

Thanksgiving Testimony Roy and Shirley Chia (August 2026)

We would like to share a recent journey where God's hand explicitly protected Roy's life, teaching us deep lessons about God's faithfulness, His perfect timing and the fragility of our life.

God's Protection

During the last leg of our April trip to South Korea, while we were in Seoul, Roy experienced chest tightness and breathlessness on a few occasions. At the same time, he was also hit with extreme tooth sensitivity, and he could not chew his food.

Even though it never occurred to us that Roy could have a severe heart condition, God gave Shirley the wisdom to realize that something was amiss, and she suggested having it checked as soon as we returned to Singapore. Looking back, our hearts are filled with thanksgiving as we saw how God was shielding Roy.

With his severe artery blockages, a sudden fatal heart attack could have happened at any moment. We are so thankful to God that Roy did not collapse while we were in Seoul or during the plane flight back to Singapore.

God's Perfect Timing in Every Detail

God's precise timing became undeniably clear now. The very next day after our return, the Lord miraculously provided an urgent dental appointment to relieve Roy's intense tooth sensitivity. A thorough deep cleaning of his gums was carried out.

Next, Roy went to get his chest tightness checked. We thank God for his divine arrangement again to provide the very last polyclinic slot available for that day. It was that specific polyclinic visit that led to an immediate referral to the Accident & Emergency (A&E) department, followed by the hospital admission.

God knew that Roy needed his dental issues resolved before undergoing the major surgery. He orchestrated the time-line perfectly, day by day. Our thanksgiving is boundless because immediately following the admission, medical professionals stepped in with incredible speed and advanced the date for his surgery. On 15 May, Roy underwent a quadruple coronary artery bypass graft (4 CABG) operation. We thank the Lord with overflowing gratitude for directing every single step and the doctors' skilled hands on that pivotal day.

Blessed by God's Provision

We are profoundly grateful for the incredible community the Lord has blessed us with. To our church community, family and friends who interceded for us in prayers and show of love and concern, we say a deep thank you. Your love was a physical manifestation of God's comfort, and we lift up our hearts with gratitude and praise for each one of you.

We also give thanks with joyful hearts for the excellent medical system in Singapore. We are blessed with highly efficient and advanced healthcare. We are deeply grateful that such world-class care is heavily subsidized and accessible to us during a time of crisis.

Roy is here today because of God's miraculous intervention, His loving kindness, and the swift actions of medical professionals.

Resting in God's Faithfulness amid Uncertainty

As we share this testimony, it has been slightly more than 3 months since the surgery. Our lives look very different now and are impacted in many ways, as most of our planned trips are cancelled so that Roy can focus wholeheartedly on his recovery.

Roy currently faces regular medical checkups and undergoing cardiac rehab sessions, in addition to a recommended diet change to a low fat and no sugar, and strict daily medication routine. Thanks to Shirley for her impeccable meals management for Roy. As Roy is on DAPT, he has to be very careful not to cut or hurt himself and also conform to the strict diet.

While this sudden and shocking discovery of Roy's heart condition brings a sobering awareness of the fragility of our life and the inherent uncertainty of our lifespan, we do not walk in fear. Instead, this uncertainty drives us to continue to rely entirely on God day by day. Our prayer: "Lord, our days belong to You. Please preserve our health. Keep our mind and body strong. Make us useful for Your kingdom. Let us serve you faithfully."

A Humbling Lesson

Through this trial, the Lord taught us a vital, humbling lesson that we feel compelled to share. We have learnt not to rely totally on surface-level health reports. Instead take heed to the body's warning signs, and with God's given wisdom, seek medical help quickly.

Despite needing a quadruple bypass, Roy had always felt fit and well, and routine blood tests often show normal levels even when his major arteries are dangerously blocked.

We were so shocked when the angiogram revealed the severity of his vessels' blockages.

We conclude our testimony with these verses.

Lamentations: 3:22, 23

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness.

Psalms 103:2 - 4

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction, who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.