

# PART ONE

## FAITH

Trust God in Everything

# Never Give Up

Faith Hope Love

## Chapter 1

Introduction

Psalm 34: 7-8

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,  
and he delivers them.

Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Is there anyone around you facing seemingly great difficulties and troubles?

Be it a terminal illness, a broken marriage, a failed business, or even falling victim to scams, such painful experiences can be unbearable. If the sufferer had tried his or her best, exhausted all possible solutions, yet still failed at overcoming the problem in question, what comes next?

Is it disillusionment? Is it frustration?

Or is it fear, weakness? A feeling of being lost, aimlessness?

A feeling of loneliness, helplessness? Would one seek to escape, or give up?

Or would that person remain strong in faith, light on worries, strong, filled with hope and peace?

If the person in question is you, how would you respond? If we are unable to solve a problem with our own strength, the only solution lies in seeking or relying on external intervention. I believe what you look forward to now is surely someone who can:

Give you guidance, and fill you with hope and goals

Give you comfort, and fill you with peace and joy

Give you support, someone to rely on, no longer lonely

Fill you with strength, bestow you with power, banish your fears and provide you with faith to walk out of your dark tunnels.

And who will be able to give you all these?

Someone, anyone who truly believes in Christ our Saviour would say, "Trust the Lord in everything!".

You may feel this concept to be abstract, hard to grasp, and even doubt it. "Would believing in God really help?".

Take a look at Mrs Tan's life experiences and testimony, and you will surely find your answer. She went through decades' worth of fighting against cancer; she faced long years of terrible difficulties, pressure and pain. Yet, she held on to her unshakable faith in God, and was saved again and again from her difficulties. Time and again God saw her through dangerous periods, and guided her through dark valleys. No matter what problems came her way, she did not let go of her reliance to God.

She believed in God's great power, and she prayed out of faith. Sure enough, God is faithful and worked miracles; He healed her many times and repeatedly snatched her back from the jaws of death.

She believed in God's grace and providence. God is faithful and provided abundantly for her medical expenses.

She believed in God's mercy and abundant love. God is faithful and removed her worries from her heart. He eased her pain and brought her peace and joy.

She believed in God's promises, and awaited God's salvation. God is faithful, and accompanied her, comforted her and cast her fears and loneliness away.

She obediently believed God's purposes. God is faithful and let her live her entire life in His grace and glory.

She believed in God's truth and sought for God's word and teachings. God used them to guide her throughout her life, never allowing her to be lost.

She believed in God's salvation and the gift of eternal life. God then led her in the most perfect timing through the gates of heaven to be with Him forever, where death no longer has any hold on her.

Do you see? In her times of difficulty, she relied on God with all her heart. She sought Him, leaned on Him, called out to Him. God heard her, showered her with His grace, and saved her from pain and suffering.

I do believe you know the answer now.

By relying on her faith, Mrs Tan did not lose heart and faith in the face of extreme difficulties. She did not suffer from despair, she was not lost, nor did she worry and fear. She did not feel lonely and helpless. On the contrary, she was guided; she was given hope and goals. She was given comfort, peace and joy; she had support, reliance, and she was not lonely. She was empowered, and she was strong. She had no fear and had faith to emerge triumphant.

I wish that we would be like her. I wish we would hand over all we have to God and be strong in our faith in Him. It is through our faith that we may receive His empowerment, grace, love, promises and salvation, as

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,  
and he delivers them.

Taste and see that the LORD is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

(Psalm 34: 7-8)

Let us enjoy the fulfilling sweetness of a life rooted in God's faith with the song, "The Heart of the Lord"

In the heart of the Lord, are thoughts of peace

All your life He plans to crown you with grace;

In the heart of the Lord, are thoughts of blessing

All your life He promises His love never changes.

In your afflictions He wants to carry your burdens,

In temptations He strengthens you and gives sufficient grace.

In sadness and trouble, He wants to give you rest

May you submit wholeheartedly to seek His glorious face.

In the heart of the Lord, are thoughts of mercy

All my life I want to praise Him and trust Him.

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## Chapter 2

### Praying in Faith

James 5: 15

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

When Mrs Tan was abruptly presented with the news of her cancer in 1996, she firmly believed in God having a purpose for her situation. She also believed that God was in control, and nothing was out of His plans. She thus accepted her illness without fear or complaint. Such is the outcome of one who trusts God; in faith she received comfort, strength and encouragement. She was strong, and the bad news did not break her.

