

# Testimony - Part 1

by Gladys Aylward

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*Gladys Aylward shares her testimony of complete dedication to God and the blessings that come from obedience to His call.*

**Duration:** 45:01

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:27, Exodus 19:5, Malachi 3:10, Matthew 22:37, Matthew 22:39, Acts 16:9, 1 Corinthians 13:13

**Topics:** "Testimony"

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## Description

In this sermon transcript, the speaker shares their experience of being the only missionary in a heathen government and their journey of spreading the Gospel in South Shansey. Despite facing challenges and frustrations, the speaker found solace in sharing the story of Jesus with the locals, particularly through a woman named Gina. The speaker emphasizes the importance of giving everything to God and finding the love of Jesus Christ to share with others. They encourage the audience to fully surrender themselves to God and not hold back any part of their lives.

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## Transcript

I want to read one verse. Now, the verse itself is quite long, but I feel that this is the verse which God has given to me for you. It's a verse which challenges me every time I read it, and makes me go back and wonder whether I have done all I should.

Have I given him all he asked? And I rededicate all over again from where I started. The verse is the tenth verse of the third chapter of the Old Testament book of Malachi. Now, you'll find that this will not be a sermon.

You've already been to your churches, I hope, and had your sermons. Shall we just listen as if God is speaking to us? Now, as I read this verse, I would like to remind you that my Bible is Chinese, and so, as it comes to you, it will come in a different wording, because I just turned it round from Chinese back into English. Chinese is very beautiful, you know.

There's much, much more of it. And so, sometimes the verses are quite long, where in your English Bible they're quite short. The tenth verse of the third of Malachi.

The great over and above all one, Jehovah, who controleth the hosts, leans, saying, If you will bring into my storehouse your completed tithes, that my family may be sustained, then you can prove me, and see if

I will not open wide windows in heaven, pouring out blessings so many, you will never be able to use them all. The great over and above all one. This, in Chinese, is a very beautiful expression, which we use to speak of our God.

You just can't use the word God. A God, to a Chinese, is some idol sitting in a temple made of mud or wood or stone, or sticking on your kitchen wall on a piece of paper. Our God is over and above not only all other Gods, but over and above all.

Everything. He is the greatest, the most powerful, the most wonderful, the great, over and above all one. Here, when you preach or you talk about your God to, you have to, according to Chinese customs, give, as you would to anybody of any standing, his status, his name, his office.

English is very bare, you know. And so here we have the great over and above all one, Jehovah. And what does he do? He controls the hosts.

And I conclude that the hosts are those things which man cannot control. Man has gone a great length in time, but he still has to, and then he hasn't controlled. The sun, the moon, the stars, the wind, the sea, he controls.

You cannot rule the wind, you can try all you know, but it still blows the way it should. The sea still comes at that split second of the tide every time it rolls in. He controls.

And yet this great over and above all one, Jehovah, who controls these hosts, leans. The lovely little Chinese word here, I only wish you understood it, jiang, which means to lean out. And here he is, as it were, leaning out of heaven.

And he's speaking. Leans, saying, If you will bring into my storehouse your completed package, and you're going to find that this is something very definite, to be put in a very definite place. For a very definite purpose.

There are no perhaps with God, you know, no maybes, no later on. Those words are not in God's vocabulary. If you will bring into my storehouse, that is a definite place, and a storehouse is somewhere where you store something.

You put in those old days those jars of pickles on the shelf for such time as Mother wanted to use them, and she reached them out at the appointed time. If you will bring, says God, into my storehouse, your completed, and you will find, as I have found, that your completed pie is as mine, is this. This is Gladys Hill.

The completed pie, myself. All I possess, all I have, my head, my heart, my feet, my hands, that, that is me. My completed pie.

And when God asks us to do something, he doesn't ask for one hand, or one foot, or even one day. He asks for the complete. You.

