



MODUAL: Church
Course: Being a Witness
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Can I Get a Testimony?

Most of us have either personally experienced, or seen on TV, the various components of a courtroom. Aside from the judge, we have a jury, witnesses, plus the defense and prosecution lawyers.

Imagine that you've been called to be a witness and to testify on behalf of God! That's right, God. The prosecution claims that once Jesus died for us, He sat down and left us to fend for ourselves. The defense position is that Jesus continues speaking to us, guiding us and helping us.

As you prepare to take the stand, you review your interactions with God. What personal evidence will you present? Do you have any evidence for God's defense? Or, will your lack of testimony serve the prosecution's position?

As strange as this scenario may sound, isn't it similar to the accusation Satan made to Eve? "God knows you'll be like Him, when you eat the fruit." [Genesis 2:5] Had Eve known that she and Adam were already created in God's image and likeness, she would have discerned the lie, and defeated the enemy "by the utterance of her testimony." [Revelation 12:11]

What is a Testimony?

In his book, *The Essential Guide to Healing*, Bill Johnson says: "I diligently preserve the record of what God has done in the past until it becomes the lens through which I see present circumstances."

I have found this pattern to work effectively in my own life. As I face a new or difficult situation, I can grow in faith as I recall what God did or said in similar past situations. This recollection is a testimony about what God has done, but also what He'll do again. This process helps me to experience and learn more about God and his ways.

Let me give you an example. Many years ago, I was taking classes in Lakeland, Fl. I used Exit 261 off I-75 to get on to I-4 which was a very busy four lane divided highway. This exit had a very short entrance lane. Just thinking about merging into the oncoming traffic made me panic. One day, I spontaneously prayed: "Father, please give me an opening so that I can merge easily." Guess what happened! As I came off of the ramp, there was a large opening in the traffic. Merging was easy. The following week as I approached I-4 again, I recalled what had happened the previous week and I prayed again. The same thing happened. Week after week I would recall what God had done. Each week I prayed with more faith and trust. I was never

disappointed. To this day, every time I'm about to enter a busy highway, I recall this testimony, and thank God for His intervention even before I merge.

You might ask, what enemy did I defeat with this testimony? I defeated two enemies: fear and intimidation.

But that's not all.

Every time I share this testimony of God's help in my [seemingly insignificant] time of need, I'm proclaiming God's faithfulness. Since God is no respecter of persons, He'll do the same for anyone else who asks. I think believers need to pray bold prayers, trusting God cares about all the "seemingly insignificant" needs we may have – even when we're not aware that we have a need. Let me give you another example.

One beautiful spring morning, I was walking Buddy, our Welsh terrier. As he sniffed the ground near our Bougainvillea bush, a butterfly came on the scene. It hovered so close to Buddy's head that I found myself uttering a little prayer, "Please Lord, don't let Buddy snap at that butterfly."

As I watched, the butterfly kept hovering and Buddy kept sniffing. Finally I thought, Buddy is so busy sniffing, he's not even aware of that butterfly. As this thought crossed my mind, I sensed the Lord saying: "Isn't he just like you? My blessings, which are all around you, often go unnoticed because you're so taken up with the cares of your everyday living."

"Wow! Lord, that's neat!" I recalled the Scripture about the seed which was choked by the cares of this world.

I had never thought of myself in that light. Could my cares actually hinder God's Word from being active in my own life? Of course, the answer is yes. This incident was God's way of getting through to me.

This was definitely a correction, yet there was no sorrow with it. I rejoiced because I had heard from my Abba. I was overwhelmed at how much He cared. And, I knew He would show me how to change.

How about You?

Did the Holy Spirit show you anything personal as you read this testimony? You may want to pause here and wait a minute to see if any thoughts just seem to come to mind.

The Holy Spirit often drops a thought into our open and receptive hearts. What we do with that thought makes all the difference in the world. I'm sure the idea to pray about the entrance ramp came from the Holy Spirit. If I ignored it, my stress and anxiety would have continued and God would have received no glory. Instead, I'm still proclaiming this testimony some 20 years later.

My Prayer for You

As you read the following testimonies of how God speaks to me, be on the lookout for His still small voice speaking to you. I pray you will grow in hearing and responding to His promptings. I also pray that as you share your own testimonies with others, they too will begin hearing God's voice more clearly and consistently.

Think of what such a chain reaction of testimonies on God's behalf would do for the Body of Christ. Christians would become bolder and braver because:

- They know and understand, thru personal experience, God's mercy, love, and kindness towards them.
- They would trust and rely on Him more fully knowing personally that He will be with them in time of trouble.
- And they would believe that God Himself will honor them and satisfy them with long life.[Psalm 91:14-16]

So in closing: "Are you ready to testify on God's behalf?"

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