

## **TESTIMONY OF DR. VIJAYA SUDHA**

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I praise my God for giving this wonderful opportunity to share my testimony with you. I pray that this testimony would bring a great blessing to you.

My name is Vijaya Sudha, 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter of Dr. V.N. Raju and Smt. Esther Rani residing in Karapa, East Godhavari District of Andhra Pradesh. My parents brought me up in the fear and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. I praise my Lord for giving such God-fearing parents to me.

I had accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour when I was 15. Till then I thought that if parents are Christians their children will naturally become Christians as an inheritance. But on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1985 during a Youth Retreat in Narsapur, I came to know that Jesus becomes one's Saviour when he/she accepts him personally into their lives and he will lead and guide them as their Lord throughout their lives. Thus on that day I was born-again by accepting Jesus. Have you too have accepted Jesus and got this born-again experience?

I like to sing spiritual and also secular songs very much since childhood. From the day of my rebirth in Christ, I had stopped singing secular songs but that was only for 3 months but I started singing secular songs again.

But God was so gracious towards me. God had provided a medical seat through the Government entrance exam and I had joined a Visakhapatnam college for my medical studies (MBBS). During my studies, in my loneliness I started singing secular songs and was chosen to sing such songs in college functions too as I had a sweet voice.

But one day God spoke to me through a preacher regarding complete dedication. That day I realised that I was not singing and glorifying God by singing secular songs. So I had dedicated my voice for only my Lord. God had used me in many ways in my college days and blessed me by singing only for his glory.

When I was in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of MBBS, I was married to Mr. Rajendra Babu an Engineer, working as a manager in BEL Bangalore. God has blessed us by given us Esther Praisya & Ron Samuel, a daughter and a son.

From the year 2000 onwards, my life had entered a different phase. I had worked in a hospital after completing the course of house-surgeonship. At that time I started experiencing pain and discomfort during nights in my upper abdomen. After 2 years of suffering, on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2002, I had severe bouts of nausea and I vomited a lot of blood too. All the doctors and staff rushed to attend on me. The news was like a fire to them. They loved me so much, and so they could not digest the news. Owner of that hospital, Dr. Patil became so depressed and called a gastroenterologist to attend on me. My husband also was intimated. Endoscopy was done and a big bleeding tumor of 10 cm size was discovered in my abdomen. Dr. Patil started crying like a child. It

was a shocking news to all my consultants. They had explained this severe condition to my husband also.

I became so tired due to severe internal bleeding and so got depressed. Inside I was weeping as I felt so weak. Being a doctor I could guess and assess that it must be cancer. I'd seen so many patients of cancer suffering and dying. In my case I was the doctor and also the patient. Generally we could say something else other than cancer to those patients to comfort them. All people who came to see me could not comfort me and even doctors who came just shed tears which made me to cry more and more. I wished the doctors would say that I would not die and live long with my family.

I wanted to read the Bible during that time. Micah 7:7-11 came to my memory and God had encouraged me to go through that passage, but my sorrow was so much and my mind couldn't receive it and I was not in a position to fully understand those verses of the Bible.

I was shifted to Mallya Hospital on the next day after the transfusing of 2 units of blood. I was admitted under the care of Dr. K.S. Gopinath, a cancer surgeon. He examined me and told that my condition was serious, and still 6 more units of blood were required to be transfused and kept me in the surgical ICU. Then all other big tests were done. I became so delicate, and the little boldness I had evaporated. No attendants were allowed. During the visiting hours they permitted only one attendant for just 5 minutes. My parents were in Andhra Pradesh. My kids were not allowed as they were very small. Nobody was there to talk or comfort me. Two days had passed without my knowing whether it was day or night. I could not sleep or relaxed at least for a minute. Only one question was top most in my mind. "Why is it happening to me?" On July 5<sup>th</sup> during night my heart was crying and I was questioning myself "Oh, God, how many days I have to suffer with this pain? Will I go to my house again? Will I be healed? My life would be shortened, Why?" People who came to see me too were crying and making me to cry more. I longed to read the Bible but no Bible was allowed inside the hospital ICU.