If you will bring into my storehouse your completed pie, that my family may be sustained. And if you will look in the dictionary, where I found this explanation, it says, this means to uphold and to keep. As a nurse, a dying patient, as a mother, her baby.

So it isn't money, is it? A dying patient has no need of your palm, no? A tiny baby has no need of your half crown. A dying patient needs the upholding care of the nurse. A baby needs the comfort of the mother's arm.

If you will bring into my storehouse your completed pie, that my family may be sustained, this you can prove. And do you see what I'll do? I will open windows in heaven, and I will pour out blessings. And there'll be so many blessings, you'll never be able to use them all up.

And the words here to describe this is an expression which in Chinese says, wù chū kè yǒng, which literally means the incoming tide of the sea. The ever-flowing of a fountain. Now it doesn't matter what you do down at the seaside, the tide always comes.

The water comes. You can put pipes and dry it off. You can take buckets and bucket it out.

You can build breakwaters. But the water is still coming, and there's still as much. This is what God promises in blessings to you and me when we have put in a completed pie.

And so friends, you and I have got to come down to realize that why we have not got a blessing either in our own life, in our family, in our community, or in our nation, is simply because we have not fulfilled the condition that God made. Now you can say, well that's all right, Miss Ayerwood, but remember this is law. Yes, it is law.

Jesus said, I came not to do away with the law, but to finish it. And if you go back to the dictionary, you will find that to finish something is to add to it. The definition in the dictionary says, to finish a cape, you ice it.

To finish a hat, you trim it. To finish a garment, you put on the buttons. So, if you will bring into my storehouse and finish your completed tie that my family may be safe and sustained and upheld and kept, I will open the windows of heaven for you.

It won't cost you anything. I'm doing the blessings. I'm opening the windows of heaven.

And you're going to say, well I just don't know how to do that because I can't give up this, or I can't do that. God isn't asking you to fulfill a law. He's asking you to find the love of Jesus Christ and pass it on to someone else.

Tonight, in this testimony, I pray that you will realize that it is said for one purpose only, that it may help you in some way, it will comfort where you need it, it will challenge where you need it, it will urge where it is very needed, but most of all, we shall be willing to go away and give to God what we maybe have never given to Him before, our completed self. We have most of us given just one part of ourselves, one piece of ourselves, or just a little bit of our time. Friend, God does not want your bits and pieces.

God is not hard up. The silver and the gold is mine, the kettle and the hose is his. He produced them.

He made them. He creates them. He's not hard up.

And so if you think that God is waiting for you to put your sixpence in, then He isn't. If you will bring yourself, I will open the windows of heaven and may God speak to us or have a blessing on us so that we can go out and bless someone else. I went to China exactly 36 years ago.

I went as a girl in my twenties and I rarely and truly believed that God told me to go. I was saved, not in my home, I'm terribly sorry to have to say, but after I'd left my home and gone up to work in London and I was pulled in to a church one night by a group of young people who were standing outside that church door who had been saved during the previous weeks in some revival and they were so happy they thought they'd got everything in Jesus Christ that they were determined everybody else was going to find him too. And I that night sat in that church and for the first time in my life realized that Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, it shook me, it moved me and it was going to alter my whole life.

I went out not realizing of course what had happened and I rushed home to the little place where I was living and I said, God if you're real, oh please prove yourself to me and if you prove yourself to me tonight I promise I will do anything you ask. I had no idea what he was going to ask but all I can say is this, if I was to be put back tonight to that very moment in that it has been we have a very wonderful God and a very marvelous Savior. That next year I floated around and before I had joined a church really knew how to read the Bible or understand very much of prayer in any what I call concrete way he called me to China.

Why he called me I don't know, I only know he did. I was reading one day a periodical and in it was an article on China that somebody had written because they had come into the news just a few weeks or days previous the fact that the first airplane had flown over China and the article pointed out that western civilization was going in at a great rate to this great land and yet there must be thousands it may even go into millions of people in China who had never heard the gospel. Well this shook me as much as the fact that Jesus was real and I thought well how dreadful fancy having to go all through your life without Christ.

