

My Faith Journey

TESTIMONY BY SHARON

Ponder



For a decade, my desire to enrol in the School of Ministry, Tung Ling Bible School (TLBS) went unfulfilled. Yet now, I see God's perfect timing.

In that decade, I struggled with conceiving, and in my cultural context, that was unforgiving.

I lost my dad unexpectedly, and as the eldest, I had to shoulder responsibility while suppressing my own grief. My sister's grief was so profound she said to me, "Akka, you are so blessed that you had Appa to walk down the aisle with you." That broke me.

At the same time, I was trying to prove my self-worth at work and in society, always pushing myself to the limit. On the outside, I looked successful and faithful, but inside, I was crumbling, asking God, "Where are You? Do You see my pain?"



Pursuit

I knew I could no longer go on – I needed a time-out from everything, and I needed to encounter God. Like Moses asking Pharaoh to let the people go (Exodus 5 :1) , I prayed for release from work. God opened every door – my leave was approved, even as paid leave. He guided me in the application process, revealed my calling at church camp, and directed me to the right pastor for recommendation.

Even before I started TLBS, God showed His personal care: one of my youths told me his TLBS classmate had picked my name to pray for the next cohort. I wasn't even in TLBS yet, and God had already put me on someone's prayer list. Truly, God remembers!

Process

From the first day, God began His deep work in me – from "Should I, Would You, Lord?" to convicting me through the phrase, "whom you love" (Genesis 22 :2), and drawing me into fasting and prayer to confirm my calling.

My deepest healing came during the Father Heart of God module. When the lecturer, Bro Wayne shared his story of grief, I cried because it mirrored my own. Afterwards, God spoke: "You could be weak, so that God can be stronger." God saw how I was holding on, and I felt something break in the spiritual atmosphere of my life. Reading the letters from that session twice freed me from deep-rooted guilt.

While learning about ANTS (Automatic Negative Thoughts), I began volunteering as a projectionist – a task that felt like a tall order. But God taught me to embrace Him in everything I do. Even if I failed, it was okay. My best was enough for Him; there was no need to prove myself.

While drawing the family tree during a lesson, God revealed my inability to conceive was not a curse – a lie I had believed. He reconfirmed this in Habakkuk: "It is not your fault, it is not your time." Now, I can truly declare, "Yet I will rejoice," for God is sufficient.

The theme that repeatedly echoed during my time in TLBS was Luke 10:42 – *only **one thing** is needed* – that became my key takeaway, from the first TLBS Polished Shaft magazine given on the first day of the module to end of the course. I believe nothing is coincidence and God has indeed prepared me to focus on Him and Him only.

One past weekend, my husband received an overseas posting. The following Monday, during early-bird devotion, Dean Quek Ju shared about “A Place to Go; Tent of Meeting”, referring to a desert. God was confirming our relocation to Dubai.



Despite my two-year MOE bond, God opened doors – I could apply for no-pay leave and serve my bond when I return, with blessings from my school leaders.

The greatest testimony is when my sister recently told me: “Akka, you are very different ever since you went to TLBS. I see joy bubbling out from you.” Indeed, my joy is restored, and it is just bubbling in me.

Proclaim

Today, I want to encourage all of you: *remember the One who holds your future, and hold on to Him tightly. Christ is enough for me – and for you. He loves you!*