



The Gospel of John, Lesson #8

What have we received from God...if it is not a true testimony of following Jesus?

Testimony = Webster's Dictionary

1. a formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law.
2. evidence or proof provided by the existence or appearance of something.
3. a public recounting of a religious conversion or experience.

Testimonies =

- Testimony is a **key concept in biblical revelation**, as it refers to the content of God's truth that is revealed to people in history.
- Testimony can also mean the **personal witness of Christians** who share their faith and experiences with others. The Bible encourages Christians to use their lives and sufferings as opportunities to give testimony to God's grace and power.

NOTE: Most hymns written in the 1700, 1800, and early 1900 were testimonies...sung by an individual or congregations.

Sharing your testimony is a powerful way to communicate your personal experience with God and His work in your life. The Bible emphasizes the importance of testifying to what we have seen, heard, and experienced in Jesus. Here are some relevant scriptures:

Joshua 4:5-7 (ESV): *“And Joshua said to them, ‘Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So, these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”*

- This passage highlights the importance of passing on our experiences with God to future generations, just as the Israelites were instructed to do with the stones as a memorial.

Psalms 71:15-16 (ESV): *“My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.”*

- Testimonies of God's salvation and mercy remind us of His righteousness and help us remain humble and grateful.

Psalm 66:16 (ESV): *"Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul."*

- Sharing our testimony helps keep our hearts in a posture of respect and reverence toward God.

Psalm 145:4 (ESV): *"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."*

- Our stories of transformation and resilience become an heirloom, passing on God's work to future generations.

Remember that testimonies have the power to transform lives. By sharing what God has done for you, you can inspire others and draw them closer to Him. So, don't hesitate to share your story—it matters.

John the Baptist's testimony: Jesus is the Son of God.

JOHN 1:30-34, *"He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Soon a man far greater than I am is coming, who existed long before me!' I didn't know he was the one, but I am here baptizing with water in order to point him out to the nation of Israel." Then John told about seeing the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descending from heaven and resting upon Jesus. "I didn't know he was the one," John said again, "but at the time God sent me to baptize he told me, 'When you see the Holy Spirit descending and resting upon someone—he is the one you are looking for. He is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' I saw it happen to this man, and I therefore testify that he is the Son of God." (LB)*

"...Who existed before me": John the Baptist was actually born before Jesus – and John knew this (Luke 1). When John said **He was before me**, he spoke of the eternal pre-existence of Jesus. John knew that Jesus was eternal and that Jesus was God.

"Soon a Man far greater than me": "The Greek term *aner* is introduced here; it means 'man' with emphasis on maleness – an emphasis that is lost in the more generic *anthropos*. It points out the bodily form of Jesus being one of us and not an angelic being only. He (Jesus) was both God and Man.

"Upon whom you see the Spirit descending from heaven and resting on Him; this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit": God gave John the Baptist the sure sign to know the Messiah. He would be the one on Whom the Holy Spirit descended upon from heaven. John was a reliable witness regarding Jesus, because he had confirming evidence from God.

"If the cleansing with water was associated with John's ministry, the gift giver of the Spirit was reserved for the One greater than John." (Bruce)

"I therefore testify that this is the Son of God":

The solemn testimony of John the Baptist was that Jesus is the **Son of God**. *John 1:18 summarized: The One who perfectly declares the nature and personality of God the Father.*

The gospel of John emphasizes John's role as a witness, not a baptizer.

Witnesses give testimony as to what they have seen and experienced, in an effort to establish the truth. John was a reliable witness, and knew who Jesus was because of what he saw with his own eyes. *"Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." 2 Corinthians 13:1b; Deut. 17:6*

The testimony of the first disciples.

John 1:35-39, "Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour)."

"John stood with two of his disciples": The Gospel writer tells us that one of these two was Andrew (John 1:40). The other of the two is not identified, but for several reasons it is reasonable to think it was John the Gospel writer himself, who appears several times in his Gospel, but is never specifically named.

"And looking at Jesus": Meaning: *"Attentively beholding, to look-to view with steadfastness and attention."* (Clarke) *"A characteristically searching look turned upon an individual."* (Morris)

"Behold, the Lamb of God!" John already said this of Jesus in John 1:29. Perhaps to him (John, the Baptist), it was the most important thing about Jesus.

"And they followed Jesus": The text does not specifically say, but the implication is that these **two disciples** did this with John's permission and direction. John the Baptist did not care about gathering disciples after himself. He knew his place and he knew the reason he was here on earth.

"What do you seek?" Jesus asked these two disciples an important and logical question – and a question He continues to ask to all humanity today.

It was not an accident that the first words which Jesus spoke was this profoundly significant question,

'What are you seeking?' He asks it of us all, He asks it of us today.

"He probed them to find out whether they were motivated by idle curiosity or by a real desire to know him." (Tenney)

"Come and See." To be Jesus' disciple, they (and we) must deal with Jesus directly.

“Now it was about the tenth hour”: Who would remember the time? One who was there! This gives us a subtle clue, one of the two disciples was John, the Disciple.

John 1:40-42, “One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone).”

- **He first found his own brother:** Andrew met Jesus, and then wanted his brother **Simon Peter** to meet Jesus. Each time Andrew is mentioned in the Gospel of John, he is bringing someone to Jesus (also at John 6:8 and 12:22).
- ***Through the centuries, this is how most people come to faith in Jesus Christ.***

“We have found the Messiah”: This was a simple...yet great testimony. Andrew knew that Jesus was **the Messiah**, the long-expected Savior of Israel and the world.

“You shall be called Cephas”: In giving Simon a new name (**Cephas** or Peter, meaning **A Stone**), Jesus told Andrew’s brother what kind of man he would be transformed into. Before Jesus was done with Peter, he would be **a stone** of stability for Jesus Christ.

Paul says it very plainly, “Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and prove what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:2.

Question for all of us:

Are we being transformed daily to being more like Jesus?