

Remnant Life Church
August 17, 2025
The Power of Your Testimony
Galatians 6:10-16

In two weeks, August 31, we will have a testimony Sunday

- Today and next Sunday I want to teach you why your testimony is important
 - And why you should always be ready to share it
 - I also want to share with you the things you need to guard against to preserve your testimony

This morning, I would like for you to be aware of two basic truths this as a foundation of what I want to share with you today:

- The first is, you were meant to share your story
- And, there is great power in your story

What story am I talking about?

- The story of what God has done for you
- The story of how your life has been changed
- Of how you are no longer the person you used to be
- The story of how God's forgiveness and love changed you into a brand new person

But why do I say you were meant to share your story?

- Because that is how God revealed Himself to us
 - God's revelation of Himself was not through bookcases sent down filled with commentaries, outlines, lectures, and theologies
 - He began with a story
 - He first created this huge picture of love and care for us (creation)
 - Then He placed a man and a woman (Adam and Eve) within that creation to be the first recipients of God's story
 - Creation and His love for us is the testimony of God

And the way that story has been presented and preserved for us is through His Holy Word – the Bible

- The Bible has been called many things but first and foremost it is a storybook
 - Not in the sense of what man writes
 - But in the accounts, from creation through to the end of time, of God's love for His best creation, us
 - The Bible is a storybook filled with the most powerful stories you will ever read
- This is why we too must tell our story
 - It is a continuation of that which God began
 - And it is the first and best way to invite others to change their story through an encounter with Jesus Christ
- Listen to how John begins the first of his three epistles

READ – I John 1:1-3 - *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.*

- John walked, talked and lived with Jesus for the 3 years of His ministry
 - He was an eyewitness to the life and miracles of Jesus
 - And now he is sharing his story, he is testifying, with the reader
 - It is John's testimony of how his encounter with Jesus changed his life

Now, I am assuming that the vast majority of you this morning are here because someone shared a story, a testimony with you.

- It was powerful enough and clearly made sense to you, that it sparked in you a curiosity of how it happened
 - And so you pursued an answer
 - That is why I am always telling you that you do not need to be a Bible scholar to witness
 - You do not need to have a bunch of Bible verses memorized
 - You only have to be willing to share the story of what God did in your life

And we see the results of testimonies of God's power throughout the Bible

- When the blind man was healed by Jesus he told the Pharisees, *Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!* (John 9:25)
- After Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman at the well what happened?
 - John 4:29 – *Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?*
 - And what was the result of her story?
 - John 4:42b - *...now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.*
 - Her story changed the lives of the people who heard her

And yet, we are often hesitant to share our story

- There are many reasons certainly talking to a person about something so intimate or standing in front of a group
- And many times the reason is we realize that we are not always living in accordance with what has been done for us
 - There is a weakness that continues to plague you
 - Perhaps right now you are in the midst of a time where your life is a bit of a mess
 - And you feel that sharing your testimony at a time like that makes you a hypocrite
 - This is what we read of in Galatians 6

READ – Gal 6:10-17

The book of Galatians was written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Galatia

- In Paul's day, Galatia was a region in north-central Turkey as opposed to a province of town like Phillipi or Corinth
- His letter to them is divided into 4 parts
 - The first 2 chapters are his teaching on the source of the Gospel
 - The second 2 chapters are his defense of the Gospel
 - The 5th and first part of the 6th chapters are his instructions for applying the Gospel
 - And the second half of the 6th chapter are his conclusions and further instructions for living together as children of God
- And that 6th chapter is written with an overarching theme of testimony
 - The first part addresses how you deal with a brother or sister who has fallen into sin
 - The second part exposes the 4 pitfalls that will ruin your testimony (We will examine these together next week)
 - And beginning in verse 10 Paul then shares how to have and maintain a good testimony
- IOW, how do I create a powerful testimony that I can share with anyone at anytime?

1. Do Good

- a. **Gal 6:10** – *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*
- b. The first thing that will make your testimony a powerful one is to, very simply, do good to others
- c. You have heard me say many times that is often less the words you say and more the actions you take that will be loudest testimony of your life
- d. But let's face it, that is easier said than done
 - i. In this country, we live in a culture that does not strive to do good
 - ii. It strives to satisfy self even if it means we do wrong to others
- e. The other struggle is, we cannot do good on our own all the time
 - i. We still, even as Christians, have a sin nature that is a part of our lives
 - ii. Otherwise we would never sin again once we became a Christian
- f. That is why Paul then gives the second important element of a powerful testimony

2. Keep Your Focus on the Cross

- a. **Gal 6:14** – *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world*
- b. IOW – to set your focus on the cross, according to Paul, removes your interest in the things of the world and the world's interest in you
 - i. That is a very important point to remember when giving your testimony
 - ii. The bulk of what you say should be about how you are different, not about who you used to be
- c. I have seen many a church building filled when it was announced that someone with a horrific background was going to give their testimony
 - i. My experience - an ex-mafia chieftain

- ii. Incredible account but I remembered more of his history than I did of what God did for him
- d. The focus is on the power of the cross
 - i. Your testimony is to give glory to God for what He has done, not dwell on the old that is now gone.
 - ii. The more we focus on the goodness, the mercy and the love of God through His Son given to pay the penalty for our sins on the cross, the less we will focus on the things of the world

3. Realize and accept the fact that you are not the same anymore

- a. **Gal 6:15-16** – *Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.*
- b. This is a cornerstone of any testimony
 - i. I used to be like this but now I am different
 - ii. Like what the blind many Jesus healed said, all I know is I used to be blind but now I see
- c. Embrace this truth with all of your heart church
 - i. When Jesus came into your life, when you turned you life over to Him, when He became Lord of your life, when you accepted His forgiveness, when you began a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, you were given a brand new life!
 - ii. You were no longer what you were, you were made into a completely new person.
 - iii. Paul writes in **2 Cor 5:17** - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*
- d. This truth is what gives you the confidence to share your story IN SPITE of the fact that you still have struggles

The power of your testimony is the truth of what God has done for you
But within that truth is your responsibility

- 1. To do good
 - a. People are watching what you do
 - b. It is important to declare what you believe and who you are in Jesus but your actions must then match what you say!
- 2. To focus on the cross - not on how bad you once were
 - a. The depth of your sin is immaterial to the truth of God's saving power
 - b. Focus on Jesus and how you are different
- 3. Accept, believe, and live in the new life you have been given
 - a. You are not the same
 - b. I did not say you were now perfect
 - i. But we realize that when we fall, when we sin, God's forgiveness is available when we confess that sin and determine to decide differently the next time