

SERMON NOTES - My Testimony - 5 - Testimony as a Weapon

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

This week: Your testimony is a powerful weapon of warfare against the devil

2Co 10:3-5 NKJV — "3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

1Pe 5:8-9 NKJV - "8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

Our testimony is a powerful weapon of warfare...How does our testimony defeat Satan?

1. It defeats the "wiles" or "schemes" of the enemy:

Jhn 8:44 NKJV - "44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."

Jas 4:7 NKJV - "7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Paul's Testimony regarding His time in Troas - 2Co 2:10-17 NKJV - "10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. 12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, 13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia. 14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ."

2. It clothes us in his armour - Eph 6:10-19

- Contains the BELT of TRUTH - vs 14
- Puts on the SHOES - the preparation/READINESS to share the gospel of peace - vs 15
- It speaks of salvation and righteousness, the HELMET and the BREASTPLATE - vs 14, 17
- It involves and strengthens my FAITH, which is His SHIELD - vs 16
- It includes His WORD which is the SWORD of the Spirit - vs 17

3. It's Prophetic - prophecy is a weapon that defeats God's enemies

Rev 12:11 NKJV "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.

Rev 19:10 "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.**

1 Tim 1:18 NKJV This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the **prophecies** previously made concerning you, that by them you may **wage the good warfare.** (1 Tim 6:12)

Luk 21:12-15 NKJV — "12 "But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. 13 "But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. 14 "Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; 15 "for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist."

4. It overcomes a spirit called "fear", and it stirs up and releases His miracle power - 2Ti 1:6-8 NKJV - "6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of **power** and of love and of a sound mind. 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the **power** of God,"

"power" = "*dunamis*" see Mat 6:13, Luk 9:1, Act 1:8, Act 10:38, Eph 1:19, 21

1Co 10:13 NKJV - "13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

Matt 10:32-33 NKJV - "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. "

Conclusion:

Your testimony is a powerful weapon that defeats the enemy - God uses the words of your testimony powerfully.

Rev 12:11 NKJV "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.

Ps 107:1, 2, 42-43 "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, ... 42 The righteous see it and rejoice, And **all iniquity stops its mouth**. 43 Whoever is wise will observe these things, And they will understand the lovingkindness of the LORD."

Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.