

The Power of Your Testimony

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

*Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless His name;
Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all the peoples.
(Psalm 96:1 – 3)*

David in these verses is saying that we should not stop singing His praises. And he goes on to say that we should proclaim His goodness from day to day. There is emphasis here to testify and declare the goodness of God. There is no limit as to how effective your testimony can be.

Let me share with you a Bible account of a man who was willing to proclaim the goodness of His salvation. The story begins with him being demon-possessed. When Jesus asked what his name was, he answered “Legion”. Jesus commanded the demons to come out of him and when they had done so, they went into a herd of swine. The man was completely delivered.

While the demons dwelt in the man, he lived in the cemetery. He was also naked; but he was not ashamed. When you allow yourself to live in sin and walk in your own lust, you don’t know what shame is. There are many people who do wrong, but they do not feel ashamed. Sin has hardened their hearts, so it was with the demon-possessed man.

The man lived among the tombs. It is true, when you have sin in your life, you don’t live among those who are spiritually alive. You live among those who are spiritually dead – dead in their trespasses and sin. They are struggling to survive, searching and hoping to find some kind of fulfillment and purpose.

Clothed and in His Right Mind

But Jesus cast out the demons from him and made him whole. His lifestyle changed. He was properly clothed in his right mind.

“Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him.” (Luke 8:38). But Jesus said, “Go back to your own house and tell what great things God has done for you” (Luke 8:39)

Do you know that when you become a child of God, you are also called to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ? You don’t have a choice. The Bible tells us that we are commanded to go and tell. We are under the command to testify for Him (Matthew 28:19 & 20)

I don’t believe the man who had been demon-possessed was a great preacher. He just told what happened, “Once I lived in the tombs. I didn’t wear any clothes. I was full of demons and people were afraid of me. But one day, Jesus Christ of Nazareth came by, saw me in my pathetic situation and hopelessness, and the kind hand of Jesus reached down and picked me up. He drove those demons from me and today I’m clothed and well.” That was his testimony.

He must have gone from house to house and published it widely, because when Jesus returned, “the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him” (Luke 8:40). What a powerful way to reach people for Jesus and how effective it is!

There is another Old Testament illustration: 2 Kings 5:1-14. Here was Naaman, chief of command of the army of Syria, a high ranking official, great and honorable in the eyes of his master, a mighty man of valour. But he was a leper. How many good men do you know and you could say good things to them? You also have to say ‘but’.

In the scriptures, leprosy is a type or symbol of sin in one’s life. Leprosy, like sin, eats into your flesh and finally destroys your body and life. Do you know that sin has the same effect as leprosy, and that sin is no respecter of persons?

Willing to Testify

In one of the great wars, Naaman had brought back a maid. And his maid said, “If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria, he would heal him of his leprosy” (2 Kings 5:3).

If there was anyone who had good reason not to testify for the living God, it was this girl. For she was a Jewish girl from Israel abducted from Samaria when Syria captured it. Naaman had made her a slave to serve his wife. One day the wife must have blurted out the cause of her sadness: her husband’s leprosy. The maid, instead of feeling bitter and angry, said, “There’s a prophet in Samaria, if Naaman would go with him, he would heal him of his leprosy.”

She shared a simple testimony. This simple testimony brought a change in a powerful man. It only took a little girl who was willing to sing the praise of God and declare His goodness.

The story goes on to say that Naaman went to see the prophet who then told him to dip in the River Jordan seven times. (Why seven times? Naaman had to learn humility and obedience.)

After some protestation, Naaman finally did as he was told, and the leprosy was taken away from him. There are many like Naaman; they may not have leprosy but other kinds of sickness and evil habits that are destroying them. Your testimony can help them come to Christ. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He can heal them.

Our world is starving for the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is full of bad news – just pick up your newspaper and you will read of catastrophes, disasters, floods, famine and strife. If there is any good news, The Church of Jesus Christ has it. That's why David said, "Declare the goodness of God." Do you know that when you share your testimony, Satan trembles? In Luke 10:18, Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." What happened? The seventy disciples had gone out and declared the goodness of God (Luke 10:17).

We overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb and by word of our testimony (Rev. 12:10 & 11). This is our weapon.

How long has it been since you shared your testimony? Let me rephrase the question: How long has it been since God did something for you? Most likely, nothing has happened – is it because your life is clouded with your own selfish way of living? There is no time to let God touch you and do something for you, so that you can say, "Jesus did this for me." You don't have to have a great testimony like "I died and Jesus Christ raised me from the dead." Some of us think that that is the only kind of testimony worth sharing. It is not true. Whatever God does it is worth sharing, big or small.

My friend, tell the simple story of God's love, His forgiveness and His cleansing in your life. Your testimony is powerful. We overcome him (the devil) by the word of our testimony.