That year, her son Jie En was studying in Primary 2, and her daughter Xin Mei was still in the second year of kindergarten. There was the possibility that as the kids were very young in both age and the foundations of faith, they might not be able to understand or accept the passing of their mother, should that happen. Their faith and walk with God might be affected.

Mrs Tan was neither fearful of the pain the illness might bring, nor of death itself. She did not at all resist returning to her Father in Heaven. Her only worry then was preserving her children's faith in God.

It was precisely at this moment that the Holy Spirit helped her through these words in Scripture, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6)

Mrs Tan firmly believed that God is Almighty, that He controls everything and is steadfast. She believed that He is the one who gifts, who saves, who blesses and heals. To her, God is omnipotent and miraculous. Thus, she prayed ardently to God in faith. In her prayers, she asked specifically for God's mercy, His compassion, His healing and to help her in her worries.

As her prayers were full of faith and sincere hope, as she completely relied on God, her worries faded behind her. She was filled with hope.

3 days later, she underwent an operation to remove the malignant tumour. The procedure went well, and a 1.5cm tumour was successfully removed. Hallelujah! She prayed in faith to God for healing, and it was granted to her. Just as the Bible says, "For everyone who asks, receives; the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."(Mt7:8)

In the following 5 years, God dealt graciously with her and she did not have further relapses. All was well with her. During this time, God's strength was evident in her, enabling her to continue serving in church.

Mrs Tan received God's healing through prayer offered in complete faith, holding on to God's promises. God's miracles come upon those who pray in faith. It is only through such prayers that we can experience God's grace, receive His salvation, fulfil His purposes and glorify His name. Just as the Bible says, "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.' (James 5:15)

The Lord's promises must be received through faith. The Lord's grace can be experienced only through faith. The Lord's healing can be obtained only when there is faith. In the four books of the Gospel, there are many instances of what Jesus said to those who came to Him for healing, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace!"

Trusting God through faith is so important.

Every Christian is blessed. We all have the right to pray. We can pray to God directly any time. God hears all our prayers. Since we are all blessed, when we meet with any difficulties, we should know that our first priority is to think of God, to come before Him and pray to Him through faith.

If your current situation is difficult or hard to bear, hesitate no more! Return to God's arms immediately. If you pray out of faith, you will definitely receive God's help and comfort.

May God Bless You!

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## Chapter 3

### Standing in Grace through Faith

Romans 5: 2

... through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Mrs Tan experienced God's grace in 1996; she had her malignant tumor successfully removed via surgery. She lived peacefully through the first five-year period. Her doctor confirmed her full recovery, that she no longer needed to rely on medication.

It was only in 2002 that Mrs Tan experienced another episode of illness. This was caused by the thick layers of dust and the smell of paint from the newly completed Church extension works of its new office. Her lungs were filled with water and she had difficulties in breathing. After seeing the doctor, she was diagnosed with lung cancer. It was stage 3, and immediate surgery was required.

Faced again with another setback, Mrs Tan did not give up hope. She never doubted God's plans; she did not complain about the recurrence of such a vicious disease on her. She continued to rely on God and held tightly onto His promises. She prayed in steadfast faith to Him, and handed herself completely to God, praying once again for God's mercy and healing.

Her prayers were answered by God. He healed her again, and Mrs Tan fully recovered.

Through her faith Mrs Tan once again received God's grace and mercy. Once again, she received God's healing. Once again, God allowed her to fulfil His plans for her; once again, she was set to glorify God's name.

She demonstrated what the Bible says, "through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." (Romans 5:2)

We become God's children when we believe in Jesus Christ our Lord. It is through this belief that we can receive God's promised blessings and be within God's grace. Thus, with steadfast faith in our Lord, we can be empowered to stand firm in the face of challenges. Of course, through this faith we also live in joy and hope; we joyfully look forward to God's glory in our difficult times.

Mrs Tan stood firm through all these hardships. Her faith grew stronger, and her spiritual life more mature. We can learn from her strength in her faith, and rely on God through our challenges, so that we may live all our lives in God's grace.

Let us encourage one another with this verse from Colossians 4:12, "that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured."

