God's punishment fell upon Jesus (the Lamb of God), and His blood cleanses us from all our sins.

Christ has taken your place. Death has occurred at Calvary. Once Christ has paid the penalty of sin, why still live under bondage? Claim your freedom by putting your faith and trust in Jesus. He is your Savior.

**The World** *"...the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age"* (Galatians 1:3-4)

The world can only offer the temporary pleasure of sin (Hebrews 11:25). But Jesus offers those who believe in Him a full, inexpressible, glorious, and great joy (1 Peter 1:18). He is the object of our real happiness and satisfaction.

He is the Security you seek in money.  
He is the High you seek in alcohol.  
He is the Ecstasy you seek in sex.  
He is the Health you seek in doctors.  
He is the Song you seek in music.  
He is the Dance you seek in the clubs.  
He is the Beauty you seek in travel.  
He is the Wisdom you seek in books.  
He is the peace you seek in worry.  
It is Jesus whom you seek.

**The Old Man** *"knowing this, that our old self (man) was crucified (by God) with Him (Christ)..."* (Romans 6:6a) The old man refers to the old identity we have with Adam in our unregenerate state. It is who we are once in Adam. The death of Christ on the cross terminated our old identity as slaves of sin.

Christ's resurrection from the dead gave us a new divine life that is the life of Christ Himself. We have become new creatures in Christ who are holy, perfect, and set apart for God. Our new identity will change our confidence and behavior. Knowing who we are in Christ will remind us to act accordingly.

Recalling his boyhood as Prince of Wales, the uncrowned King Edward VIII said: "My father [King George V] was a strict disciplinarian. Sometimes when I had done something wrong, he would admonish me, saying, 'My dear boy, you must always remember who you are.'"

It is my conviction that our heavenly Father says the same to us every day: "My dear child, you must always remember who you are."

**The Flesh** *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."* (Galatians 5:24)

When God obliterated our old self with Christ on the cross, He gave us the power to overcome the sinful desires that remain in our brain and body. We learn to renew our minds and create new empowering beliefs, positive emotions, and godly habits.

As Bible teacher and pastor John MacArthur noted, "We have been removed from the unregenerate self's presence and control, so we should not follow the remaining memories of the old sinful ways as if we were still under its evil influence."

I was born and grew up in the Philippines. As a young boy, I had witnessed a procession of men who were carrying wooden crosses, whipping themselves. I also heard that some men were tied on the cross and even nailed to it. These religious people mistakenly believed that self-flagellation and self-inflicted torture could extinguish the flesh's evil proclivities.

Colossians 3:23 teaches that the harsh treatment of the body lacks any value in restraining sensual indulgence. Galatians 5:24 indicates that only those who genuinely belong to Christ have the power to say no to the body's evil cravings.

**The Law** *"having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us, He took it away, nailing it to the cross."* (Colossians 2:14)

God's law is holy, righteous, and good (Romans 7:12). But Satan can distort the law's normal function and use it to provoke and increase sin (Romans 5:20). A legalistic mode of thinking gives the indwelling sin an advantage. Preaching more of the law is like adding more fuel to the fire.

Jesus died to save us from guilt and condemnation due to our failure to keep the law. People don't get liberated and transformed when we beat them with the law of Moses. They get liberated and changed when they encounter the grace and love of their Savior.

A Christian psychologist writes how he changed from being a slow reader to become a voracious reader. Whenever he read, his mother would be standing over his shoulder, instantly correcting him if he missed a word.

One day, he arrived home to the usual milk and cookies on the kitchen table. But this time, his mom seemed more at ease. She didn't say a word until he asked her for help. He felt relaxed and stopped worrying about the mistakes.

The counselor writes, *"What worked was Mom giving me the grace to make mistakes, with no anxiety, no condemnation, or guilt - but lots of cookies and milk."*

**Death** We do not shrink from death because of the blood of the Lamb shed on the cross (Revelation 12:11). The triumphant Cross of Christ takes the power of death from Satan's hands (Heb. 2:14).

When Jesus comes back, He "will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body (Philippians 3:20-21). Inside your body is the blueprint for your resurrection body. With it, you'll be better able to enjoy an eternity of wonders God has prepared for you. Joni Erikson Tada says it well:

*"Somewhere in my paralyzed body is the seed of what I shall become. The paralysis makes what I am to become all the grander when you contrast atrophied legs against splendid resurrected legs. If there are mirrors in heaven (and why not?), the image I'll see will be unmistakably 'Joni,' although a much better, brighter Joni."*

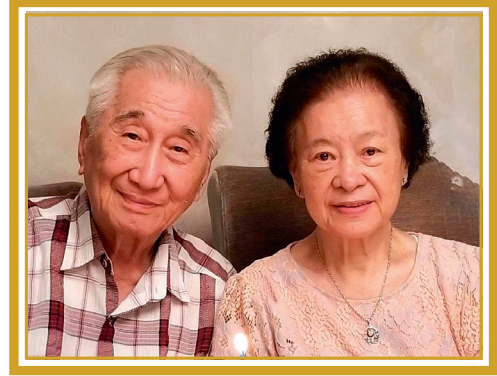
*"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..."* (Galatians 6:14a).

**Rev. Dean De Castro** was born and raised in the Philippines. He has been an ordained minister since 1978. He got his formal theological education from the Philippines and the United States. He is happily married to Dr. Angelina De Castro for 37 years. Dr. De Castro had served as the director of the In-patient program at Bellevue Hospital in New York city. In 2000, pastor Dean and Dr. De Castro founded the Great Commission Bible Church in Queens NY. They are now officially retired in Florida.



# Where is Your Final Destination?

by Esther Ting Dy



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Esther Ting Dy. I live in Manila, Philippines. I wanted to share with you an important and true story.

The majority of the world has gone astray and does not know this great God of the universe. He is the one true God, creator of heaven and earth. In His hands is the destiny of all people. This one true God is Jesus, the Son of God given to all humanity for us to depend on (John 3:16). Amid this holy God, we have all sinned (Romans 3:23). The words from the Bible are accurate, so I want to share with you three key points and Bible verses:

We all have sinned (Romans 3:23) and in need of a Savior, so God sent His Son, Jesus, to give us eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus was without sin, died, was buried, and was raised again (I Corinthians 15:3-4). He paid for all our sins, past, present, and future!

## 1. Admit

- o We need to recognize and admit that we have sinned.
- o We need to confess our sins, and Jesus will forgive us (I John 1:9).

## 2. Believe

- o Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).
- o Jesus is the only one who can save us (Acts 4:12).
- o Good news has come, and it's time to believe (Mark 1:15).

## 3. Claim

- o What is your response as Jesus knocks on the door of your heart (Revelation 3:20)?
- o If you believe in your heart and profess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, then you are saved (Romans 10:9-10, Romans 10:13).
- o Accept His gift today!

Here's a simple prayer to pray to Jesus:

*Dear Jesus,*

*I admit that I have sinned.*

*Please forgive me.*

*I believe that only you can save me.*

*I want you to be the Lord of my life, and I accept your gift today.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." - Romans 3:23*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16*

*"But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8*

*"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

#### **ADMIT**

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:9*

#### **BELIEVE**

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." - John 14:6*

*"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to humanity by which we must be saved." - Acts 4:12*

*"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" - Mark 1:15*

#### **CLAIM**

*"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." - Revelation 3:20*

*"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you accept and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." - Romans 10:9-10*

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." - Romans 10:13*