

## How Faith and God are Shown Through My Family's Daily Life

John Choi

What is faith? By the words of Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." The family that I come from strives to rely on complete trust in God. This verse is what guides my family through our uncertain and ever-changing lives. My dad's teachings of complete obedience and my mom's caring nature have taught my two younger sisters and me to a life of trusting and relying on God.

I was practically born in the church. Growing up, I remember moving to different states but always attending Korean churches, mainly because my parents were Korean, and their English was not great. The cultural and ethnic common ground was understandable and familiar to me. Because of this, I grew up in a tight-knit community that felt like family. However, I was too young to understand what faith meant to me, and I didn't understand that having a personal relationship with God was a significant aspect of my life. My real understanding of a faithful life with God would begin to form after my dad became a pastor when we moved to settle in Tennessee, where I would call home.

The biggest realization of faith began through age, experience, and my family. My family faced financial difficulties. My dad, serving as a pastor in a small congregation, was the only source of income for our family of five, while my mom stayed home to take care of my younger sisters and me. Because of our situation, I quickly understood that my duty was to help my

parents and release the stress of supporting the family. My family grew in faith because of these hardships. Having a difficult life enabled us to realize that we needed to rely on God and trust Him. Every night, our family comes together to read the Daily Bread. The Daily Bread is a one-page reading of someone's story with a topic, verse, and lesson. We always gathered to read each paragraph of the story in Korean and English, taking turns and sharing what we learned after finishing the reading for that day. I loved this time because it was a time when my family could grow our faith in God while conversing and laughing together.

I will always look up to my parents for how they raised me. They taught me how to meditate on the Word of God through Bible Drill. Bible Drill is a program that teaches the importance of studying and memorizing scripture. From January to May, kids have time to memorize specific verses from the Bible, and in May, there is a competition held to see who can find them all and who can find them the fastest. I am grateful for my parents, who have guided me through this experience because, without Bible Drill, I would not know the importance of the messages of God. This year was my final ninth year. In Tennessee, I became a two-time Regional Winner and one-time State Winner. I plan to continue helping my sisters get better at Bible Drill and teach them why it is vital to learn verses. Bible Drill was a participation of all my family, supporting one another and helping each other grow stronger in faith.

The church was an enormous part of my life, and because of that, I grew more mature by taking care of myself and working hard in school on my own. Maturity was critical because it also made me realize God's role in my life and at church. I found my place as my dad's "assistant." I started translating his sermons for the American listeners who could not understand

Korean; I taught intermediate-level Korean classes to anyone curious about learning the Korean culture. Every Saturday, my dad and I would sit together and read the sermon's script. I would prepare the translations, and we would practice together. This was a time when I felt God's presence working in the both of us. Our only intention was to prepare God's Word for people, and this made me very proud to have a father that praises the Lord. I was also the Church Tech. I set up the cameras for those listening through LIVE at home because of the pandemic situation. I set up the computer for the sermon PowerPoint and managed the PowerPoint slides for the praise team's songs. The experiences that I led and assisted in for over four years were a great joy to me because I also had the opportunity to share my testimony and the gospel on this journey. My understanding of adulthood and the way to act taught me to become a church leader and rely on God's voice.

God has changed me to become a more selfless and influential person, especially to those around me. I lean on God because I know He will use my family and me to share the gospel in the way God intended. My sisters and I have learned more from my parents through devotion to the church and Christian-valued activities than anyone else. The relationship I have with my family has taught me to be faithful, even in the most challenging of circumstances. I value and strive for a life with complete filial piety, a bonding of family, and uplifting each other to live a life like Jesus Christ in our daily lives.