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## Chapter 4

### God's Grace is Enough

2 Corinthians 12: 9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

In May 2006, Mrs Tan experienced difficulties in breathing and sought help from Dr Yang Tuck Loong. After initial diagnosis, Dr Yang recommended chemotherapy under Dr Karman Wong.

After looking through the scans carefully, Dr Wong confirmed that Mrs Tan's cancer was already at stage 4. Cancer cells had begun to spread to all the major organs. From the scans, it was obvious that she was seriously ill. It was heart-breaking to see. Dr Wong even texted Dr Yang and complained about sending a "hopeless" patient to him.

Dr Wong is a Christian. Being empathetic and kind, he initially did not want to see Mrs Tan go through the painful process of chemotherapy. Thus, he did not initially want to take her as a patient. However, as they talked, Dr Wong realized Mrs Tan was strong, steadfast in her faith, fully trusting God and never giving up. His heart was touched, and Dr Wong cried as he prayed for her; he then agreed to take over as her doctor and proceed with chemotherapy.

Mrs Tan miraculously got better after several rounds of chemotherapy. By God's grace, Mrs Tan was once again led back from the valley of death.

From the testimonies of her life, it is not hard for us to see God's mighty power; it is not difficult for us to taste His great love, and it is even harder to forget that God's grace is always upon us.

Oh God, thank you that we can receive your abundant grace every day. How sweet and abundant is your grace, always enough for us.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."(2 Corinthians 12: 9)

Hardships such as serious illnesses, poor family relationships, unsatisfactory work situations, disappointing emotional experiences, financial distresses, etc are inevitable in life.

We are weak and can be easily broken by difficult situations. Some people never recover from them and become depressed, even doubting God's intentions for them and blaming God for purposely making life difficult for them.

God does not intentionally make life difficult for us. On the contrary, He takes advantage of such situations to shower us with abundant blessings and help us resolve our difficulties in life. He helps us do His will and plans for us and allows us to learn to trust Him more.

God's grace is enough for us in every difficult situation that we encounter. Do not focus on the environment around us, and do not complain too easily. We should instead seek God, rely on Him, call out to Him, wait for Him in patience. Our Lord will then deliver us from our predicaments as He is full of mercy, loves us and will always be there to look after us and guide us through every dark valley in our lives.

"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments

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## Chapter 5

### By Faith from first to last

Genesis 28:15

“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

“The smoke outside is especially thick these few days, and the smell of burning drifts into the house. I was thinking of not going to Church these two days to prevent the haze from hurting my nose and lungs. It seems like God has promptly given me a clear answer.

In Leviticus chapter 23 verses 33-44, when the Jews celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles, they had to live in tents made of leaves and branches which were unable to offer protection from the weather. This was to remind the Jews not to rely on their own efforts but the providence of God and re-examine their lives. We need to ensure that our safety is built on God’s truth. God’s love and truth maintains our lives; to rely on them as our protection will then truly guard us against any storm, as our sustenance is dependent on God.”

What I just shared with you is an excerpt from Mrs Tan’s spiritual journal (2006, 7<sup>th</sup> October).

The tent made from leaves and branches may not be stable and offer protection from the weather; if one stays inside without believing in God, that person is sure to worry. If the wind and rain came and the tent collapses, harm will surely come to them. Likewise, sandstorms and the unforgiving sun seem equally dangerous.

As God instructed the Jews to stay inside such booths, the residents had to trust their Lord in complete faith. Should a storm come, they had to trust that it was in God’s plan, and that God would be with them through it all and shield them from the weather.

Read Mrs Tan’s excerpt again and consider, what was her conclusion to this?

No matter our environment, for example the heavy haze that affected our health, so long as we choose to believe in God, we believe that God allowed the haze to happen, and He will protect us from it. Thus, what fear do we have? That was Mrs Tan's conclusion.

We see very clearly the faith that Mrs Tan had was faith from first to last" from Romans 1:17. This belief is to trust in complete faith. We trust God even though we may be unable to see, touch or smell. We trust in God's sovereignty and providence. This kind of faith is a true form of trust that brings peace to our lives.

I feel God's love and goodness every time I read this. I also feel Mrs Tan's faith. She firmly believed that God is our reliance. Based on this faith, she believed that God deeply cares about us and will definitely look after us. She believed that He will complete His promise to "be with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you" (Genesis 28:15).

It is this type of faith, faith from first to last that enabled Mrs Tan to face the pain again and again without fear.

