

Another Testimony besides Our Own

Among Christians, especially in ministry circles, a testimony can be an extremely powerful witnessing tool. Even the Apostle was called upon to give his testimony as a defense on his final journey to Rome.

“Agrippa spoke directly to Paul: “Go ahead--tell us about yourself.” Paul took the stand and told his story.” (Acts 26:1 MSG)

Often times Christians revel in the fact that their testimony is more dramatic and sensational than those who haven't traveled down paths darkened by equally by sin and depravity. But often believers especially new believers are easily enamored by self. They joyfully proclaim what He has accomplished in them leading into what they will accomplish for God! Then the focus shifts from God to self. When this happens the object glorified is the believer and not God! Listen to what Oswald Chambers has to say on this topic;

The most delicate mission on earth

The friend of the Bridegroom. John 3:29.

Goodness and purity ought never to attract attention to themselves, they ought simply to be magnets to draw to Jesus Christ. If my holiness is not drawing towards Him, it is not holiness of the right order, but an influence that will awaken inordinate affection and lead souls away into side-eddies. **A beautiful saint may be a hindrance if he does not present Jesus Christ but only what Christ has done for him; he will leave the impression—‘What a fine character that man is!’—that is not being a true friend of the Bridegroom; / am increasing all the time, He is not.**¹

In order to avoid this pitfall we must be aware that God the Holy Spirit is writing His own testimony, not on parchments but on the hearts of believers.

“Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” (2 Corinthians 3:1-3 NKJV)

“The stamp of the saint is not the metallic rapping out of a testimony to salvation and sanctification, but the true humility which shows the fierce purity of God in ordinary human flesh.”²

So the testimony of Jesus in this world is **not only that Jesus is alive, but He is alive in us.** Now let me repeat: **The life of the believer is intended to be the history of Jesus Christ rewritten.** "Ye are an epistle" - or a biography. But that testimony is going to face opposition. Satan will try you like he tried Jesus in the wilderness so don't expect this life to be a "walk in the park" or more accurately a "walk in the Garden of Eden" Again these quotes from Austin Sparks;

If you are in right standing with God, for that is what baptism really means, if you have received the

¹ Chambers, O. (1986). *My utmost for his highest: Selections for the year.* Grand Rapids, MI: Oswald Chambers Publications; Marshall Pickering.

² Chambers, O. (1958). *Notes on Isaiah.* Marshall, Morgan and Scott.

Holy Spirit, the anointing, you must expect that the next thing that will happen is that **the devil has put his mark upon you, and his one object will be to break up your testimony concerning the Lord Jesus, to nullify the presence of Jesus in your life, or to get you right out of the way.** The enemy will be watching you all the time to try to destroy the presence of the Lord Jesus and to get you out of the way.

T. Austin-Sparks (2011-02-13T11:00:00+00:00). The Holy Spirit's Biography of Christ (Kindle Locations 587-589). Austin-Sparks.Net. Kindle Edition.

“I do not think that Satan is going to stop at anything to kill the testimony of Divine life in Jesus. Again and again he makes an attack upon His life in every possible way in order to quench the testimony of Jesus, but He goes through. He lives, and He lives today, for that Divine life has triumphed over everything. **That biography has to be written in your heart and in mine.**”

T. Austin-Sparks (2011-02-13T11:00:00+00:00). The Holy Spirit's Biography of Christ (Kindle Locations 695-697). Austin-Sparks.Net. Kindle Edition.

We must remember that as we engage in this warfare that the victory has already been won so we need not fight for victory but from victory. Joseph Prince (with whom I don't agree with on every point of scriptural interpretation besides this one) says this;

“If God's Word says that we are more than conquerors through Christ, then we are. We are not going to become, we already are. We may be experiencing some failures or setbacks in life right now, but only good will come out of our situations because God says that , "in all these things we are more than conquer- ors,". We have the victory!

You see, God has placed us in Christ, whom He has exalted to the highest place in the universe. **We are not trying to get to victory ground. We are already on victory ground. We don't confess God's Word to get victory. We confess His Word because we already have the victory. We don't fight for victory. We fight from victory.**

The devil will try to steal our victory. He will come against us with lies and fears, and cause us to be conscious of our failures, weaknesses....”

Remember that **the greatest battle ever won was won by the apparent death of the Victor without one word of rebuke against the Enemy!** You and I have the privilege of abiding in Christ and allowing His Holy Spirit to write His testimony on our hearts today for His Glory, Honor and Praise!

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