

WITNESSING, A CHRISTIAN'S TESTIMONY

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A CHRISTIAN'S TESTIMONY

Today we use the word testimony to mean many things. When I was a teenager in church the pastor would ask people to stand and share a testimony. They would say different things that God had done in their lives. These are testimonies of God's goodness, of His mercy, of healings and of things He had done for them. They certainly can be used to draw someone to Jesus.

Psalms 65:16-20 - Come *and* hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what He hath done for my soul (for me). I cried unto Him with my mouth, and He was extolled (praised) with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart (If I cherish my sin), the Lord will not hear *me*: *But* verily God hath heard *me*; He hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed *be* God, which (Who) hath not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy (His love) from me.

Notice if you like your sin God will not hear your prayer. We should always be sharing the things that God is doing. When we share about answered prayers it can help to build the faith of others. We should always thank God for answered prayer and praise Him for Who He is and what He has done. We need to give God the glory that is due Him.

What was the testimony of the early church? What does it mean to testify of Jesus?

2 Tim. 1:7-8 – For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord (So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord), nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel (join me in suffering for the gospel) according to the power of God:

They carried the testimony of Christ. And notice that afflictions are plainly stated as a natural part of carrying that testimony.

Rev.12:11 - And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die).

The word of their testimony was that Jesus left heaven, came here born of a virgin, God in the flesh, lived a sinless life and sacrificed Himself for mankind. That after His body died, He rose again and is alive forever more and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father. So that by His sacrifice and the shedding of His blood we could be saved. That is the testimony of Christ. That is the testimony that saves lives.

A person has to understand that there is a God and He loves us and wants to reconcile us to Himself and the only way to do that was and is Jesus Christ. If you were a Jew and were alive back in Biblical days and heard the teachings of Jesus and then of the apostles, you would have been so over joyed to be set free from bringing all of the sacrifices year after year. Such relief not to have to kill all those animals to cover your sin but to finally be able to have it washed away by the blood of the Lamb of God, Christ Jesus.

You overcome satan by having the blood of Christ applied to your life.

Exodus 12:21-23 - Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the Passover (Passover animal). And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts (put some of the blood on the top and the two sides of the door frame) with the blood that *is* in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through (the land) to smite (strike) the Egyptians; and when He seeth the blood upon the lintel (top of the door frame), and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door (He will pass over that home), and will not suffer (not allow) the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite *you* (*strike you down*).

This is why we plead the blood of Jesus Christ over our lives and over our families as Christians. Jesus is our Passover. He's our Deliverer, our Savior. I used to say

we had a sacrifice to offer in Jesus Christ but really God made the sacrifice and it is up to us to come and accept the sacrifice He made on our behalf Who is Jesus.

We certainly cannot overcome anything if we aren't even saved. None of our sins are washed away until we come to Jesus with sincere hearts, truly sorry for our sin and repent of our sin. God does not forgive sin without blood being shed.

Lev.17:11 - For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls (I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord.): for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul (It is the blood given in exchange for a life that makes purification possible).

Heb.9:22 - And almost all things are by the law purged with blood (the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood); and without shedding of blood is no remission (no forgiveness).

When God sees that faith is there, that is the moment of salvation.

Once you are truly saved, then you want to be sure to stay covered in the blood of Jesus Christ. I cover myself and my family every morning and every night in the blood of Christ Jesus. You have to understand there is power in His blood. His blood protects those that are His.

WITNESSING

Early Christians believed that their life was to be a life style of spreading the good news and to multiply the kingdom of God. Christians should be praying for the sick and those who are oppressed by devil. They should be easy to spot, living as new creations, being filled with the Holy Spirit and choosing Christ every day. We should be striving to do God's will, to have an impact in this world and all the while worshipping Him in Spirit and in Truth.

The early church did so much to spread the gospel and multiply the Kingdom of God. So why aren't we living like that anymore? Where is our hunger and desire to see souls saved? Why have we let the world beat us down and close our mouths? Jesus is worth anything you face in this life.

John 12:42-43 - Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on (in) Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him* (they did not openly acknowledge their faith), lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

They would not confess with their mouths that they believed in Christ. So they were not spreading the gospel, they were not carrying the testimony of Christ and were not working for God's glory at all. Because they were men pleasers.

So when you witness, what do you say? Where do you go? Invite them to church, even our online church. It's easy to share our messages with them since we are online.

