

Lebanon: A Firing Squad Aimed—But God Intervened

Adeline (name changed for security) was a young mother in Lebanon, pregnant with her second child. In 1990 Lebanon was in the midst of war and under Syrian military occupation. One day, she, her husband, and their young son were captured by Syrian soldiers. They were lined up in an execution formation. Guns were raised. Death seemed inevitable.

Adeline closed her eyes and prayed—not for deliverance, but for the strength to endure what she believed would be her final moments. She prayed she wouldn't have to watch her husband and son suffer. Just as the soldiers prepared to fire, a Lebanese tank suddenly emerged from the distance and fired. The shell struck with force, ending some lives and scattering the rest in retreat. Miraculously, Adeline and her family were left standing unharmed. Shrapnel and smoke surrounded them, but not a single scratch touched their skin.

In the days that followed, Adeline came to see that surviving that day was only the beginning. Physically, they were free—but her heart was weighed down by hatred. “I knew I had to choose whether to feed that hatred or to ask God to take it from me,” she later said. For six years, she fasted and prayed weekly, asking God to remove the bitterness and resentment she held toward the Syrians who had nearly killed her family.



Then, history turned. War erupted in Syria, and more than a million Syrian refugees poured into Lebanon. Many Lebanese people saw these refugees as a burden—or a threat. But Adeline saw something different. The years of spiritual wrestling had prepared her to meet this moment with compassion, not resentment. She described how her heart slowly shifted—from hatred to empathy, from empathy to cautious service, and finally from cautious service to wholehearted engagement.

Today, Adeline works with a Christian organization providing aid to Syrian refugees. Many of the people she helps are from the same country—and sometimes even the same military—once responsible for her trauma. Yet, she offers them food, support, and love in the name of Jesus.

Adeline's story reminds us that forgiveness is not weakness—it is the real work of spiritual transformation. Her life is a testament to the power of God to change not just our circumstances, but our hearts. In a world where fear and division so often prevail, Adeline stands as a witness to a different kind of kingdom—one built on mercy, healing, and reconciliation.