

The Future Image God Desires For Me

I felt like I lost everything. The place that I had called home for more than 5 years of my life, my most cherished and best of friends from my elementary school, and so many things in my life that seemed just so right at that time. I felt like so much had been snatched out of my life. Having just graduated from third grade, my family and I were evicted from our house. Police officers came to our doorsteps, pounded on our door, and told us that we had only a couple of hours to pack everything we had and leave because we were getting evicted. As a young child, I still remember all the thoughts of fear that ran through my head and the despair I felt as my family and I rushed to pack whatever we could. Thoughts about losing my friends, not having a home, and worries about where my family and I would go, ran through my head as I helped my 3 younger brothers get their belongings. My family had nowhere to go. I felt lost and abandoned. 5 years later the coronavirus pandemic and everything that came with it hit me and everyone around the world like a thief in the night, causing chaos, hurt, death, doubts, and separation from loved ones. It was hard to endure life stuck within the boundaries of my house. As an extrovert not being able to go out, meet with friends, and connect with other people was just something that brought down my morale and caused me to become depressed all throughout the years of Corona. And because Corona began during the time when I was just about to enter high school, it was even harder to live a life where I could really grasp a picture of my purpose; I had no idea what I would do, who I would be, or what kind of future image I would have. I felt the same feelings I felt years back when I was evicted. I felt lost and abandoned.

My name is Elliott Yi, and the journey of life that God has led me through has been full of unexpected turns and a lot of pain, however, as I grow older with every day that the Lord blesses me with, the more that I see that Jesus has been by my side through everything; that everything is a part of His plan, God's plan. God has had a future image that He desires I have even before He created me and I really believe that I now know that I can trust in whatever the Lord asks of me. Through this journey of life that I have been and still am going through, I have realized that God has a plan for me, that I can trust His ways, that I can live life putting God first in all things, and for me to see that everything that has happened in my life happened in order for me to grow so that I could achieve the future image God has desired for me. And everything started with God taking me out of somewhere where I was comfortable in order for me to truly begin my journey of life, my journey to being who God wants me to be, a servant who does everything for the glory of God and his glorious kingdom.

When I was in the thick of the moment I didn't understand why God would do what He did to me, however, being able to look back upon what God had done in order for me to live in the blessings He has given me has shown me that everything was planned the Creator of all things. For example, God took my family and me out of our old house not because he wanted me to not be comfortable where I was already living but because it had to be done in order for me to be exposed and have the different opportunities and blessings I have right now. If had not moved out of where I had originally lived life, I would not have been able to be the God-fearing leader, the taekwondo master instructor, the Senior Patrol Leader of my Boy Scout Troop 777, the captain of my varsity basketball team, and so much more if God had not moved me to where I am today. The Lord has truly brought me blessings upon blessings through people, opportunities, and experiences, and I am so thankful to God for being so so good to me. Furthermore, God also

did what he did in order that I would be able to learn how to trust him even in the hardest of times. I found myself doubting God and not really trusting in God's ways in the past and now that I see all the goodness He has shown me, the more I am willing to trust in what He has planned out for me in the future. It gets me excited to know that God has so much in plan for me, but I also continuously pray that God would remind me that everything is from Him and that I should always put Him first in all things.

With all the experiences that I have gone through, the people that I have met through God's planning, the skills that I have learned, and the numerous opportunities from God that I have grasped, I have been able to say that "it is well with my soul", that I now accept what the Lord does in my life, that I am his servant, and that my life's master, planner, and creator is the Lord Jesus Christ. It was hard to get to this point, but to be able to proclaim the truth that everything is the Lord's and that everything good or bad comes from Him was an even harder truth to realize. However, no matter how hard it was, I still remember what I went through with Christ next to me, in front of me, behind me, and right beside me. This is why I live to glorify Him who makes and gives life to all.

I am currently a junior in high school and it's crazy to see how much God has done in such a small portion of my life. I keep thinking, "If God has done this much in my life so far, how much more would He do later in my life". With a new motivation, realization, perspective, and purpose in life, I now live to do everything for the glory of God. That's why I have been striving to get into Westpoint Military Academy and become a God-fearing leader of America in the future; to become the first Korean-American Supreme Court Justice and serve in God's kingdom as a messenger and servant of the Lord so that I am able to help His beloved children in any way possible. I pray that the Lord will continuously empower me to grow and

serve Him faithfully; that no matter what happens in life, whether that be good or bad, I will remain steadfast in His plans and goodness.

My journey with God thus far in life reminded me of this passage from the bible in the book of John:

John 15:1-8

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

All this, from feeling lost at first, to realizing God has a plan, to grasping opportunities and meeting people that God has placed in my life, to living today as a leader who lives to serve God, to becoming the future image God desires for me, is what I believe the future image God desires for me. All the glory to God.