Matt.24:14 – And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

We can all do something to spread the gospel. The scriptures that you put on your mail are ministering to someone.



We are living in a pretty rude and sinful world now in these last days. Each one of us is still here for God's glory to continue to try and reach the lost. We are the light and we have the answers so don't let the wickedness of this world stop you.

However, if someone is not interested in what you want to share, you have to recognize that too.

Matt.7:6 - Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend (attack) you.

Look for the ones who are ripe and ready to hear. Jesus said the harvest is ripe. There will be a few that want to hear. But many don't want anything to do with Jesus. This country is over churchd and sadly to say even with that, it is a country that is unchurchd because they truth has not been taught. We were never supposed to be trying to force Jesus on anyone. If they don't want to hear, don't worry about it just move on.

We live in a free country in America. Christianity is not against the law, yet. We need to share openly while we still can.

1 John 1:3 - That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

You are going to share from your personal experience with Jesus and what you know. It is personal and they want to know that Jesus is real in your own life.

How do you do this? I remember one of the first times I was going to witness to someone. I was so nervous and very scared. Why do we get that way? It is the fear of rejection. Anyway, I asked my pastor at that time what do I do? He said well the first thing you do is pray about it. That's right. You want to set the whole thing up for success. Do spiritual warfare over the situation before you step out in the natural. Lift the person up to God in prayer and pray for their salvation, for God to open their spiritual eyes, ears and understanding as you step out to share about Christ to them. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words to share and ask the Lord to water the seeds you will sow and for Him to give the increase.

Before you go in person, bind satan and his kingdom in the person's life and cover them in the blood of Jesus Christ. Cover your visit in the blood of Jesus Christ. Then go and minister what God has placed on your heart to share.

My neighbor was a Buddhist. She had pictures of Buddha smiling and being angry on her door. And inside she had a small Buddha shrine. She had small children that were Kennedy's age and they played together. She was and still is a very sweet lady. I'm not even sure I can remember what I said. Of course she was very nice but I did not feel the meeting went well at all.

After that, I had gotten her a Bible in Mandarin because I knew her first language was not English. I went and gave her the Bible and shared something with her. I invited her to church again. Shortly after that, she did come to church! I think she mostly came because of her children and wanting them to socialize. But she came. This was right during the time that God was calling me to the ministry. Before we left that church she came down front to pray the prayer of salvation. Now that was a successful story of witnessing.

However, I had had other times where it seemed to be a big mess. Where you find yourself presented with a moment to share about Christ and there isn't much time to pray or even prepare. No matter what, trust that God is in control and those experiences help us to grow. We aren't the ones who save anyone, it is the work of the Holy Spirit. But God will use us as vessels in service to Him. Pray and ask God to use you effectively for His glory, to open doors to you and to place opportunities in front of you to reach someone for Him. He will.

I get into situations usually in the grocery store where I can talk with people. Listen to what they say and drop scripture in your conversation. See how they respond to that. If someone is down or discouraged share with them how God helps you out of those moments and situations.

And remember never be discouraged, not everyone wants to hear or may not be ready at the time you talk with them to come to Christ. But when you work in the Father's vineyard, He will tend to the seeds sown.



This looks like three friends talking. I remember when Kennedy was little she was in the yard and two of her friends came over but they were outside of the yard. They were talking through the fence and Kennedy was asking if they were saved and sharing about Jesus with them. That's the way our children are supposed to be. Raised in God's will, His ways and His Word.

It is easiest to begin witnessing to people you know. Your friends, classmates, co-workers and family. They are in your life for a reason. We are all on technology these days and social media is a great way to share about Jesus.

CLOSING



The Holy Spirit will give you the boldness to step out and do it. It may not be perfect and it may go horribly but that's ok, you are not alone and it will bring you joy knowing you did that for the Lord.

If you are rejected remember what Jesus told His disciples as He sent them out:

Matt.10:12-15 - And when ye come into an house, salute it (let your blessing rest on it). And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it (let your blessing stand): but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you (take the blessing back). And whosoever shall not receive you (welcome you), nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

If you receive persecution for trying to reach out to them, remember this scripture:

Matt.5:10-12 - Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you (mock you or insult you), and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely (lie about you), for my sake (because you are My followers). Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you (And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way).

Do something for the Lord before it's too late. Time is running out. You don't want to stand before Him ashamed because you never even told those closest to you about Jesus.

PRAYER