



Tallowood Baptist Church
Chinese Congregation

Dr. Lih Yuen's Testimony

As a busy and talented orthopedic surgeon, I was very active with my career, family, and children when I was suddenly became hospitalized for Endocarditis, an infection on my heart valve. After many days in the hospital and multiple antibiotics, I was still very weak, with a constant fever and chills; they had run out of options to treat me, and I was terrified. I lay in that hospital bed, a powerful surgeon who had saved countless lives, now unable to save my own life. On the 11th day of my hospitalization, my brother-in-law's Christian friends came to visit me. I used to go to church "socially;" I had head knowledge about Christ but no heart commitment. These Christian friends read to me from Philippians 4:6-7: "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your quests to God, and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*" I realized how desperately I needed Jesus and the peace that only He can offer. I cried and cried and gave my heart and my life completely into His hands, to live only to follow His will. Right then and there, God gave me that peace which transcends all understanding. It was such an unexpected peace, because physically I had no assurance I would ever recover.

Although Jesus delivered me from the terror and worry, He did not immediately cure me. The complications continued, and I suffered a few strokes. The cardiac team caring for me could not decide whether they should operate to replace my valve. They felt they needed to remove the source of the infection by removing the diseased valve to prevent further strokes, but because of the anticoagulant medication I was on, there was a large risk of my dying on the operating table. They left the decision to my husband – a general surgeon – and me. That was the first time both my husband and I surrendered completely – *everything* – to God. I told God to make the decision, to close the doors that He wanted closed. And we waited.

By the time my turn came for possible surgery the next day, a Friday, it was too late in the day to operate, and the surgeons decided to wait until after the weekend. Over the weekend, I developed a severe reaction to the antibiotics I was taking, so I was changed to yet another medication. The fevers finally subsided. Surgery was again postponed; the door was closed.

This hospital episode was next complicated by rectal cancer, which was suspected to be the source of the Endocarditis. As I lay on the PET scan table, I realized the Lord had still given me this amazing peace and unbelievable joy. Peace in Christ does not mean everything on the outside is okay; it does not mean you *feel* good. In Christ though, in the midst of the biggest storm, you have *peace*.

Doctors removed the rectal cancer, but complications continued (surgical complications and infection after infection). Because of the persistent fevers and chills, the doctors sent me home on oral antibiotics. Still possessing this peace that is beyond comprehension, I lay in bed at home, reading my Bible every moment I was awake. One week later, I was miraculously cured! My Fevers were gone and all my tests normal. The doctors were amazed by my inexplicable recovery. After completing treatment for the rectal cancer, I was readmitted for open-heart surgery to replace the faulty heart valve.

Needless to say, my outlook on life is completely different, as are my values. I have taken a one-year leave from my medical practice in order to travel and share my testimony: How God transformed me from a powerful surgeon to a humble Christian.

"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."

Isaiah 26:3