

## *The Power of Words*

September 2, 2019

The further along we travel, in our “journey” to Zion and the fullness of Christ, the more we realize the strength and power of our testimony in regard to, “Overcoming.”

“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.' And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.” (Rev 12:10-11 NASB)

As we have often reviewed the journey of the Israelites, from their deliverance from bondage in Egypt, and everything related to all that happened to them thereafter, (as an example for us), it becomes evident that the experiences they endured are the **testimony** they have before God, whether for good or for evil. Throughout the Old Testament there are reminders of all that God has done to affirm His love and His desire for them to overcome and possess the inheritance He has promised through their forefathers. It is sometimes difficult for us to understand that their testimony is still in the process of being completed and that our loving and merciful Father has not abandoned them altogether.

“I ask, however, 'Have they stumbled so as to be finally ruined?' No, indeed; but by their lapse salvation has come to the Gentiles in order to arouse the jealousy of the descendants of Israel; and if their lapse, (sufferings), is the enriching of the world, and their overthrow the enriching of the Gentiles, will not still greater good follow their restoration? But to you Gentiles I say that, since I am an Apostle specially sent to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry, trying whether I can in rousing my own countrymen to jealousy and thus save some of them. For if their having been cast aside has carried with it the reconciliation of the world, what will their being accepted again, (full reinstatement), be but Life out of death?” (Rom 11:11-15 WNT) Parens for emphasis

“Life out of death,” is a vital process we embrace while overcoming the accuser of the brethren. Not loving our, “life/Old Man,” unto death, even the death of the cross, being raised, together with Him and being seated, (established), together with Him in heavenly places. To participate in His Victory, is a blessed outcome of the sufferings we have endured and are thus included in the joy of becoming joint heirs together with Christ.

“Are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life. For if we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His, we shall also be [one with Him in sharing] His resurrection [by a new life lived for God]. We know that our old (unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that [our] body [which is the

instrument] of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin.” (Rom 6:3-6 AMP)

As we share our lives with others we should give testimony to all aspects of God’s handiwork in bringing us out of death and into Life. Very often we are reluctant to humble ourselves and tell of the darkness we stumble through, before being drawn to the Word that becomes our Life and Light. It isn’t necessary that we include every detail in the confession of our dark days, and I’ve heard folks who seemed to relish in their sinful behavior when they testify \_\_\_ being so brazen in their account of committing “Sins,” that it makes the hearers blush. Instead of glorifying God, they end up giving glory to the world, the flesh and the devil, defiling those who are unable to bear their iniquity. It is enough to confess having been a drunkard, thief, liar or adulterer \_\_\_ without a lengthy description of every bottle of liquor consumed, each item stolen, every lie told or, assorted perverse acts performed while committing adultery, in order to show the depth of our darkness, before showing gratitude and the joy of being set free from our former life.

Also, it is important to recognize the fact that our testimony is not only in “word,” it includes our actions and deeds. Very often, the way we respond, or react, to others speaks louder than the words we say. The “World” has always stood ready, along with the flesh and devil, to accuse and be super critical in their evaluation of those who are living by the Word of God, and are very quick to point out the faults and failures they consider to be “unacceptable” in the lives of, “professing Christians.”

“That which was from the beginning, which we have listened to, which we have seen with our own eyes, and our own hands have handled concerning the Word of Life-- the Life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness, and we declare unto you the Life of the Ages which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- that which we have seen and listened to we now announce to you also, in order that you also may have fellowship in it with us, and this fellowship with us is fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And we write these things in order that our joy may be made complete.” “ This is the Message which we have heard from the Lord Jesus and now deliver to you--God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness. If, while we are living in darkness, we profess to have fellowship with Him, we speak falsely and are not adhering to the truth. But if we live in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we claim to be already free from sin, we lead ourselves astray and the truth has no place in our hearts. If we confess our sins, He is so faithful and just that He forgives us our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. If we deny that we have sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Message has no place in our hearts.” (1 John 1-10 WNT)

The words given to John in the above passage are the inspired words that I’m convinced are the result of the revelation given to him concerning his experience, along with Peter and James, when together they witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus on the Mountain and the Voice from within the cloud declared Jesus to be His Son and to listen to him. This life changing experience was not spoken of at that time \_\_\_ likely because it was not understood until after receiving the promise of the Spirit \_\_\_ and passing through many trials and tests of faith.

