



ARTICLE

MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

FBCToday

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

(SHARING AT KARIS WORSHIP MEETING ON 10TH DECEMBER 2024)

As I reflect on my spiritual journey, I am grateful that my Creator God has been very patient, kind, gentle, and merciful to me. I am thankful that He did not give up on me. He did not keep a record of the countless times I had rejected Him, ignored Him, or disobeyed Him.

From birth till my final year in the University, I was like the natural man/unbeliever who was totally separated from God, having nothing to do with Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit. I was self-reliant and self-sufficient. I was spiritually blind and did not want to have anything to do

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON

Arnold Lim

04 May 2025
Law or Covenant

Galatians 3:1-22



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with any religion including Christianity. I was arrogant to think that only weak people needed God.

It was only in my third year of University that I finally confessed that I was a sinner in need of a savior. This was in God's perfect timing and by the conviction of the Holy Spirit plus the fervent prayers of my Christian friends. When I repented of my sins and accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, I experienced much joy and peace, how I wished that I had known Jesus earlier! I had a hunger for God's Word and enjoyed attending church, bible studies, and Christian fellowships. I was also passionate about sharing my new-found faith with relatives and friends.

After a few years, due to family and work commitments as well as worldly distractions, I became a carnal or worldly Christian. I was in the driver's seat and in control of my life. God was not just the backseat passenger. I did not even acknowledge His presence. I still did all the rituals of religion: going to church on Sundays, giving tithes, attending life group meetings, even joining church camps, and participating in all church activities.

However, a major part of my life involved working very hard to gain more earthly treasures, climb the career ladder, get more praise from people, and go for more exotic family holidays. Quiet time was done as a duty. It was no longer the joy of spending quality time with God and meditating on His Word. Prayer was just coming to God with a list of requests, more like a shopping list. I did not have any joy or peace. There was an emptiness and discontentment.



As I reflect on my past, I am grateful to have a Good Good Father who is loving and caring. He gives me a free will. He allows me to go astray, wander in the wilderness, and make foolish decisions. Even though I was lukewarm in my faith, God is always faithful, watching over me, blessing me, and providing for all my needs.

In March 2019 I retired after teaching for about 42 years. The next 12 months were spent travelling to Manchester, UK to visit an older sister followed by a trip to the Netherlands to spend time with my daughter and her family. After that, I was in Melbourne for 2 months to welcome a new granddaughter and spend time with my son, daughter-in-law, and grandson. Then I was off to the Netherlands again, this time for 3 months, to welcome another new granddaughter and spend time with my daughter, son-in-law, and two other grandkids.

In early February 2020, I came back to Malaysia ready to start a new chapter of my life as a retiree. Immediately I signed

up to join the Ladies Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) class, something which I had always wanted to do but could not because I was working.

2020 will always be a memorable year for me: a watershed in my spiritual journey.

In mid-March 2020, the whole world came to a standstill because of Covid 19 pandemic lockdowns. I had to learn how to use Zoom to keep connected with loved ones and friends. Zoom was also used for online meetings, church services, and bible studies.

I had lots of time to read the bible, talk to God, listen to worship songs, and follow various online sermons. God in His awesome and gracious way used the BSF study of Genesis and later the study of the Gospel of Matthew to reveal His heart of love, mercy, and compassion for me. My spiritual eyes were opened. God convicted me of my need for spiritual food and He provided lots of rich spiritual food. This marked the start of my spiritual growth.



Now God is in control of my life. He is in the driver's seat, leading and guiding me. I enjoy His presence.

After realizing how much God first loved me, I desire to have a close and personal relationship with Him. I enjoy communing with Him in prayer, reading His Word, and sharing with people His goodness. Even in the midst of crisis and adversity, I experience peace and joy because I know that my God is powerful and He is with me.

