

**Word of the Week**  
**Testimony**  
**February 04, 2015**

Origin: Middle English: from Latin testimonium, from testis 'a witness'.

Definitions:

\*A formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law

\*Evidence or proof provided by the existence or appearance of something

\*A public recounting of a religious conversion or experience

In a court of law, the deciding factor of someone's guilt or innocence is based on other people's testimonies. These people are called witnesses. Any given witness can be called to give different types of testimonies. There are expert witnesses to give testimony of the evidence presented; there are character witnesses to give testimony regarding the accused personality, activities, and demeanor in an average situation; there is also an eyewitness who gives testimony surrounding the events of the alleged crime committed. Our testimony of the Lord is all three. We are called to be a witness of Jesus Christ (share our testimony) to others so they can come to know the true and living God, our Lord and Savior, against the unbelief that exists. We are called to testify to the character of our Lord; to the evidence presented in God's word and how it relates to our life; and to the events of our life which have been changed and rearranged by our Lord's presence. Without testimony it would be difficult for anyone to know the Truth of our Lord. The Bible is the greatest testimony of the workings of the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit. Our testimony is to show how the Word of God cleanses us and makes us new beings than what we were before. Our testimonies are evidence that God is a living God who is the same today as He was yesterday and will be tomorrow. Every moment of our lives is a testimony of God's goodness and His love for us.

Part of my testimony: Starting around my junior or senior year of college I started seeing therapists. I felt something was always wrong with me. I was also studying biology and psychology so I was doing a lot of self-diagnosing. This pattern continued until I went to a psychiatrist after my first son was born. The psychiatrist diagnosed me as manic depressive and placed me on

medication. I was medicated for a number of years while also self-medicating with marijuana. Due to a series of events (which I will not mention here) my medication had to change which I could not bare. My diagnosis had changed to schizoaffective disorder (which I think is bi-polar and schizophrenia combined). By the time of this diagnosis I had already accepted the Lord Jesus into my life but did not have a relationship with Him. I thought that once you accepted Jesus and was baptized that was the end. This belief is incorrect. I had so many hurts in my life and had no idea what was happening. (What I am about to tell you I do not recommend for anyone. Always seek professional help before starting or coming off any type of medication. The reactions of doing it yourself could be extremely detrimental to your health.) I stopped taking my medications all together without the help of any medical professional. I had a season where I was unable to sleep and began hallucinating severely. I was unemployed at the time so my marijuana use increased. I was a single mom at the time so my life seemed to be full of pressures I could not control. The end of the year that all this was happening was the beginning of my seeking God's face. My marijuana use stopped, I began to trust people a little more than I ever did, and God put me with someone who gave me a true foundation of learning God's ways and the battle that was really going on inside of me and all around. This is not to diminish the value of the others that were in my life before; they helped build a foundation also but I needed more than what I had; more than what the others before were called to give me. I allowed God to work in my heart and my life and He did. I was finally able to read and understand His word without frustration because I allowed Holy Spirit to take hold of all of me. I am now happily married to the father of my children (after years of struggle), I have no desire to smoke marijuana, and I do not feel depressed or unworthy as I did before. God continues to put people in my life to help steward my growth. This is a testimony to God, His word and His indwelling Spirit. There are still areas within me that need work but I know I will overcome them as I have overcome these other areas in my life.

I will share something I have come to understand by living in God's Word. The Bible says "And they overcame him (the accuser of the brethren) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." (Revelation 12:11). The Lord showed me, when reading this verse one day, the word of our testimony is JESUS CHRIST. When we share all He has done for us, it helps others trust Him more and also increases our faith in Him because we remember all He did in our lives up to this point. Sometimes it takes sharing

your life with someone to get to a point that they can begin to believe in Jesus Christ. This is your ministry. Who has God called you to share your testimony with? Most times it is not to a room full of people that is video recorded. Most times it is those that you come in contact with everyday (i.e. your children, your family, your neighbors, or co-workers). Be a witness not self-seeking but God-seeking. Abide in His blessings which is your testimony.

It is also worth mentioning that the Ark of the Covenant is also called Ark of the Testimony. I will challenge you to read and come to an understanding of the possessions held within the Ark. Let Holy Spirit teach you. The understanding that will come will change you even more and bring you even closer to our Lord by seeing His face through His Word. (I encourage you to read Exodus 16:32-34; 25:21-22; Numbers 17:10-11; John 1:1-5; and Zechariah 4:5-10 with the focus of gaining a deeper understanding of what a testimony really is with the help of Holy Spirit).

#### **Bible Verses:**

\*Matthew 10:16-20 - "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. 18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

\*1 Corinthians 1:4-9 - I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

\*1 John 5:9-13 - If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. 10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has

given of His Son. 11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

\*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."

\*Ephesians 4:17-24 - This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

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Other Source:

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