Oh, but how dreadful to not know where you were going. Well then somebody ought to be doing something. I had not been brought up in the circles that talked about missionaries and mission fields and all this kind of thing I didn't know anything about that and so I felt that somebody ought to be doing something I went to the churches, went to the Bibles couldn't read them when I discovered there weren't well then somebody ought to be going and telling and I now believe that this is my job to see that at least one person went to China for Jesus Christ and so for that next year and two months every time I went out I called on somebody either a relation or a friend or somebody I knew and later on people who I didn't know but as names I saw in the paper with this one idea that I could persuade them that they were the very person who should be going to China for Christ.

They were all very clever and educated and they had good positions they were doctors, they were nurses oh they were wonderful and to me they were just the very people who should be going. Well I'm terribly sorry not one of them even took me in earnest. They all thought I was a bit funny in my head and asked me such peculiar questions that I came out very disappointed and then at the end of that time I stood in our sitting room at home while my sister was sending off an aunt of mine who had been to visit and I heard her say Aunt Nell, be very careful if our blood knocks at your door don't open it because you might find yourself on the way to China and I decided that even my sister thought that I was a little bit funny up here and well perhaps I was after all it was a queer idea wasn't it running around trying to push somebody off to a place you didn't know anything about to do something you didn't know anything about to a people who you also didn't know anything about and I left one last try and then I'll throw the whole thing up and I'll go back and enjoy myself my last try was my own drunk I went home I caught him in the kitchen and I proceeded to tell him all that was in my mind I promised to pay his fare I promised to keep him if he'd go all he got to do when he got there was to send me a letter with what he needed and I would send it to him I would work I could earn money and this is where it would go and he laughed and he laughed and he thought it was the biggest joke he'd ever heard and he said I don't know what you're worrying about them

Chinese do you know anything about them?

Nope Do you know where China is? Nope But he didn't read any books about China? Nope Well that's a queer thing isn't it what are you worrying about them for? Because they do not know Jesus Christ and I feel they should You wouldn't go? What me? Oh no I'm not interested and he made a run from the kitchen where we were standing he had already gone out from the door when he put his head round the door and this is what he said If you really believe somebody ought to be going why don't you go yourself?

Peng went the door and away he got I don't know how long and they went on and is it me? isn't it me? all the falls all the again you know and well I wasn't educated I hadn't any money and I wouldn't know how to begin I couldn't I didn't know that so oh no oh no and then why don't you go yourself?

If you really believe somebody ought to go the first Dear Lord Jesus if you will open the way and show me how I will go myself I will never again ask anyone to do something that I believe you are asking the first promise I kept within the next year and a half by buying from Siberian Railway and still seeking with his help to keep and I praise God that even although I didn't and all it was going to cost you the call to give to God only just a few years ago I realized that to pay my own fare was something to me it was just the ordinary conclusion I went to work and I earned the money and I could spend the money how I liked and full of leaners because the leaning post is going to hope he doesn't give it to you stand on your own two feet you're a man and you're a woman and you are answerable

to God not even although that man be somebody you love like your father I never asked my hand I believed I was doing what God wanted me to do and I praise him that although they did not understand all that it was going to mean they accepted Europe, Poland, Russia, across Japan and into the north of China and here I joined an old lady Gina Lawson Gina Lawson was 74 and she had spent most of her life in China and now I we had met the idea of joining up and working and living together God is a great God you know and he didn't allow that he evidently intended we were to be together and so we did not meet until we were right in the middle of Gina Lawson she had never been to a big city she had been more than a few miles to my own house she was 74 we knew nothing that the other one age and