As difficulties loomed before her, Mrs Tan chose to make God's truth her refuge. She chose to believe in God's promises. She chose to obey God's plans for her and not give in to the challenges laid out in front of her. Her choices displayed her faith as well as the God that she believed in. Mrs Tan lived her life in faith, and faith indeed bore witness to her life.

There are many great people in the Bible, such as Abraham, the father of faith, Noah, Moses and David who held onto faith despite not being able to directly encounter God through their senses and completed their directed tasks from God. These tasks were not simple. They would not have been able to complete them successfully unless God was with them.

Let's take David as an example. To avoid attacks on his life from Saul, David fled and hid in the wilderness of Judea. It was a desert, and threats of death loomed everywhere. He prayed to God in faith from first to last, "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water." (Psalm 63:1)

What was the result? God came to save His servant and brought David and led him out of his difficult situation.

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, God cares about us! We are all His honoured priests and vessels of His precious blood. We ought to be like Mrs Tan, like David and the great people of the Bible, and live by faith from first to last.

Let us pray together, for God to strengthen our faith, that we may in any circumstance, from a dry desert to even the valley of death, pray to Him and live by faith from first to last, Amen.

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## Chapter 6

### Promises fulfilled by God

2 Corinthians 1:20

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

Here is another excerpt from Mrs Tan’s spiritual journal (8 October 2006): “The PSI index has remained high for several days in a row. It has even reached unhealthy levels. However, it suddenly dropped from 150 points to 31 points overnight; this must have been God listening to the choruses of prayers and allowing His children to be able to go to Church in peace and worship Him; He is allowing praises of His name to continue. The Devil is unable to prevent what God wants done. Hallelujah! God is alive, He is real, and His victorious reign is forever. All prayers that show faith in God will surely glorify His name. If one seeks God in everything he or she does, they will see God’s miraculous work.”

The haze in the air has been persisting for days with no sign of abating. However, Mrs Tan was able to understand God’s mercy and beauty through her devotions, and with her faith from first to last rely on God wholeheartedly. She prayed in faith and sought God’s glory. Then she faced the haze with peace and calmness, waiting patiently for God’s promises.

Then as the haze cleared over the course of one night, Mrs Tan immediately believed that this is none other than God at work. God was answering His promises to His children, and God had even, when we are blindfolded, heard the prayers of His children. She immediately praised God and witnessed His miracle and faithfulness. Her faith was well tuned and resilient, and thus she received God’s graces.

Without such beliefs and sharpness of faith, one’s spirit is asleep; just like when we are blindfolded, we become confused and ignorant. We would not be able to identify God’s work for us.

As we realize that God cares deeply for us, listens to our prayers, and has cleared the haze within a night for us, would you, like Mrs Tan, be unable to resist the urge to praise our Lord? Would you not want to sing praises and let all glory go to Him?

Hallelujah, hallelujah! God is faithful, and His promises never come empty. "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God." (2 Corinthians 1:20).

To strengthen our faith, God allows certain hardships to fall upon us. Through the crucible of challenges in life where we train our faith, we emerge more patient and retain our trust in God come what may. We believe firmly that in the end God's promises will come true. God will see us through our difficulties and let us benefit from them; He will strengthen our trust in Him, and increase our hope in Him. "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." (Roman 5: 3-4)

The God we trust is always here with us. We ought always to remain close to Him. We must hold tightly onto God's promises during times of helplessness. We must pray to God in faith, and we will hear God's voice: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (Mark 6:50).

I believe now you can fully understand two phrases Mrs Tan mentioned, "Prayers for all things raised in faith to God will glorify His name; in all things seek God, and you will see His miraculous deeds."

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## Chapter 7

### God takes care of your needs

Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

The board of directors from True Light Church showed concern for Rev Tan and asked him, "As the medical fees for your wife's treatments are high, shouldn't you ask the church for financial assistance?"

Rev Tan replied immediately, "I believe the Lord has prepared for me all that I need; before I even open my mouth to ask Him, He has already taken care of my needs for me. God is my help at all times, and He meets all my needs with abundance."

From the moment Mrs Tan became ill to her finally returning to God, she went through several rounds of surgery and chemotherapy. The medicines she took were also expensive. The medical fees incurred were not a small sum. However, through Rev Tan's testimony, we saw that he did not spend a single cent; how miraculous is that! God's grace is truly enough for us.