And He said to all, "If anyone is desirous of following me, let him ignore self and take up

his cross day by day, and so be my follower. For whoever desires to save his life shall lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake shall save it. Why, what benefit is it to a man to have gained the whole world, but to have lost or forfeited his own self. For whoever shall have been ashamed of me and my teachings, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own and the Father's glory and in that of the holy angels. I tell you truly that there are some of those who stand here who will certainly not taste death till they have seen the Kingdom of God." It was about eight days after this that Jesus, taking with Him Peter, John, and James, went up the mountain to pray. And while He was praying the appearance of His face underwent a change, and His clothing became white and radiant. And suddenly there were two men conversing with Him, who were Moses and Elijah. They came in glory, and kept speaking about His death, which He was so soon to undergo in Jerusalem. Now Peter and the others were weighed down with sleep; but, keeping themselves awake all through, they saw His glory, and the two men standing with Him. And when they were preparing to depart from Him, Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, we are thankful to you that we are here. Let us put up three tents--one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what he was saying. But while he was thus speaking, there came a cloud which spread over them; and they were awe-struck when they had entered into the cloud. Then there came a voice from within the cloud: "This is My Son, My Chosen One: listen to Him." After this voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They kept it to themselves, and said not a word to any one at that time about what they had seen. (Luk 9:23-36 WNT)

The previous portion of this writing is to give us an illustration of how our testimony can include events, activities, accounts, etc., of what others have encountered and experienced in their journey into the overcoming life of Christ. I have no problem with thinking that Luke embraced and was strengthened by the Word that the disciples shared \_\_\_ in God's time \_\_\_ even though he was not part of that company who ascended the mount. I have no doubt that he "believed" and that his faith grew according to the knowledge he was privileged to receive. It is our "identification" with the members of His body and being joined together in the sufferings of Christ that we are made strong in the Lord and stand against the forces of evil that try to prevent us from overcoming the world, the flesh and the devil. Together, we become more than conquerors through Christ.

"What then shall we say to this? If God is on our side, who is there to appear against us? He who did not withhold even His own Son, but gave Him up for all of us, will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who shall impeach those whom God has chosen? God declares them free from guilt. Who is there to condemn them? Christ Jesus died, or rather has risen to life again. He is also at the right hand of God, and is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from Christ's love? Shall affliction or distress, persecution or hunger, nakedness or danger or the sword? As it stands written in the Scripture, "FOR THY SAKE THEY ARE, ALL DAY LONG, TRYING TO KILL US. WE HAVE BEEN LOOKED UPON AS SHEEP DESTINED FOR SLAUGHTER." Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who has loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither the lower ranks of evil angels nor the higher, neither things present nor things future, nor the forces of nature, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God which rests upon us in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom 8:31-39 WNT)

In closing, it is my desire that we continue in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ and be encouraged by the testimonies that are declarations of the power of the Word of God that we have been

partaking of as we follow on to Know the Lord. May the following verses be a blessing and a fitting way to end this short article:

“And as for myself, brethren, when I came to you, it was not with surpassing power of eloquence or earthly wisdom that I came, announcing to you that which God had commanded me to bear witness to. For I determined to be utterly ignorant, when among you, of everything except of Jesus Christ, and of Him as having been crucified. And so far as I myself was concerned, I came to you in conscious feebleness and in fear and in deep anxiety. And my language and the Message that I proclaimed were not adorned with persuasive words of earthly wisdom, but depended upon truths which the Spirit taught and mightily carried home; so that your trust might rest not on the wisdom of man but on the power of God. Yet when we are among mature believers we do speak words of wisdom; a wisdom not belonging, however, to the present age nor to the leaders of the present age who are soon to pass away. But in dealing with truths hitherto kept secret we speak of God's wisdom--that hidden wisdom which, before the world began, God pre-destined, so that it should result in glory to us; a wisdom which not one of the leaders of the present age possesses, for if they had possessed it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory. But--to use the words of Scripture--we speak of THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN NOR EAR HEARD, and which have never entered the heart of man: ALL THAT GOD HAS IN READINESS FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM. For us, however, God has drawn aside the veil through the teaching of the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, including the depths of the divine nature. For, among human beings, who knows a man's inner thoughts except the man's own spirit within him? In the same way, also, only God's Spirit is acquainted with God's inner thoughts. But we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which comes forth from God, that we may know the blessings that have been so freely given to us by God. Of these we speak--not in language which man's wisdom teaches us, but in that which the Spirit teaches--adapting, as we do, spiritual words to spiritual truths.” (1Co 2:1-13 WNT)