受洗的見證

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郭明惠譯

在過去的五年中我曾認真地考慮要受洗，有好幾次我都認為已經準備好了，但每次又都改變主意，我有好多疑問和疑惑。我是一個完美主義者，總是小心翼翼的，恐怕會出差錯。尤其針對自己的信仰所要作的決定，我更不希望犯任何錯誤。我仍記得有幾次向我父母親問及關於受洗的事，他們總是說這是我自己需要作的決定，只要我認為是對的就可以受洗，他們從來沒有強迫我，只是在星期天將我帶到教會，讓我有機會接觸基督教，他們也鼓勵我一有需要就可以向神禱告猶記得我還小的時候，每次當我看到殘障者，爸媽都會提醒我我是多麼幸運，他們會鼓勵我向上帝感恩，因為祂賜給我許多的福氣，給予我健康的身體，學習的能力，又有優越的成績。有一天，我媽媽開車載我，路上看見一個坐輪椅的人，我媽媽還沒來得及說什麼以前，我就搶著說，〞媽媽，媽媽，我知道妳要說什麼﹗妳一定會說我有多麼幸運，因為上帝賜給我許多福氣，所以我應該要感恩。〞就這樣，我的父母親讓我看見禱告不是只向上帝祈求我想要得到的，也是一種向祂感恩的方式。這是我父母親給予我最寶貴的禮物，因著他們不斷的鼓勵而非強迫，我今天才能夠認識基督耶穌愛祂，並且接受祂成為我個人的救主。

一年多前，我得到麻省理工學院的入學許可，當我準備行李要上大學時，我的心情非常複雜。雖然我心中興奮，滿有快樂和期望，但是我內心卻有許多恐懼，因為我快要離開家人，橫跨美國，到一個我一點也不熟悉的都市，在波士頓居住。我不知道自己是否已作好心理準備，能夠離開熟悉又有安全感的家，我更不知道是否能夠應付學業和激烈的競爭。我沒有將內心的恐懼表現出來，反而，藉著禱告，我得到無比的平安。

在麻省理工學院讀書並不容易。我以前從來沒有那麼廢寢忘食地努力用功讀書，效果卻不是那麼理想。在學校緊張的壓力下，大部份的學生多少都會有挫折感。我觀察到非基督徒比較會尋找一時的舒暢，他們會從飲酒和雜亂的性關係中找尋解決的辦法。相形之下，我覺得基督徒處理壓力和憂慮的方法比較好，透過團契的交通和彼此代禱，基督徒的心中常有滿足，因為上帝的愛永遠常存，生活在充滿壓力的氣氛下，在麻省理工學院讀書的這段期間我的靈性反而有長進。我越來越清楚我的信仰在日常生活中的影響力。

回頭看，我對自己在波士頓良好的適應感到非常訝異，上帝在許多方面賜福給我，讓我能夠一邊讀書一邊繼續彈鋼琴，並且又在學校和教會中認識許多朋友。雖然我以前曾以為無法勝任，但是我學習到如何倚靠上帝的幫助去面對困難，上帝的愛使我們征服障礙。祂無時不在我心中，祂總是願意傾聽我的禱告。這一年當中我也領悟到一點，就是我對基督教可能一直會有不明白的地方，然而這一點不會再使我不敢受洗。反之，我能讓這些疑問幫助我的靈命增長。

有一節聖經經文影響我很深，願意與您分享︰彼得前書一章八節 【你們雖然沒有見過祂，卻是愛祂；如今雖不得看見，卻因信祂就有說不出來，滿有榮光的大喜樂。】

Baptismal Testimony

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translated by Grace Kuo

In the past five years I have seriously considered baptism. Many times I thought I was ready, only to change my mind each time. I had so many questions and so many doubts. I have always been autious of making mistakes --a perfectionist --and I didn't want to make any wrong decisions in regard to my faith. I remember times when I asked my parents about baptism. They always told me that it was a decision I needed to make on my own, based on what I felt was right. They never forced any ideas on me. Instead, they exposed me to Christianity by bringing me to church every Sunday and by encouraging me to pray whenever I felt I needed to. I remember when I was much younger, whenever I saw someone who was physically disabled, my parents would remind me of how fortunate I was. They encouraged me to thank God for all of the blessings that he had given to me: God granted me health and the ability to excel and succeed. One day, as my mother and I were in the car, we passed by a person in a wheelchair. Before my mother could say anything, I exclaimed "Mommy, Mommy," "I know what you are going to say! You're gonna tell me how lucky I am, that God has blessed me and that I should be thankful." In this way, my parents showed me that prayer was not just a way to ask God of the things I wanted, but also a way to thank God for His many gifts and blessings. This is one of the greatest gifts my parents have ever given to me. Because of their encouragement rather than force, I have grown to love Jesus Christ and believe in Him as my personal Savior.

A little over a year ago, I received admission into the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As I prepared to go to MIT, I was overcome with a mass of emotions. I was filled with excitement, with happiness, with anticipation. But, the one emotion that seemed to exceed all other emotions was fear. I was about to travel to the other side of the United States, to Boston, a city where I knew absolutely no one. I didn't know if I was prepared to be so far from the security and familiarity of home. And, most of all, I didn't know if I was ready for the academics and rigors of MIT. I never outwardly showed this fear; instead, I found solace through prayer.

Being a student at MIT was far from easy. Never in my life have I studied so hard and had so little sleep, only to see meager results in the end. The pressure and pace were extremely intense. Most students find themselves pushed to a point of frustration. It appeared to me that non-Christians were prone to seek comfort in ways that could only be temporary. They found comfort in alcohol or by being sexually promiscuous. On the other hand, I felt that Christians had better ways to deal with stress and anxiety. Through fellowship and prayer, the hearts of Christians were always filled, because God's love lasts forever. Spiritually, I grew in the pressure-filled atmosphere of MIT. More and more I recognized how much of an impact my faith had in my daily life.

I am always amazed at how well I adapted to life in Boston. God blessed me in so many ways --I was able to continue playing the piano at school while managing my courses. And, I found many friends, both within my school and within my church. Although I approached MIT with many fears and doubts about my abilities, I learned that with God's help I could manage the most difficult situations. God's love helps us overcome the greatest obstacles. He is always in my heart, always willing to listen to my prayers. In this past year, I have grown to realize that I will always have many questions about Christianity. These questions, however, are no longer a reason for me to shy away from baptism. Instead, I can utilize these questions to grow spiritually.

There is one particular Bible verse that has influenced me a great deal. I Peter 1: 8 "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. "