Right before Mrs Tan passed away, she was admitted to the hospital twice. The first time saw her suffering from severe dehydration and malnutrition; she had to be hospitalized. Every time that Mrs Tan was hospitalized there were brothers and sisters who offered financial help to Rev Tan. I remember one particular instance when Mrs Tan was in hospital, someone visited Rev Tan and Mrs Tan; God touched his heart, and he passed Rev Tan \$1,000 .

Mrs Tan was discharged after 3 days in the hospital. The fees to be paid then was around \$800 . Although only one person came to offer financial assistance, the help offered was not only enough, but more than enough! Thanks to God's provision, Rev Tan did not need to spend his own money. As 2 Corinthians 9:8 says, "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Mrs Tan returned home to recover, but her condition continued to worsen. Once again, she had to visit Dr Wong (the doctor in charge of her chemotherapy, a man full of compassion). After careful

diagnosis, Dr Wong expected that Mrs Tan would have to stay in hospital for treatment and recovery; the duration would be around a month, and the cost would be around \$10,000. Thus, he recommended that Rev Tan consider taking Mrs Tan home to recover instead. Rev Tan decided in the end to allow Mrs Tan to remain in hospital; he saw her pain and her struggle and believed that she needed to have the best environment for her recovery and comfort, no matter what the financial cost was.

After Mrs Tan was admitted, a church elder came to visit; Rev Tan and the elder were not previously acquainted. Right before leaving, as Rev Tan sent the elder to the lift, the elder opened his bag and handed an envelope to him. The envelope felt light, and Rev Tan assumed it was \$100.

After the elder left, Rev Tan opened the envelope. It was a cheque and written on the cheque was not \$100 or even \$1,000; it was \$10,000! Wasn't this the amount of fees just right for Mrs Tan's medical expenses? Once again, before Rev Tan could ask for help, God had reached out His mighty hand and supported them; God provides! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

As long as we believe in Him, God is our help in times of need. "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19).

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## Chapter 8

Obedience to God brings peace

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

A brother in Christ named Jeffrey came to visit Mrs Tan on 1<sup>st</sup> September, the day before her passing. He is a friend of Mrs Tan's second brother and a Christ-loving man. He chatted with Mrs Tan and prayed for her.

Afterwards, Jeffrey and Rev Tan sat down to talk and share. Jeffrey told Rev Tan, from the conversation with Mrs Tan, he could tell she was ready to return home to Jesus and asked Rev Tan sincerely to allow it.

Rev Tan's heart sank the moment he heard this piece of news. Throughout the years, no matter how bad the illness was, he did not easily give up his reliance and trust in the Lord, neither did he give up on his deep love for his wife. Rev Tan was thus lost when faced with this situation. Should he let Mrs Tan return to our Father? After some thought, he said with a shaky voice, "If this is God's will, then I find it hard to accept."

Rev Tan then looked earnestly at Jeffrey, hoping the latter would comfort him with some words from God. However, Jeffrey replied firmly, "Obey!"

Rev Tan's heart sank to rock bottom. He felt terrible; and tears flowed freely down his cheeks. Then he heard a small voice calling out to him, "Why don't you ask Jeffrey to pray for you?"

Rev Tan knew that the Holy Spirit was talking to him, and he immediately revealed his heart and feelings to Jeffrey; he told Jeffrey he was feeling despair and asked for prayer.

Throughout the prayer, Rev Tan handed over his worries and his troubled heart to God. He asked for God's guidance in this. A miraculous thing happened; as Rev Tan chose to obey God, he immediately

felt God's grace upon him. His worries left him, his heart felt peace, his soul felt lifted, and he returned to his normal self.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

When you are in a difficult situation, or faced with a difficult choice, it is not easy to rely on God even if you are clear about His purposes for you. It is not easy to let go of your own worldly perspectives. It is not easy to make sacrifices in order to come before the Lord with obedience.

However, if you choose to open your heart and soul to God, if you are willing to obey His will, and let God direct your decisions, your heart and soul will be at peace. This is because you will be able to see that behind every difficult situation there is a God, a God that provides mercy and blessings, a God that loves you.

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## Chapter 9

Keeping the Faith

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

When we heard the news of our beloved and respected Mrs Tan's passing, we felt a deep pain of loss.

