

God's goodness and mercy in my life

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Actually God has reproved me several times through His word which was preached by the pastor, but I always postponed it until this week. I could not concentrate on my studies and my assignments. I feel that I have a debt if I do not testify **God's goodness and mercy in my life**. There are two things that I want to testify, as follows.

1. God helped me when I finished my study in Jakarta. When I was working for my bachelor thesis, my advisor asked me to use a research method which was not commonly used, I did not understand it, and I had never studied it before. He asked me to change everything in my thesis' proposal, and **I could not do it at all**. When I was searching for references, I found that the method had been used until 2010 only, and there were only few references.

When the deadline was near, I was still working on chapter 4, while my friends had written until chapter 5. At that moment, I was asked to prepare an exam for the students and I thought, **how I could do my thesis while** I had to prepare an exam and check my students' works.

I was very confused about how I should managed my time, since I had to have discussion with my advisor, to attend lectures, and to teach. **When I gave up and could not do anything**, God's hands helped me and I could finish everything at the right time. God was never too late to help. God was very good that He led me until I could finish my thesis without asking for an additional time.

At my defense, **I faced impossibility again**. I got a very strict examiner. She was well-known for being a *killer* because it was very rare for her to give a good mark. I thought if I had gotten B or C for my thesis, my GPA would have dropped drastically and I would have not been graduated with a magna cum laude predicate. I could do nothing but surrender. God reminded me that I was not alone. **He was always there to help me as long as I believed in Him**.

I cried and prayed "*God, help me*". I felt that I had no power at all. I told my parents and my advisor, "*I am sorry if I do not get a good mark*". However, **God did not stand still**. God helped me and my examiner told me that **I passed the defense with a very good mark**.

I cried and I gave thanks to God. Nothing is impossible for Him. God has never left me. **God's power is so real in my life**. God did things that I had never thought of.

2. God brought me to Surabaya, even though I did not want to. Now I cannot count anymore how many people had asked me why I moved from Jakarta to Surabaya. In 2010, when I went to Jakarta for my study, **I did not think about my spiritual condition**. I only thought about my study.

At the first semester, I went to several churches but I did not find peace. At the second semester, I went to a church and I went to 3 kinds of service. I went to 3 kinds of service because I longed to minister to God again. However, as I listened more to the word, my heart became doubtful about the teaching.

I was confused and my heart rejected it. There were a lot of differences from what I had listened to before, because not all teachings were the same. I left the services one by one, and finally I only came for the General Service and day by day **I became farther and farther from God** like a lost sheep.

Last year, God brought me to Malang and there was a fellowship on July. It was not a coincidence that I was in Malang. **God had a plan to brought me to Malang**. When I was in Malang, Pastor Mikha Sanda Toding asked me "*In what semester are you now? When will you graduate?*" I replied "*I am in my seventh semester, and I am working on my thesis now*." He said, "*After you finish your study, you should move to Surabaya or Malang*".

I was really surprised that Pastor Mikha asked me to move, and I directly replied to him "*I do not want to, I want to stay in Jakarta*". It was so hard for me to move. When I went back to Jakarta, I thought about what he had said to me, and I opened the live streaming service in Malang. **I was rebuked by the word** which was preached by the pastor. I fell down and asked for forgiveness from God that when I lived in Jakarta, I had never thought about my spiritual condition but my study only. **I was really sorry**.

God was so good that He let me come back after such a long time being far away from Him. I started to struggle and pray to God, **I wanted to learn to surrender all to Him**. If He wanted me to move, I would. There was fellowship in Jakarta, and Pastor Paulus Sanda Toding called me and said "*If you want to be in the true shepherding, you should move*".

I prayed to God, if by moving I could be in the true shepherding, I would move. In December, I talked with my parents. My mother agreed if I moved but my father did not.

My father asked, "*What about your scholarship? You are a lecturer's assistant, what would you do?*"

I did not mean to brag about it, but I got a lot of achievements during my study and I got a scholarship in BINUS University to continue my study in the post-graduate program, and I even had an offer after I finished my master, but I really wanted to be in the true shepherding. I was willing to let everything go, even though it was so hard at the beginning because I wanted it. Someone told me, "Without being in the true shepherding, even though you are a bachelor, a master, or a doctor, it means nothing".

I gave thanks to God that He rebuked me. My father did not really agree, so I prayed to God. Before I did my thesis defense, I talked to my father again, and **he said yes, and he even helped me to prepare everything for my moving to Surabaya.**

It was God's mercy that He had controlled and given me the best way.

My advisor was very disappointed that I moved to Surabaya, but no matter where I would continue my study, it was up to God. The most important thing was that I could be in the true shepherding.

There were a lot of things that made me worry, especially about my future. The Holy Spirit reminded me that **I should not waste the chance that God still gave me**, and I had to put God as my priority. I learnt to surrender all to God. I did not know what God's plan for my future was, but I believed that it would be the best and the most beautiful for my life.

Before moving to Surabaya, I said goodbye to my pastor in Jakarta, but he said something that made me very frightened. For about a month in Surabaya, sometimes I cried and ran to God's feet. His words really made me afraid.

When there was a fellowship in Empire Palace, my uncle, who was a pastor in Kalimantan, called me and said "*If you have any problem, tell me.*" I did not know why he called me and asked me, but it was true, I felt that my burden was too heavy and I could not bear it anymore at that moment. My uncle said, "*As the time goes by, you will be filled with the word, and you will be able to forget everything. All of your doubts will be answered.*"

The things that made me doubtful were answered one by one by God through the word which was preached by the pastor. **God restored my life.** I was changed by God, especially my spiritual life.

The word about the sprinkle of the blood really made me strong and of good courage. It is true that **we need to bear the cross in order to minister to God.** I can only worship under God's feet until He gives me his mercy. I have to learn to be patient in waiting for God's time.

God blesses us.