The Future Image That God Desires for Me.

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When it comes to talking about my passion for my life, I would like to highlight that I always loved helping people. I don't know if the smiles or the thank you's I received made me love it, but I always remember loving to help others. When my mom tried to figure out what I wanted to be in the future, I always replied, "Someone who helps people." I did not know what my future held. However, I knew one thing: I wanted to help people.

Since there were so many ways to help others, one problem that would always come back was that I would always switch up on what I wanted to be. It changed from a singer to a lawyer, then a doctor, figure skater, and so much more I don't even remember. I love people so much that whenever someone complimented me, such as "You're so good at talking, you should be a lawyer!" I changed my dream, kept on getting influenced by others, and relied on people more than anything else.

Growing up, I grew up in a church and always knew God. I would know most Bible stories and be able to answer every question my Sunday school teacher would ask. I knew who He was in my brain, but in my heart, I doubted if God was even real and worried about what would happen if He wasn't real. The truth is. I never let God guide me because I was going through no type of hardship. When people asked for my prayer requests, I would never say anything because I genuinely had no prayer requests. My life was perfect. Praying and worshiping God was just another way for me to get more compliments and love from others. All of that changed when I got to America.

Although I was used to getting loved by everyone, when I got into Kindergarten without knowing a single word of English, I would cry to my parents almost every morning and say, "I'm sick! I don't want to go to school!" I was never used to not getting accepted. The one thing I idolized and relied on was people who paid no attention to me. I remember being taught to pray in hard times, so I prayed to God. God listened to my prayers and sent me friends right away. When I learned English, everything stabilized for me. So, I turned away from God again.

When I got into middle school, I was starting to get scared about what my future held for me because I knew it would come fast, but I also knew that I wasn't ready for it. I continued feeling rushed and anxious because everyone around me seemed to know what they were doing. A problem had occurred for me. However, instead of praying to God this time, I tried figuring it out on my own. That was when I started thinking more about "who am I?" I began to ask myself questions more frequently and continued trying to know myself better. However, the more I would ask, the more confused I would become. I asked my family what I should be in the future and my parents told me to pray to God. I had hopes in God and thought He would answer right away like He has done all the other times I was troubled. I had asked for things like a big car or a friend, and God had given me everything I asked for, so I thought this time would be the same. This time was different. God was silent.

I asked God more sincerely and talked to Him daily, "God, what do you want me to be in the future?" "God, I am so worried; it seems everyone knows what they're doing except for me." About a month later, when I memorized Bible verses and listened to worship songs, God spoke to me with Isaiah 41:10. It was like a dream come true! God had spoken to me and had told me not to worry. But once again, because of how impatient I am, all the excitement from God talking to me would fade away. I would soon complain again and say, "God, yes, I know you have a plan for me, but I want to know what it is so I can plan everything!" God would always come back with the same message, "Do not be afraid. I have a plan for you."

One Sunday, I listened to my dad's sermon as he preached how God's plan was better than ours. I started to think about that more deeply, and with some tears, Bible camp, devotionals, and a pastors-kid convention over the summer, I realized and learned so much more about God. I realized our life on this earth was temporary, and we should use that little time to glorify God. I became so much more excited about what my future held for me. I knew I could trust God to lead me in the right direction.

My mind was much at peace, and my relationship with God was growing every day. That was when my parents found out about a high school with a health magnet, a high school made for students who want to pursue the medical field. I had moved from one state to another at the start of middle school, and the state I was in before did not have anything like this. In my church, there was a junior who attended that high school and a parent of a child who attended the high school. Even at my new school, five girls wanted to participate in that exact school! There were so many weird connections that seemed to connect me to that school. I knew this was not a coincidence, and I also knew how much I had been looking for signs. I became more interested in the medical field and even discovered that my name meant life, originally named to save lives.

A few months later, I went with my dad on a pastoral invitation to a hospital, where I saw nurses taking care of patients and communicating with them. I had never cared much about nurses when I went to a hospital, but that was when I thought I wanted to become a nurse when I grew up. I was mesmerized by how I could help care for patients and even save lives if I continued with this job! I knew this job wasn't easy, but I was willing to take this path for what I believe I love and what I think is not a coincidence, for what I think was a part of God's plan.

I took this opportunity when my sister informed me about this writing competition, a chance to share a little bit of what God has done in my life. I wrote this essay and took the time to think about how nothing is a coincidence with God and how God was leading me to this way, this path, and this plan He has for me.

Considering everything that has happened in my life with God, I want to help others. It has always been my dream. And with God by my side, what things are impossible? I want to serve and glorify God with the talents, relationships, and love He has gifted me. If becoming a nurse is not my path, I know I can trust God to lead me to the right path. I learned that we should not worry because worrying leads to nothing. Instead, we should obediently follow God's path and plan for us. Lastly, I want to thank the Hyosarang Mission Church for letting me reflect on what God has done for me and what He will continue doing for me.