I cried to God "Why Lord, why have you forsaken me? Why this happened to me so suddenly? I am your child and why have you left me as an orphan? Here I am alone, Will I die in this hospital? If I die what will happen to my kids? They are very small and they would also become orphans. Please strengthen me! Are you showing your wrath on me?" I was struggling. Then I asked myself "Who created me?" I realised it was God who created me. He told me through God, the Holy Spirit that he was with me in my suffering. That comforted me but I started asking him again, "God, Why have you left me in this serious, deadly, depressed condition? And why are you not bringing me your comforting words? Now, I want a word from you, I want your comfort and boldness, speak a word to me" I was asking in my weak condition with weeping and crying. Then I heard a sweet voice from the core of my heart saying "Don't feel bad that a copy of the Bible is not with you now, just recollect and remember the memory verses you have learnt in your childhood". Immediately Ps.23 came in front of me in very big letters in a lively way. God started speaking to me with his soft, sweet and still voice that "Do not be afraid, for you are my sheep and I am your shepherd, even if you are in the valley of the shadow of death, I will be with you. I will carry you where you cannot walk. I will take you out of this valley. You will not be put to shame in front of your enemies and surely goodness and mercy will

follow you all the days of your life.” He wiped my tears, took away all my grief and sorrow and my burden had rolled away and I was filled with his joy. That joy was on my face even today, I praise God for his comforting word given to me even in that serious situation.

I was operated and the tumor was reported as malignant with very bad prognosis that it could grow fast and could kill me soon. There was an abdominal burst on the 9<sup>th</sup> day but still I did not get discouraged. In fact, I was very much encouraged because I believed all things work together for good to them those who love the Lord. After 24 days I got discharged from hospital.

I was advised to undergo check ups periodically. I had joined my work after 4 months. Meanwhile, I wrote some songs, giving my experiences in lyric form as the Lord encouraged me. I had resigned my job due to some reasons. I started a clinic, conducted some free medical camps. God had thus used me in his work.

After two and a half years I was admitted again in Mallya Hospital for check up in Aril 2005. They found another tumor in my liver during a scan. Biopsy was done. It was reported to be of a very serious type of cancer in an advanced stage. It took 10 days for the doctors to diagnose me. I prayed to God to show His will for my life. God spoke to me through II Peter 1:13-15, that he is going to use me as his servant as a singer, a live witness to testify his mercies and glorious things, and a preacher to preach the gospel quoting often my experiences. God told me to encourage the sick and burdened people who are undergoing sufferings like me.

I thought I should not accept surgery because of the high risk involved. My father is a doctor and he also advised me not to go for surgery. God gave me his word when I asked whether to go for surgery or not. Again God talked to me with his soft, sweet voice to read my daily portion. That day it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Job. While I was reading I stopped at the 6<sup>th</sup> verse. God strengthened me and took away my dilemma about the surgery or otherwise and had asked me to go for the surgery. With this faith I had accepted to undergo the surgery, I was successfully operated and discharged after 8 days without any complications.

I started to undergo chemotherapy with the world’s best drugs. I thought I wouldn’t be a witness outside the hospital because I did not get total healing from cancer. I could not tell anything about the healing to anybody in a clear way. People from the church started talking against my faith. I was hurt by their words. I cried to God, “What should I tell, Lord, I like to tell that my God is my wonderful, miraculous healer, Tell me, whether you are going to heal me or not? I am in an advanced stage of cancer. As a doctor I could assess normally it would take another three months to come out healthy from this chemotherapy. So during these three months what should I speak about you, my Father.” Thus I prayed. God has given me enough knowledge about so many things which can help the people who are facing similar problems like me. God has said through 2 Peter 1:13-15 that death is inevitable for all. But precious is the death of his saints in God’s sight. I asked God and he gave me knowledge to know more about the death of his saints.

I will narrate the things shown by God to me.

