

“Can I Give a Testimony?”

INTRO

John has given us three fundamental truths about Jesus:

- Jesus is Divine
- Jesus became a Man
- Jesus is the Lamb of God and the Baptizer in the Spirit

CAN I GET A TESTIMONY?

How does God bring people to faith? Mainly through personal testimony. **Rom. 10:14**

John 1:35-51

A *testimony* is “an affirmative declaration of fact...based on the personal knowledge of the testifier” [Webster’s]

A Testimony has two parts:

1. “an affirmative declaration of fact...”

The gospel has to be verbally communicated.

Romans 10:17 *...faith [to be saved] comes from hearing and hearing by the Word of God*

2. “...personal knowledge of the testifier.”

The gospel has to be based on personal knowledge. An “eye” witness.

A *witness* = a person who has seen or was present at an event and so has direct knowledge of it [Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary]

The Power of our testimony:

Why is there so much anxiety about sharing Jesus with others? We neglect to sufficiently depend upon God's Spirit.

John knew that his testimony about Jesus was from the Holy Spirit:

*33 "And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the **Spirit** descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy **Spirit**. 34 "And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."*

As a result, John could confidently point others to Jesus:

John 1:35-36 *Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked upon Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"*

The disciples responded by following Jesus:

John 1:37 *And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.*

What moved them to respond? They encountered a compelling witness with a compelling testimony

Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to make me a compelling witness with a compelling testimony ?

The Relationship of our testimony:

Why was John such an effective witness? Verse 36 ...he...looked upon Jesus...

John was a full time student of Jesus. As a result, he had Divine content to his testimony.

Am I spending enough quality and quantity time with Jesus to be a compelling witness with a compelling testimony?

The Message of our testimony:

What was the content of John's testimony?

Verse 36 "*Behold, the Lamb of God!*"

John had only ONE testimony: THE GOSPEL

1 Cor 15:1-4 *1 Now I made known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

The inner work of the Gospel must become the outer expression of the Gospel.

2 Cor 3:2-3 *You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.*

2 Cor 2:15 *For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;*

For what am I being a compelling witness with a compelling testimony?

CAN I GIVE A TESTIMONY?

What is the result of being *a compelling witness with a compelling testimony?*

John 1:37-51

This is personal relationship activity:

John 4:28-30, 39 *So the woman left her water pot, and went into the city, and said to the men, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" 30 They went out of the city, and were coming to Him...And from that city many of the Samaritans believed on him because of the word of the woman, who testified...*

Remember salt and light:

Matt 5:13-14,16 *"You are the salt of the earth...¹⁴ "You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

What should we do to mature in this?

1 Peter 3:15-16 *sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;*

Two preparations:

1. *sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts*

Pursue inner transformation more vigorously

2. *always being ready to make a defense*

Always be ready to give a testimony

How?

- **Recognize** God's specific work in your life
- **Remember** God's specific work in your life
- **Recite** God's specific work in your life

More reason for the necessity of being filled and re-filled with the Holy Spirit

An examination of our testimony:

This week, let's take some time to allow the Holy Spirit to show us how we are doing in being His *witnesses* with His *testimonies*.