

The Power of God's Testimony.

The testimony of God serves as the ultimate resolution to strife, extinguishing doubt and argument. When this divine testimony takes root in your heart, you enter a realm of walking with God where doubt and fear lose their grip. But alongside the testimony, we find the equally vital commandments of God. As stewards of this testimony, our confidence and boldness in approaching God grow. It doesn't mean we won't face trials; rather, the testimony steadies us during those challenging times. The absence of this testimony is responsible for the anomalies we witness in today's Christian community. The ancient fathers understood this truth—it formed the bedrock of their faith.

The testimony confirms the testament. The testimony is the witness and the testament is the covenant. The testimony is the witness that an agreement is sealed and is doable, while the testament is the agreement. When two parties see an agreement, the witness comes and says, yes, this testimony is workable. Walking with God is guided by principles and these principles are what form the covenant that He made with us.

Faith Anchored in Testimony.

Lack of familiarity with the testimony leaves us uncertain. Our faith to walk in the covenant rests upon the testimony of our faith. Think of the entire nation of Israel—a covenant community. When Jesus arrived, they didn't mince words; they declared themselves as God's children, not of another lineage. Every testimony relies on witnesses. In John 5:30-32, when they sought a witness from Jesus, He pointed to the Word and His works. Remarkably, even John's testimony didn't suffice; only God's testimony held weight.

Psalm 19:7-9 KJVS

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. [8] The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. [9] The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Our focus today will be on the testimony.

1 Corinthians 1:4-7 KJVS

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; [5] That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; [6] Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: [7] So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

The testimony of Christ was established in them. They were simply waiting for the coming of the Lord. They had the gifts in expression, but they lacked something. They failed to obey the commandment of the Lord, though they had the testimony. There was always strife among them, bitterness etc. The commandment of the Lord stands on three legs, It enhances your faith, hope and love. These three elements are strengthened by the fear of the Lord, judgment of the Lord, testimony of the lord, etc.

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These three elements are always in view when speaking of God's work towards man.

1 Corinthians 2:1-3 KJVS

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. [2] For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. [3] And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

1 Corinthians 2:1-3 shows that the testimony of God is centred around Jesus and Him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2:4-6 KJVS

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: [5] That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. [6] Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

Verses 4-6 shows that the foundation of your faith is the power of God. What is the power of God? When and at what point has God manifested the greatest power? Was it at the Red Sea? Or at the wall of Jericho? No. These were all great acts of power. However, the greatest power was the power that brought Jesus to the earth as a man. It was the power that transformed him from a perfect man to become sin, not a sinner. It was the power that put God to death and rose him from death to immortality and life. Ephesians 1:19-21. A continuous reality of this is what gives a believer a sound and steady faith.

The environment that the christian life is being expressed is not a good environment, it does not encourage faith. Do you think this environment is what God will use to bring back the glory of God? No. This environment has promoted decadence in the true faith. There will be a change. There is the old path, Jeremiah 6:16.

Revelation 6:9 KJVS

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

There are a people who are conversant with the testimony, know the testimony and kept the testimony to the end. We see this same theme in the patriarchs of old, they kept the testimony. The apostate state of the church is because we have thrown away the testimony. Yet, there are a remnant, that are completely given to the Lord, like Daniel 1:6-8, they will not defile themselves, they will keep the testimony.

Looking at Revelations 6:9, your mind might go immediately to martyrs. This is true. Many of them had to pay the ultimate sacrifice, especially under Nero's rule. Which is easier, if you mention Jesus as Lord, I will shoot you, or a brother offends you and you forgive him from your heart. You live above Malice, sin, living in love always? Paul said, in 1 corinthians 13:3

1 Corinthians 13:3 KJVS

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

The testimony which they held, compelled them to live a life, slain for him. This is not saying that martyrs will not be part of this class, but people who will make this class are people who when they were alive, lived and held the testimony of Jesus. They are those who bear in their body, the dying of Jesus Christ. The world may hate them, even the church body may hate them, because of the testimony of Jesus Christ. They take their cross, they follow Him.

The demonstration of this true power of God is what keeps you in the faith. The power that keeps a person convicted of the fact that they are saved in the face of all contradiction, 1 Peter 1:5. How do you confess someone that you have not seen? It is the power of God that keeps you. Matthew 16:4. The power that holds you and I convinced and persuaded is unimaginable. How can you with confidence say, you were crucified with him, you were not even born then. The greatest power demonstrated towards you was your salvation, the next is your conviction. See Peter pre and post the Holy Spirit.

Do not be like the adulterous generation that seeks a sign, Matthew 19:4. This is how the antichrist will sway many. Hebrews 11 shows men of faith, each one of them were entered into the annals of heaven and studying their life will show you what faith was. Moses was lectured and tutored in the way of Moses. He was on line to the throne of Egypt, which was a ruling empire then. He however, chose to suffer affliction as opposed to the enjoying the pleasures of Egypt. He did all this for one who was invisible. Hebrews 11:24-27. The testimony is invisible to those who have eyes to see it.

The testimony is simple. It is founded on the fact God said Jesus would die and He did. God said he will be raised and he was. There are several men and women who had this testimony and lived by it as seen in Hebrews 11. Yet, there are the class of believers like Aaron, who was the only one who could stand by the Shekinah glory, yet, he did not know this testimony. He built a golden calf and was missed out on the annals of faith. Yet, Rahab, a harlot, preached this testimony to the spies, telling them that they were a chosen race. She made it into the annals of faith.

The testimony is:

- Sin has no more dominion.
- Death has no more power over you, because Jesus had no more power of death.
- Man has the life of God.

When you believe this testimony, you are free from sin, death and walk in God's life.