1. God called me as his servant to serve, sing and to be a live testimony for his glory, to comfort and encourage so many people who are suffering and in need. God spoke to me to preserve my songs and testimony for next generations also.
2. I have to fight a good fight and finish my course and to keep up my faith in all situations.
3. The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory of our future life with God in heaven. So as the child of God it is good to suffer more for the sake of Christ.
4. So many of my Christian friends and believers spoke against me and made me cry more. I cried to God, "Why this has happened to me, your child." God has given me a very good answer. All are sinners including who are talking against me. If God wants to punish or destroy the sinners nobody would live/remain on this earth. Some children of God experience sufferings allowed by God (Heb. 12:6-12). God has given me the grace that through much suffering I proved that I am still his daughter. God allows sufferings to happen to his children sometimes to correct them, to guide them, to grow more in his holiness. So it is good to accept suffering as a child of God. I thank God for allowing cancer in my life as a training and not as punishment. All those who talked against me too had sometimes seen that grace of God was in me. They saw the revival and comfort of God in my songs and testimony and me preaching that sufferings are allowed by the will of God.
5. Not even a hair will fall from my head without God's permission, so with his permission only cancer had entered my body for my eventual goodness. Everything works for good for those who love the Lord (Rom. 8:28).
6. Through my 1<sup>st</sup> surgery, God has given me the experience of the resurrection power of JESUS by sending me into the valley of death. Today I boldly declare that Jesus is risen from the dead. Through my 2<sup>nd</sup> surgery, God taught me to sing and praise and thanking him even in the shadow of death. Thus it has given more power in my testimony.
7. I have experienced God's word in many things, So I can encourage people (as a live witness), who are in troubles, frustrations, sufferings and even in the valley of death.
8. To get patience during suffering we have to ask God for his grace.
9. God spoke to me that his grace is sufficient for me, for his strength becomes more perfect in my weakness.
10. Through these sufferings I learned to lean more upon God, spending much time in prayer, depending more on God for everything and I could know and experience the supremacy of our Almighty God.
11. The death of Jesus is the example for all the believers and saints of God. Jesus as a human being could know when and how his death would be. Likewise his children also should accept their death here on earth. God gives grace for us to know about our end. Accidental deaths also are according to God's will to his people. Especially through any sickness God gives knowledge about the death of his people. We have to complete all our responsibilities in the given lifetime. During agonizing and painful conditions we have to comfort others. We have to forgive our enemies and set everything right with people and our God. We should prayerfully welcome pain during our death without entering into coma. If we suffer like Jesus, we will be transformed into His likeness and get more glory in His kingdom. We have to ask God to give grace to experience

- the above mentioned things and to live for Him. God can make death as a blessing to His saints because we enter His kingdom through physical death. So that's why death of His saints is more precious in the sight of the Lord.
12. Here on this earth we are prone to be sinful. Even if we get healing now some other disease may attack us after some days. So this healing in this body is temporary. But our body transforms when God calls us through death. That new and glorious body will not get any more sickness. I desire from God for that permanent healing.
  13. Why God is not punishing all sinners including believers living in sin? It is because God will not allow sufferings for them as he knows that they can't glorify God during their suffering. Then God would give suffering to his neighbour with the expectation that seeing his neighbour's suffering, at least they may change and get the fear of God.
  14. My power and strength physically are reduced through these surgeries as I faced many side-effects with the chemotherapy drugs. But I learned to depend more upon God even for simpler things.
  15. It is the best thing to trust in the Lord Jesus instead of sharing our sorrows and griefs with our dear ones. I have observed whenever I share my burden, it has increased their burden in their hearts and I have made them to cry. God revealed me to share everything with Him only so that he will lessen my burden in my heart. I found that my cancer has increased my time in prayer to God. After finishing prayer, I experience the new power and strength surging in me.
  16. I could understand the call of my God for me to be a live witness for Him and to sing and preach through live experiences which can comfort the people who are in suffering. God has chosen me and gave this mission to do in my days even though I am unworthy.

I have preserved my songs and testimony recorded in cassettes and CDs. After getting knowledge of above things I told my God that wherever he sends me I will go and I will work for him, and praise him always in my sickness, rather than asking for physical healing. God is giving me many opportunities to share my testimony in many places in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. I told God that I won't be afraid/ashamed of sharing my testimony even though people talk against me.

After completing one year of chemotherapy doctors asked to go for PET CT scan in June 2006. I had to go to Mumbai/Hyderabad and spend money up to Rs.30,000/-. But whatever the money I get I started reserving for doing the Lord's ministry and using in recording cassettes and CDs. Now I did not want to spend money for expensive PET CT scan and opted to go for MRI which is less expensive.

In June and July of 2006 I had finished three meetings in three places of Andhra Pradesh and while returning one of my aunts gave me the whole amount for PET CT scan. I became nervous because I was refusing it but God in his mercy has supplied the need. After coming to Bangalore, I started praying why He has supplied the money? God spoke to me that I should suffer more to bear more fruits of spirit especially patience and long suffering. I prayed "Why Lord, till now I have suffered so much but still I am able to praise you. Lord, Do you know the extent my patience could go on?" I asked.

God immediately replied like he told Job “Blessed are those who suffer”

God has revealed to me a conversation which was between God & Satan about me.

God is telling Satan “Did you see my daughter is praising me even in the valley of death”?

Satan to God, “You have covered her with your blood and keeping and protecting her always; if you have leave her and permit her to suffer more, she will blaspheme your name and die”.

God to Satan, “Ok, you can do whatever you want, but don’t touch her soul, I am permitting you to make her suffer more. But surely she will praise even unto death.”

God has kept this conversation in front my eyes while I was praying.

