

# 神的拣选

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大家都知道，象我们这个年纪的人从小是在无神论的教育下长大的。我们所接受的是被曲解了的马克思的观点，“宗教是被压迫心灵的叹息，是无情世界的感情，正像它是没有精神的制度的精神一样，宗教是人民的鸦片。”更为不幸的是，列宁把“宗教是人民的鸦片”这句话归结为“马克思主义在宗教问题上全部世界观的基石”。从此，“宗教是统治阶级麻醉人民的鸦片”这句话，成为我们对马克思主义宗教观的标准理解。宗教被视为“毒品”，被视为旧社会的残余，被视为与先进阶级、先进政党、先进制度格格不入的异物，被视为与马克思主义对立的意识形态。我们那个时代经常喊的口号就是“破除迷信，解放思想”，“扫除一切牛鬼蛇神”。信神纯粹是那些没文化的顽固不化的老头、老太太们搞的迷信活动。

那么我是怎么接收耶稣基督做我的生命的救主和主宰呢？

# God Chose Me

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It is well known that my generation grew up in an environment dominant with atheist values. What we were inculcated with was the distorted Marxist viewpoint that “religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people.” More unfortunately, Lenin construed “the dictum by Marx” as “the corner-stone of the whole Marxist outlook on religion.” Such an interpretation that “religion is the opium used by the ruling class as an anesthetic to control the people” had become an established elucidation for Marxist outlook on religion. Consequently, in my days, religion was despised as the “drug”, the residue of the old society, the foreign object irreconcilable with the advanced classes, political parties and systems, and the ideology conflicting with Marxism. The slogans permeating in our days were “to eradicate superstition and to liberate the mind” and “to sweep away all the evils”. Believing in God was nothing but a superstition maintained by those ignorant, stubborn and illiterate old men and women.

How did I make Jesus Christ my savior from such an environment then?

这还要从1998 年说起。有一天，我先生下班，带回两本书。我记得很清楚，一本是《认识真理》，另一本是《圣经》。他说，是学校一位老师送的。那位老师是个基督徒。我先生还说，1995至1996年间他在美国做访问学者时，接触过基督徒，礼拜天去过教堂。他说他相信有神。我说，你今天没有发烧吧？他说，你先看看这两本书再说。

闲着无聊时，我就把《认识真理》拿出来读。读了一页，觉得很吸引人。我就一口气把它读完了。宇宙规律、万物的奇妙和人类的本质无不证明上帝的存在。许多大科学家如牛顿、法拉第和爱迪生都相信上帝。这时，我脑子里根深蒂固的无神论开始有了一点点的动摇。不是吗？理性与灵性，科学与信仰，并非只是对立，它们之间还有统一的一面。理性与灵性是神赋与人类的特性，科学与信仰是神赋与人类认识神并敬拜祂的沟通工具。

可是在现实生活中呢？神是不是一样具有威力呢？

That was back in 1998. One day, my husband came home after work, with two books in his hand. One was *Seeking the Truth* and the other the *Bible*. The books were given by his colleague, a Christian, he said. I remembered that my husband had told me about meeting some Christians in churches when he visited the States in 1995-96. He said he believed that God exists. Were you feeling OK today? I mocked. Why didn't you read these books first and then figure it out yourself? He replied.

When I read the book *Seeking the Truth* to kill my free time, I found it so interesting that I read it through from the first page to the last. The order of the universe, the wonder of the creatures and the nature of mankind—all these are proof of the existence of God. Great scientists such as Newton, Faraday and Edison believed in God. It was not until then that my deep-rooted atheist outlook began to shake. Isn't it true that that reason and spirituality, science and beliefs, are not always contradictory and they can be unitive in a way? Reason and spirituality are the human attributes endowed by God, and science and beliefs are the communication tools given by God, for human beings to know and worship Him.

Does God have the same power in our real daily life?

以后我也开始试着礼拜天上教堂崇拜。在回来的路上，我结识了一位老姊妹，她是我的邻居，但我们在这之前并不认识。她70多岁了，没有上过学，但她居然能读懂《圣经》。她告诉我，她已经把《圣经》通读了3遍。第二天，她上我家，送给我一本《赞美诗》，还给我叙述了许多她的亲身见证。她对我说，你刚信主，就象一个不懂事的孩子，问父亲要什么父亲都会答应的。只要你祷告，上帝一定会垂听。我对她的话只是半信半疑。

事隔不久，我儿子脖子右边的淋巴肿大，吃药打针也不见好。这下我们有点着急了，我们到医院给他做了进一步的检查，医生怀疑是恶性肿瘤，建议手术摘除。我听了以后，整个人都垮了，吃不下饭，睡不着觉。我先生说，我们只有靠神了。听了这话我才恍然大悟，我怎么没有想到神呢？我在绝望中又看到了希望。我们俩每天晚上手拉手跪下一起祷告，祈求上帝医治我儿子的病。现在我想起来真的感谢神，又一次化验结果出来后，发现只是简单的“传染性单核细胞增多症”。吃了三天药，肿块就消除了。这件事以后，坚定了我动摇不定的信心。遇到任何事情我也不再惧怕了。因为我心里已经有了神。

I started going to church on Sundays. Once on the way back, I came across an old sister, my neighbor whom I had not known before. Old as 70 years old and scant of formal education, she managed to read the Bible three times. She came to us the next day with a book of *Psalms*, sharing her testimony. If you were a new believer, said she, your prayers would be answered by God with special attention, as if you were a naïve baby asking from your father. I accepted it with uncertainty.