youth north and south I did not learn to love Gina Lawson as I have loved lots of other people in my life 74 still going for Jesus Christ 74ers with their feet on sofas grumbling about all the all their operations all if you will bring into my storehouse your completed time God gives strength courage and everything that's necessary he said I'll open the windows of heaven for you and pour out blessings on you and friend I pray that you will get down before God as some of us have had to do I pray again and again for some good old pioneers still going even though old we opened Gina Lawson and I in this small city hidden in the southern shanty hills in north China a mule is now this was not because we loved mules or because we went wanted to go to business or make money or get important going

over those mountain trails with their animal trains Gina looked up and she said if those let's go home and ask in the church but I had never heard anybody what I call that at the gates of heaven for the souls of men in the way Jeannie now bested for the souls of the men of Yankton I am afraid was a little concerned and I knelt rather trembling behind her but I was to praise God that although Jeannie never taught me how to eat Chinese food with chopsticks or anything about Chinese customs or even gave me any hints on how to learn the Chinese language and when the souls of men she's got that little special compartment down there in my I pray to those of you who've been beautiful or done it because you have taught these men with their animal trains came in to me they listened to a story from

Jeannie who sat on a little stool in the middle of the courtyard while they finished their food or smoked their pipe I don't know the story one I did not understand even if I had had to do this job and there was no other job I could do so I got irritated and all the smell would go and look at Jeannie come and the men the owners of the mules leaning forward trying to catch every word of the story of Jesus if you will bring into my storehouse your friend when God asked to go to China he didn't ask for one hand he didn't even ask for two hands he didn't even ask for one and this I be and all I can do is Jeannie died but the very men who had come in to the inn were our first Christians they weren't even men when Jeannie died I now believed that because I was a young and single girl and alone

I just didn't live alone anywhere China anyway has been a land of great convention women didn't go out alone however old they were always accompanied by a some male servant male member of the family and if they hadn't got that then they didn't go out and so the consequence was I couldn't go out I found that I was simply because I had no chaperone and no one to accompany and I longed to know the women I longed to go into the village to be free and now I was bound that I would have to where well I didn't know I suppose God would tell me what thoughts came into my mind the first was that in a particular place pour blessings upon them and then because it was uncomfortable yet knowing that they were the only real Christian there expect them to know the second thought was that I knew the only

bit of language at that place was only understood just there so that if I moved I would have to start learning an entirely new Chinese in that I wouldn't understand anybody outside as a God of common sense as well as love something that I wouldn't advise you to do unless you feel very definitely led I decided that every day when I read my portion if I came across in that particular portion the word go I'd get up and go if I didn't find the word go then I just wouldn't move but I read day after day after day after day but I didn't find the word go so I stayed rather puzzled and lonely all day long all I could do was study the Chinese in a very so that there was nobody to teach me only the old cook and then at night time get mixed up with the military and then the door opened I discovered

that the Christian I was the only woman from two to four years old on those baby feet and walked those baby steps he made a law the holding of women's feet was now to cease you do not know how much we owe to this man and his courage and his stand for the faith that is in Jesus Christ and when you would you be very careful if you bring into my storehouse your completed time you find yourself in love with people you don't you might not like but whom you know are your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ this meant that every headman of a district had got now to find somebody who he could organize Changxian so the day he came with the intention of this job we stood on each side getting no nearer to each other and refusing almost to listen to him he was interested in but you know I do you

really believe they should have dreamed of or because I knew how to climb mountains which again I didn't cannot tell you that the job was wonderful that the pay was glorious I only know that I was hot in the local militia oh if only they knew how to of every village everybody had all the doors open all streaming from the inn all there glowing and smelling and so we started well anyway you do the same as I do us little babies and their feet were the same because through the inn came the first Christians so now through my job whoever would have dreamed that God was going to use what was then a heathen government there never has been they were the only people who knew anything about me they never entered their heads because we don't step facing problems also these two men who are my

bodyguards conclusion Lord Jesus used amazing ways to pull me do you believe that it was God's will there are people in the state and I challenge you men and women to seek God's will to seek God's will to

seek

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