God is All-Knowing. He knows my constant struggles against my old sinful ways. He knows how easily I am distracted or tempted. He knows that I am prone to go astray. He reminds me that it is not enough to have the Holy Spirit residing in me. Each day I have to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This will happen only if I confess my sins, repent, surrender, and let Him take control of every area of my life. The Holy Spirit reveals to me everything that Jesus had said, taught and done. He speaks truth into my heart and mind. He helps me understand and take to heart the Word of God. He illumines my mind and reveals the lessons which God wants me to learn every day.

My Heavenly Father knows that I am very forgetful and that I need the Holy Spirit to remind me of my responsibilities as His beloved daughter. The Holy Spirit also convicts me of my wrongdoings and leads me to confess and ask for forgiveness. As I surrender more and more, I become more sensitive and more obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. He intercedes on my behalf. He gives me the right words to pray for people and situations. He teaches me to be more caring and thoughtful. He empowers me to seize divine opportunities and to use the correct words to share the good news or to encourage people.

Nowadays I love reading and meditating on God's Word. Praying and fasting as well as spending "Time Alone with God" have become second nature to me. Very often during my early morning walks, I learn to be still so that I can hear "God's still small voice". I know that some people think that I am eccentric. Surprisingly I am not bothered by what people think of me. I am more concerned that my Heavenly Father takes delight in me.



God is the giver of spiritual gifts. He gives each of us at least one gift to serve others as faithful stewards of His grace. As we serve, we will discover our gifts. Our gifts will also be validated by the people around us. I have learned not to be envious or to compare with others because all gifts are needed to build the Body of Christ.

The Christian life is not difficult. It is IMPOSSIBLE by our own efforts. In Romans 7:15 Paul said ***"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."*** In verse 19, he said, ***"For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do - This I keep on doing"***. This is what I confess in my daily reflection and prayer. My spirit is willing but my flesh is weak. That is why I need the help of the Holy Spirit. I thank God for the assurance in His Word that if I confess my sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

I admit that I am still a work in progress. Slowly but surely, I am learning to live moment by moment in dependency upon the Holy Spirit, sensitive to His voice and in obedience to Him. Every day, I have to make a choice: to obey God by yielding to the prompting of the Holy Spirit or to rebel and disobey Him. The Christian life is not blind faith or just feelings. Do I have the Spirit of God in my heart? Is there any change or transformation in my life? Can people see Christ in me? Do I have the joy, peace, and love of God? Am I willing and available to be used by God for His glory?

I am grateful that even in my advanced years, my Abba Father is still revealing to me many wonderful truths from His Word and giving me opportunities to serve Him. I am learning to rely on the inexhaustible resources of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. My prayer is that I will live a victorious resurrected life and serve with joy and purpose, always giving glory to my Great and Mighty God, my Everlasting Father.

**I CAN DO ALL THINGS
THROUGH CHRIST WHO
STRENGTHENS ME
(PHIL 4:13)**



By Grace Yap

Grace is a co-leader of the Sisters in Christ Discipleship Group



A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

**Heavenly Father,
Thank You for Your patience, kindness, and mercy. Even when I
stray, You remain faithful, guiding me back to Your presence.
(Lamentations 3:22-24)**

**I confess I cannot grow in faith by my own strength. My flesh is
weak, but only through Your Spirit, I can live the life that pleases
You. Lead me in the path of righteousness and help me to be
sensitive to Your voice. (John 10:27-28)**

**Give me a deep hunger for Your Word and a desire to pray—not
just to ask, but to know You more. Let my life reflect Your love,
peace, and joy. (Matthew 4:4)**

**Help me surrender fully to You. Remove pride, distractions, and
fear. Teach me to trust You completely. Even in times of struggle
and uncertainty, let me find rest in Your promises and strength in
Your unfailing love. (Proverbs 3:5-6)**

**Shape me into who You've called me to be. Use me to encourage
others, to share the Gospel, and to build up the body of Christ.
Let me seek only Your approval, not man's. (Matthew 5:16)**

**Thank You for the assurance that You will complete the work
You've begun in me. Help me walk each day in faith and
dependence on You. (Philippians 1:6)**

In Jesus' name, Amen.