

"Let My Testimony Speak For Me"
Acts 3:2-3

The time has come for the church, church folks, the children of God, Christians to realize that it's not the title, it's the testimony. It's the story that we tell with the way we live our lives. It's in the execution that one recognizes another as "a child of God" or as "a child of the devil." My brothers and sisters which are you?"

My brothers and sisters it's the testimony and we should let our testimony speak for us as a Christian, because God expects you and me to be productive and as we look at a great testimony in the fourth chapter of Nehemiah we see where the devil tried to stop God's work by disruption. We see that the Lord would again prevail.

That once the plot to stop the work of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem was foiled, everybody went back to work with renewed energy. "Half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows and coats of mail." (Nehemiah 4:16)

It's what people see you do that makes all of the difference in the world. When you are trying to get a job, it's good to have the degree for the position in which you are applying, but you still have to go through a testing period.

Even those who were not working to rebuild the wall kept weapons and armor ready in case the enemy attacked. Nobody sat around idly! First Corinthians 15:58 tells us to, "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." "Lord let my testimony speak for me"!

They may call you Doctor, but are you board certified?
They may call you Lawyer, but have you passed the bar?
They may call you Preacher, but is there anything about your life that would testify to the fact that you are anything other than a preacher?

My brothers and sisters, it's not the title, it's the testimony, Lord let my testimony speak for me. But what does, "abounding in the work of the Lord" mean?

For one it means we are actively looking for ways to serve the God of our Salvation and to also serve others. It also means we are so busy thinking about what we can do next for the Kingdom that we have little time to think about ourselves, to worry or to become discouraged.

It's about how you are living, and what kind of report your family would give about you. Is there a good report about you outside of the church as well as inside the church? It's not the title, it's the testimony, but Lord let my testimony! Isaiah said, "Who will believe our report"? "Who will we send and who will go for us and a voice said here am I Lord send me."

Here in the Acts of the Apostles, we see bold big mouthed, boisterous Peter, has allowed himself to be used by God to perform a miracle. You know the story; Peter and John were headed to the temple one afternoon to take part in afternoon prayer.

As they approached the temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. And each day he was put by the gate to the temple so he could beg alms from the people going in to pray. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.

Peter looked at the man and said, "Look at us! I don't have any money for you. But I'll give you what I do have, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!" Up until that point, Peter and John were just like everybody else. They were two people who could meet the beggar's need or what the beggar thought his need was.

All too often, we think that it's us meeting the needs of those whom God has trusted to us with. This is where the ego gets in the way, or comes into play; where we begin to wear our feelings on our sleeves. This is where we want to take credit for everything that only God can do or give.

My brothers and sisters it's the testimony in us not us. It's not about us; it's about the Kingdom of God being fulfilled. Don't get the big head! It's about the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit that dwells in us. Yes God uses us as instruments to fulfill His purpose. We are called and the called has more to do with God's divine purpose, than our purpose. Believe me on that.

IT'S not about YOU! We are all called to be leaders. We are to lead the lost to the Lamb, Jesus Christ. We are to lead the left out to the One who has the key and can let us into the Kingdom, by His grace, mercy and love. Yes Jesus Christ our Redeemer!

God calls us to lead not by title but by testimony. How can you tell somebody else about the goodness of God if you have never

experienced it for yourself? You might be able to tell them what you have seen happen to someone else.

You might be able to tell them what someone else has told you. But there's nothing like a firsthand account. That is what God has given each one of us. Something that He requires us to tell and show others and that is our testimony.

The real thing is we must stop being ashamed to tell others over the hills and everywhere. That's why Jesus Christ's Spirit rose up within our souls, was so we could be a living testimony to a sin sick world.

Isaiah was a living testimony when he said, "In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord." "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, walked through the fiery furnace with an angel of the Lord." I heard them say, I will not bow down to a false God, I would rather die first."

Somebody has been walking with Him all week. Somebody called upon Him during the midnight hour. And when they called on the name of Jesus Christ, He answered them, because He heard their cry!

How will He answer us preacher?

Well He will turn our midnight into day!

He will turn our sorrow into a shout!

He will turn our problems into praise!

He will turn our worry into worship!

He will give us a testimony!

Because my brothers and sisters it's not your title, but it's your testimony. Lord let my testimony speak for me!