

Peggy's Testimony

It is much easier to talk about the victorious Christian life than it is to live it. But God allows weaknesses in our lives to let His almighty power to show. In the following few minutes, I will share my personal journey of experiencing God's amazing grace.

Next Thursday will be our 43th anniversary. Like the Israelites who wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before entering God's promise land, we seemed to be lost in the wilderness of marriage for more than 40 years. Our differences in personality, way of thinking, communication styles, and habits, rather than complimenting each other and building each other up, caused much misunderstanding, doubts, and confusion between us over the years.

I know all of you have been very concerned about my health issues and have been faithfully praying for me for so long. Let me first give you a brief update. In 2010, I became ill with a non-typical pneumonia, and shortly afterwards, I was diagnosed with one serious illness after another: autoimmune disease, heart aneurysm, incurable lung damage with chronic infection, liver dysfunction, among others. On top of everything, last year I was diagnosed with a very rare case of deadly melanoma cancer, which led to a painful radical surgery. However, it was not the end. The pathology report revealed that the surgery was not successful, cancer tissue still remains in my body. An additional surgery was urgently recommended. I consulted with 10 doctors from 3 big hospital cancer centers and every one of them recommended surgery. However, due to my complicated and very weak situation, Ping and I did not feel at peace with proceeding with the 2nd surgery. The children, Ping and I started to pray for God's guidance every evening at a scheduled time. After much struggle, I decided not to proceed with the additional surgery, but placed my life in God's hands through faith. This year in March, I agreed to be treated with immunotherapy at Emory Hospital, but could not complete the course because of severe side effects. Most recently imaging tests have revealed more new masses in my kidney and lung, however we have decided not to find out if they are malignant or not.

These past many years, in addition to our not-so-happy marriage relationship, I have suffered through more than enough illnesses and painful medical procedures. Words cannot describe how much agony I have experienced with excruciating pains and frustrations. However, (**2 Corinthians 12:9**) God says "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." He has spared me from death despite recurring pneumonia and aggressive cancer, and given me the most tender-loving husband, daughters, and friends. I cannot thank each one of you enough for your tireless prayers for me, your loving comfort

and encouragement, and all kinds of practical support. I know that God is not finished with me yet. If I am not dead, I'm not done. Cancer patients often live in the shadows as if just waiting to die. But in **Jeremiah 29:11** "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Two weeks ago, my cardiologist office called me for more bad news, that CT scan shows 3 of 4 of my arteries are 75% clogged and suggested further treatment. **Deuteronomy 31:8 appeared to me at once**, "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**) Praise to the God of All Comfort, who comforts me in all my troubles. (so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.)

Suffering and hardships do not show up in our lives for no reason. Sometimes it is a sign that something has to change and grow. God allows pain and suffering in my life to purify me, to mold me, and to deliver me out of the dominion of darkness and bring me into the kingdom of the Son he loves. I realize that my genuine desire is not to ask God to heal my body or to change Ping's nature to make me happy. It is to have the abundant life of Jesus and to glorify the name of God by the way I live. Over the years I have been learning to change my prayers from monologues to dialogues with the Lord. Prayer takes me into God's presence and prepares me to obey Him. God has prepared me to be stronger than my challenges and those challenges are making me even stronger.

For the past year, Ping and I have committed to praying together every evening. God has since used our prayer times to soften our hearts and to change our attitudes. Our sincere repentance and forgiveness have brought us closer to the Lord and to each other. The Lord has not only miraculously healed our relationship but blessed us with joyful hearts. We start each day with gratefulness and praises. It takes spiritual discernment to see beyond human activity to God's will. Although it was a long wait, it was time well spent. You may consider us to be old, our average age is 70, however every one of our moments now is the youngest of all the days we have left. Thank God, we still have time.

I want to conclude my testimony with Psalm 84: 5-7:

5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

6 As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

7 They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

Praise be to the Lord!!