As we were travelling to Amalapuram on 29 May 2007, during the journey I had a conversation with my son which was about God’s plan for us to live to witness for him as long as we live, and how one day we must leave this earth gloriously in Jesus that is due to the triumphant death of Christ. I prepared him about the death which may come earlier to me than the rest of my family. One by one we must leave this earth and enter the kingdom of our God. So I told him death is nothing but physical separation from dear ones and going into sweet communion with God and enter into eternal life. Now he is mentally prepared and he had accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour at a very young age. So I am happy that both of my kids are in the hands of Jesus. He will never leave them or forsake them as orphans.

We as the children of God must prepare our family for everything. We should be bold enough to do that and ask for God’s guidance. He will surely help us in doing all that is necessary for our children.

I went to Hyderabad last year and got the PET CT scan done. It was discovered that there were many tumor growths in my stomach. I consulted my onco-surgeon again. He and his team of doctors discussed and advised for surgery. I thought suffering would be more this time.

Before getting admitted in the hospital I went to Hyderabad again and prepared some songs and testimony to be recorded and came back and got myself admitted.

In hospital I prayed to God, “Will I return well after this operation?” God spoke to me through II Thessalonians 1-3 chapters and given me the assurance that he will surely be with me during my sufferings.

I was operated in August 2006 that led to so many complications from the 5<sup>th</sup> day onwards. First satan touched my intestines which got paralysed for 15 days. Also Septicaemia started in all the organs like liver, heart, lungs, kidneys bone marrow. Fever, chills and rigors, severe breathlessness and palpitations, severe vomiting of blood due to instestinal paralysis resulted. and so many complications because of toxins. But as I asked God my mind was alert and was working well. So I never got into thought blaspheming God. One day on September 14<sup>th</sup> I asked my husband to

read loudly from Job 1 & 2 chapters as God advised me to practice the patience of Job. He read those chapters for me and immediately I could feel the presence of satan beside me spoiling my thoughts saying that “You will never go back to your house and surely you will die.” and “Why are you still praising God that He’s done good things for you? Your doctors too are not giving any hope that you will survive. You will surely die, before dying just blaspheme your God and die.” Immediately I started crying to God, “Why? Upto this extent my suffering was continuous and I have not slept even for half an hour peacefully on all these days because of my pain and discomfort, Till now I praised you, but now satan is spoiling my mind also, if you don’t intervene now I may blaspheme you and go to hell, please Lord, Have mercy upon me, at least now you have to show your mighty hand and take me out of satan’s taunting.” Later my weeping and burden in my heart was reduced, and I slept for just 20 minutes. God showed me a dream. I saw a sump filled with water and I stood on the wall of that sump and I fell down, my father took me out, 2<sup>nd</sup> time I fell down again my father took me out again and a 3<sup>rd</sup> time I had fallen down into sump, but vigorously my father’s hand picked me up and after me a huge giant male person whom I never had seen, was picked out of that sump by some helpers but only as a dead body. Immediately I got up from sleep and analysed this dream and told my father and prayed to God. My father told that God is giving victory over death. The very next day I became better and the demand of my system for oxygen was reduced. My breathlessness, palpitations, and fever were also reduced. Blood tests reports showed improvement day after day. Intestines started working. I was started with oral liquid foods. On September 20<sup>th</sup> I was discharged at my request.

So many people fasted and prayed for me. God brought me back to life. On 8<sup>th</sup> Oct I could release 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> volumes of my albums.

I was still on chemotherapy. 6 months later I had undergone PET CT scan again which was a very bad positive report. Cancer was seen in my right lung, liver and all GI tract. But I never left my hope in Christ. As a child of God I would be a witness for Him even on my death bed, as he encouraged me to prepare my children mentally for my demise. They have now developed a fresh faith.

Through this bad report, God has given me burden about my kids to prepare them boldly to accept any eventuality. My daughter Esther is a grownup girl and able to understand all the situations and she has seen me sharing my testimony and messages many times. I am happy that she is bold enough to face any situation. Whereas it is not true with my son Ron Samuel. He is small but very sensitive and breaks into tears fast and very soft hearted. The day I got this bad report, he understand it at once and became very tensed. He too got vomiting spells but it stopped later completely.

In the year 2007 my heart was burdened for the many broken families and marriages. I started praying to God for giving me special understanding. God revealed me so many things about marriages which are not revealed to even top religious leaders in churches. And so they make couples to take wrong decisions to make their lives more complicated. But God gave me the knowledge to counsel young couples in trouble for them to take correct decisions.

