



Sunday November 26, 2017
The Power of Testimony

In this message we'd like to bring our attention to the importance of sharing, speaking, telling, declaring of the good things God has done for us. Formally, we call it 'testifying' or sharing a testimony. But it simply means to tell of what the Lord has done for you personally in your life.

In Acts 1:8 the Lord Jesus said that we will be His witnesses:

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

the word 'witness' in the Greek is the word 'martoos'

this word 'witness' is used:

- 1, in a legal sense - those who testify in a court of law
- 2, in a historical sense - those who tell of what they have seen, what they have been spectators to, e.g. a contest
- 3, in an ethical sense - that is those who prove the genuineness of their faith by becoming 'martyrs'

A witness has a testimony and testifies to what they have seen and heard.

We are witnesses to Jesus.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to be His witnesses. We are to be His witnesses with power - supernatural power that makes His works happen. So we not only witness to who He is, but we also have power to give evidence to what we say about Him.

So we are witnesses with power to produce proof, to give present evidence.

As witnesses we must talk about Him.

One of the simplest ways to witness is to simply share, tell, declare, talk of the things the Lord has done in your life, for you or things you have seen Him do in the lives of others. This is testifying or sharing a testimony.

Let's talk about the power of sharing a testimony. What happens when we share a testimony - tell someone else about something we have seen, heard or experienced the Lord doing.

#1, We magnify, glorify and exalt Him when we testify

Psalm 105:1-2

1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!

2 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!



Psalm 9:1-2

1 I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

The Psalms, many of them are filled with praises to God.

Part of praising and exalting God is to 'make known His deeds', to 'talk of all His wondrous works', to 'tell of all His marvelous works'.

We glorify our Lord when we testify.

We demonstrate thankfulness when we talk of what He has done for us.

Keep your heart pure when testifying. It is to glorify Jesus, not yourself. Do not seek any glory for yourself when you share a testimony!

John 7:18

He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.

#2, We create a remembrance and a memorial when we testify

One very important thing we see in the Bible is about God instituting 'memorials' for His people, so that they do not forget what the Lord has done for them. One of the ways He did this is by instituting feasts.

The Ark of the Testimony

The Ark of the Covenant (Numbers 10:33, Numbers 14:44) was first called the Ark of the Testimony (Exodus 16:34; Exodus 25:16,21,22)

Testimony = witness

The Ark of the Testimony has inside it (Exodus 16:32-34; Hebrews 9:4):

- A golden pot of manna : speaking about God's supernatural and faithful provision
- Aaron's rod that budded : speaking about God's affirming of the leadership He appointed
- Tablets of stone with the ten commandments : speaking of God's Word which He gave to His people

The Mercy Seat was upon the Ark of the Testimony. The Mercy seat was the place of atonement and also the place where the Lord would meet and speak to the High Priest.

So what can we learn:

The place of testimony is also the place where God's mercy, God's presence and God's voice is experienced.

It is important to recall, recount and talk again and again of what the Lord has done for us. It is something we can go back to, to reignite our faith.



In Psalm 77, the Psalmist went through some trouble that was quite distressing, until he chose to remember what God had done in the past:

Psalm 77:1-12

- 1 I cried out to God with my voice— To God with my voice; And He gave ear to me.**
- 2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; My hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing; My soul refused to be comforted.**
- 3 I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah**
- 4 You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak.**
- 5 I have considered the days of old, The years of ancient times.**
- 6 I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, And my spirit makes diligent search.**
- 7 Will the Lord cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more?**
- 8 Has His mercy ceased forever? Has His promise failed forevermore?**
- 9 Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? Selah**
- 10 And I said, "This is my anguish; But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High."**
- 11 I will remember the works of the LORD; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.**
- 12 I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.**

One of the ways we inspire faith in our children and in the generations that come after us is to tell them about the goodness of God we have experienced in our own lives.

If we fail to do this, we fail to pass on to the next generation the faith we carry and the goodness of God to our own lives.

Judges 2:7,10

- 7 So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.**
- 10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.**

So let's be intentional about telling stories of what we have seen God do, to our children.

Set aside family time to listen to God's Word, pray, and then have free conversations. We encourage you to make use of our ChurchApp as part of your family devotions. Listen to the daily five minute devotional 'Living Supernaturally!'. Then have conversations about God, about His Word. This becomes a natural time to share stories and tell of what God has done in the past.

God instructed His people to do so:

Psalm 78:2-7

- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,**
- 3 Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.**
- 4 We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.**



**5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children;
6 That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children,
7 That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;**

#3, We inspire faith in others when we testify

We reveal who God is, to others when we speak of what He has done in our lives. This inspires faith in their hearts.

Here is an incident when Jesus cast many demons out of this man.

Mark 5:18-20

18 And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him.

19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

20 And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

The story of the Samaritan woman is interesting. An entire community was affected:

John 4:28-30,39-42

28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,

29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."

40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

41 And many more believed because of His own word.

42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

A great way to share Jesus - just tell them what He has done for you, or what you have seen Him do for others.

Psalm 103:7

He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

The people saw His acts (works), but Moses learned His ways.

His works reveal His ways (His nature, His heart, His character).

So when we speak of His works, we are revealing His ways, who He is to others as well. They are drawn in to believing in Him and who He is.



One of the ways to sustain faith for the supernatural, to sustain revival, to maintain spiritual momentum, to keep the fires of passion ignited is not only recount what God has done in the past, but to keep talking of works He is doing in the present - what He did today!

#4, We release a prophetic word declaring what God will do for others

Revelation 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

The one who was speaking to John at that time was a fellow servant and one of the brethren. He was a redeemed child of God. This man had the testimony of Jesus in his life. He was one who also bore testimony to Jesus. He then says 'the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy'.

We can understand this statement in two ways:

- 1, When we testify to Jesus we release the Spirit of prophecy.
 - 2, It is the Spirit of prophecy (the Holy Spirit) who empowers us to testify to Jesus (Acts 1:8).
- Both statements are Biblically correct and accurate.

Let's consider the first statement:

When we testify to Jesus we release the Spirit of prophecy.

Each time we tell of something God has done, we are making a prophetic declaration that God will do it again, to anyone who will believe! We are releasing the anointing - the Spirit of God - to do it again!

God is no respecter of persons (Romans 2:11) and does not show partiality (Acts 10:34). What He has done for one, He is ready to do for everyone else.

In the testimony we just read earlier this morning, we see this actually played out. The lady heard what the Lord did financially for another family, and she claimed it for herself!

#5, We overcome the enemy when we testify

Revelation 12:11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Speaking our testimony, talking of what the Lord has done for us, is a key to overcoming the enemy.

Psalm 107:2

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,



So, praise the Lord somebody!

So Share your testimony. Tell others about it anywhere, everywhere you get an opportunity!
Share your testimony of any miracle, any work of the Lord you have experienced in your life.

If you would like the church to hear about it, you can send an email to: **testimony@apcwo.org**
and we will share it. We are careful not to reveal personal details when we share testimonies publicly.



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday November 26, 2017
The Power of Testimony

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passage: *Mark 5:18-20; John 4:28-30,39-42*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Review the 5 key outcomes of sharing our testimony and how you can apply these on an ongoing basis:

- #1, We magnify, glorify and exalt Him when we testify*
- #2, We create a remembrance and a memorial when we testify*
- #3, We inspire faith in others when we testify*
- #4, We release a prophetic word declaring what God will do for others*
- #5, We overcome the enemy when we testify*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learnings today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey



Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. (Keep matters shared in the life group confidential). Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.