Mrs Tan loved God her whole life and loved others as how she would love herself. She is an evangelist that walked the talk; she is a faithful servant to the Lord and a servant after His heart. To have such a person as our friend and teacher is amazing, and we feel proud of it.

Her fight with cancer started in 1996; she was then diagnosed with breast cancer. She started taking chemotherapy, and after recovery continued to serve diligently within Church. Until 5 years ago, her cancer cells relapsed; after many rounds of further chemotherapy, she passed away and went to be with the Lord.

In the long 11 years of her battle, Mrs Tan experienced torturous pain consistently. Her unshakable faith and reliance in God survived her through the pain and challenges during this trying period. Her life story well portrayed her strong faith in God.

During her trials, she held onto her unending faith in God; she relied on God's words as well as His grace and mercy. She passed through the valley of death several times; she did not grumble about her situation and why God allowed this terrible illness to befall upon her. She did not doubt God.

In the face of pain that the illness brought, Mrs Tan kept her focus on God. She did not complain and held onto her undying hope in our God. She was so obedient to God's will; she was determined in keeping her faith. Her foundation was strong; she was strong, and she did not falter. She held onto the hope of our gospel.

During her battle with cancer, Mrs Tan received an abundance of love as well. God showered her with mercy and love, and she experienced His comfort. She was filled with love from her husband, her children and her family. She was constantly under the care and support of her brothers and sisters in Church. She felt the care and understanding of her medical staff, as well as help and encouragement from her friends. God's love as well as love from her community gave her strength to fight, gave her faith and gave her joy and hope.

Mrs Tan's life shone with such brilliance; it was able to shine due to her strong faith, her unyielding hope, and unending love from God and the people around her.

Mrs Tan walked her whole life on earth with God. She was faithful to her work for God and stuck firmly to God's ways. Her life was filled with the fragrance of the Word, and she glorified God. She is a good example for us to follow. Just as Paul has said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

Looking at the beautiful blue sky above us, we can imagine Mrs Tan happily in heaven's garden, enjoying her time with our Lord. She has been granted the gift of eternal life. As the Bible has said, "For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." (Thessalonians 4:14)

Praise to the Lord! You let us realize that as long as we keep to God's ways and His word, our hope for eternal life is uncompromised.

# Never Give Up

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## Chapter 10

### God's ways and thoughts

Isaiah 55:9

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Mrs Tan's memorial service was held consecutively for four nights. Looking at her in her peaceful sleep, many thoughts flashed across my mind then. I was in spiritual turmoil and said, “Dear Lord! Why would you not keep her in the world to serve you? She was someone after your thoughts and heart! Why did you not heal her? What were your intentions? I really do not understand, please enlighten me!”

My mood was at an all-time low after I returned home from the funeral. I took up the Bible and randomly flipped to the page where my bookmark was previously. The first Bible verse that caught my eye was this: “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:9)

Isn't this the answer to all my questions?

God has planned for everything: past, present and future. His ways are beyond our greatest imaginations. “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.” (Proverbs 16:9). Although we do not understand at times why misfortune falls upon us, as long as we believe that the Lord our God brings peace to us, we will be able to hand over our worries and burdens and receive each day with faith and confidence.

As human beings we are all weak; when we face terrible illness, the loss of a loved one or other misfortune, we may easily lose hope and feel fear, as if the Lord has abandoned us; we may feel that the Lord is far from us and may even blame our God for the pain we were going through. We may doubt God's promises or even be shaken in our faith.

However, do not for once assume that God is unaware of our pain, our fear and our sufferings or that He is not by our side. The truth is, in all our challenges, God is with us, bearing our burdens, pain and worries. When we are weary and weak, He gives strength; when we are in pain, He gives comfort.

As Christians we are blessed. We must remember that the God we trust in is Almighty. He is a God who rules over all and acts according to the best timing. He is a faithful God who fulfills His promises. He is a merciful and gracious Lord. He is a God who is always with us.

Like Mrs Tan, our faith will be unshaken so long as we surrender everything to God. Our faith and reliance on God's plans will see us through every kind of change in our circumstances, whether good or bad. Our God will stretch out His mighty arm to protect us. He will lead us to our shelter. All of God's work for us is undoubtedly the best; all of God's work contain His wonderful intentions and will glorify His name.

Let us pray together: "Dear God our Lord! We are willing to obey and rely on you."