In the month of March of 2007 during Lent season I started praying specially to get the touch and vision of my God. God has revealed many things about Jesus’ prayer in

the garden of Gethsemane. His prayer became a model prayer for all of us. "Jesus was ill physically also." in the garden of Gethsemane. He had suffered illness which was very serious and Jesus was not able to walk properly and also he had no strength in his body to pray also. As a doctor I understood that he was going through the valley of death, but his own disciples could not understand about his illness. He had fainted but fought in prayer because he had to fulfill the purpose of his coming according to the will of God and he understood that he should not die in the garden and he had to suffer and die on the cross. He fought and fought and He as a human being, depended on heavenly strength and became victorious over all the evil forces at the end. His sweat had fallen on the ground as large drops of blood.

God kept this scene in front of me and allowed the same experience for me in my life too. On 17 of April I was about to go to Amalapuram, Noozividu, Nekkalam and Vijayawada to work until the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. I had given dates for all the meetings. But since 4 days I was having abdominal pain which was on the increase till the 16<sup>th</sup> afternoon. That night I got vomiting spells also. As a doctor I knew that there was intestinal obstruction and decided to get admitted in the hospital. The Oncologists had suggested the same. I was admitted to Mallya hospital again for investigations. Ultrasound scanning of my abdomen revealed the wide-spread of cancer and there was bleeding in a large tumor in my liver. I resigned myself to God's will completely.

I had severe abdominal pain and discomfort continuously. Even then I did not undergo operation but the pain was equivalent to the pain created by multiple operations. Vomiting spells were continuous and I felt very weak and ill. Doctors were so sympathetic to me and very considerate. When I got the peak of pain, when I couldn't take normal breath due to pain, I felt that it's like hell, but immediately I started thinking "Why my God has permitted this hell like pain." I was asking God to show his grace to bear the pain and I thought I would die maybe within days. My attendants my Chitthy and Vajra were patiently ministering to me day and night and so many friends were praying for me. I could see the power of God in me because God has reminded a sermon I gave once during the Holy week about prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. The memory made Jesus almost visible in front of me. Jesus had to die but not in Gethsemane, but on the cross and still there was some time for Jesus to fulfill all the scriptures and in the same way God has revealed that my death is not very near and still there is time for me to fulfill the purpose and will of God in my life. Jesus had companions with him (disciples) but they couldn't understand the physical and mental agony of Jesus even though they loved him. He wanted their support in prayer but he could not get what he wanted from them. The unutterable agony he had felt in his heart were not understood by them. Now too the spirit to God knows us and he intercedes for us. Jesus depended on God and he brought the heavenly power on him through that prayer in the garden. Angels had to serve and strengthen him. Similarly even though so many people are around me and they care and love me so much, only the spirit of God could understand the depth of pain in my heart which was unutterable and ministered and strengthened me. I was physically so weak and I felt as though my liver inside was bleeding Jesus too felt weak and his sweat was falling on the ground as drops of blood.

How marvellous it is that God has given me that experience as Jesus had undergone! Jesus glorified his Father. I am so thankful for his example for me to follow.

My life span has crossed the limit given by the doctors. Nobody would recognize me now as a cancer patient till I tell them. God has wonderfully given me this healthy appearance even though I am a cancer patient.

I do not fear to face death because Jesus guards and holds me even in the valley of death. He holds my hand and leads me out of it. Physically someday or the other, I may leave this earth. I know I will be in the presence of God who would welcome me and wipe my tears forever. In life and the hereafter I will be his child forever. I know as his child I will not be ashamed.

You might be feeling sad about me and your heart might be filled with sorrow and burdened because of my suffering but I am glad to tell you that I am very happy at this moment because of my faith in Jesus. In this bed of sorrow I am fulfilling the will of God in my life. He has made my life so meaningful, so I ask you not to become very downhearted but please remember me by name in your prayers. I would be ever grateful for that. Thank you for reading this, my testimony.

I pray that :

1. You would surely get an experience of rebirth in Christ to understand his love fully.
2. You may all your children to any church which arranges Sunday school to learn the Word of God in their young age. The words they memorize from the Bible will help them throughout their lives.
3. You may dedicate your life and talents totally for the Lord's ministry. If you honour God, he will honour you in due time. Even if you are holding a secular job you could glorify God by being a witness at your work place. I am his witness for that.
4. You may remember that Jesus is with you and in you even when you face trials and tribulations as a child of God. You are not alone. He will never leave you nor forsake you.
5. You may not take pleasure in criticizing, commenting and hurting people when they are suffering. You may learn to comfort others because we have a God to comfort us when we need it.
6. You may be glorifying God in your difficult times/sufferings. I do hope you do not get angry with your maker. Remember, sufferings are allowed for the children of God for fulfilling his purposes in your life.
7. You may get the power of resurrection. Remember to pray earnestly to get his resurrection power without which you may not be able to face life's situations.

GOD BLESS YOU