Before long, my son had the swollen lymph in his right neck. The swelling did not go away even after he took some medicine and had several injections. Feeling nervous, we took our son to the hospital for a further examination. The doctor was suspicious of a malicious tumor, suggesting for an extirpation. Having heard this, I collapsed, with no appetite for food and a lot of tosses and turns at night for restless sleep. My husband said that we had no alternative but to turn to God. To these words I tumbled, why didn't I think of God? My hope was born of despair. Each night my husband and I knelt down, hand in hand, praying that God would heal our son. Thanks be to God that another test indicated it was just Infectious Mononucleosis caused by Epstein-Barr. After three days' medication based on this diagnose, the swelling went away miraculously. This incident strengthened my belief in the powerful God that He is the one that I shall count on because I know God is the Omnipotent and the Omnipresent, and He is with me.

就拿我来美国的签证来说，在大多数人被拒签的情况下，我一点也不恐慌，因为我先生从美国打电话告诉我，他那边的教会(就是我们现在的学生团契)在为我祷告，有神保佑。签证前，我做了一个简短的祷告，我说，神啊，家庭团聚是祢所喜悦的事情，祢是无所不能的神，我把这件事情交托在祢的手中，求祢看顾。阿们。就这样，我和我儿子顺利地获得了签证。

蒙神的福，我们一家在美国团聚；蒙神的福，我们Old Dominion University 的学生团契使我们有机会同大家一起聆听神的话语，敬拜祂；蒙神的福，我们团契有奉献精神的同工通过慕道友培训班、家访向我们传道，并在生活上无微不至地关心着我们；蒙神的福，我们团契有这么好的讲员，通过他们的证道，加深并坚定了我对神的信念。我渐渐明白了，这位创造宇宙万物的主宰，“有尊荣和威严”，“有能力和华美”，祂与人立的约永不改变，祂用祂丰盛的慈爱关怀并合乎着我们。两千年前，派来祂的独生子——耶稣基督为我们舍命，用祂的宝血遮盖我们的罪恶，拯救我们免于灭亡，指引我们走向永生。

I did not feel worried about my son's and my visa applications to the U.S. Embassy when I heard that a lot of such cases were turned down, because I got the calls from my husband in the States who told me that his church were praying for us. Just prior to our visa interviews, I prayed to God, "Family reunion is what You are pleased to see. You are the Omnipotent and the Almighty, and I will leave this in Your hands. Amen!"

In His grace, my family united in the States; in His grace, the Chinese Student Ministry at Old Dominion University offered the opportunities for us to listen to God and worship Him; in His grace, the caring coworkers often visited me, sharing their testimonies with us, and having consideration for us; and in His grace, the professors' eloquent sermons on Sundays strengthened my faith. I came to know that this creator of all the creatures has "honor and majesty" and "strength and beauty". The covenant He promises for His people will never be changed. He loves us with His abundant care and kindness. Two thousand years ago, He sent His only son to die on the cross for our sins, saving us from death, keeping us from all harm, and leading us to eternal life.

这样的神，怎能不信？特别是我们这些尝过主恩的滋味的人，更没有理由不信。

但在受洗的问题上，我又在自己够不够格成为基督徒的事情上徘徊犹豫了好久。基督徒，对我来说，就是圣人，就是小基督，我能达到如此之高的境界吗？

通过学习，我明白了，受洗就是决志，就是向世人公开与神的关系，是要埋葬旧我，使我们的生命得以更新。使徒保罗说：“你们得救是本乎恩，也因着信，这并不是出于自己，乃是神所赐的；也不是出于行为，免得有人自夸”（弗2：8~9）。这就是神的救恩，是一切相信耶稣的人白白得到的恩典。一切相信耶稣的人将得到永远的生命。

那么，我该怎么做才能因信称义，怎么做才能成为神的子民呢？

耶稣给我们树立了榜样，“不是要受人的服侍，乃是要服侍人”（可10：45）。他上十字架前嘱咐祂的门徒：“我赐给你们一条新命令，乃是叫你们彼此相爱；我怎样爱你们，你们也要怎样相爱。你们若是有彼此相爱的心，众人因此就认出你们是我的门徒了”（约13：34~25）。

How can one refuse this God? Those who have been blessed by God could hardly find an excuse.

When it came to the baptism, I hesitated again, not sure if I was qualified for a Christian. To me, a Christian is like the Christ. How can I reach such a noble standard?

Through the Bible study I understand that the baptism is an expression of faith in Jesus Christ as well as a manifestation of a relationship between us and God, a burial of old ourselves as well as a rebirth of our new life. Paul the Apostle said, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2: 8-9). This is God’s grace that anyone can get simply by believing in Him, and those who believe in Jesus will have eternal life.

Then how can we be righteous through faith and become the children of God?

The example set us by Jesus is “not to be served but to serve” (Mark 10:45) and He enjoined on His disciples before he died on the cross, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35).

“不再等了！”于是在主后2003年的感恩节，响应神的呼召，我成了一名基督徒，享受神那恩惠的沐浴。我深知，尽管我目前做得很不够，但有神的大能，有神的灵住在我心里，我一定能活出基督的样式来。

主后2003 年感恩节

“I cannot wait any more.” On Thanksgiving Day in 2003 A.D., I responded to God's call and became a Christian, being baptized in God's grace. Of course, I understand what I did at the moment is far from God's commands, yet I know for sure that, with the Holy Spirit in me, I will do better each time to please Him.