

☞ Testimony Sunday 2019

Psalms 105:1-5 (cf. 1 Chronicles 16:8-12 – returning the Ark to Jerusalem)

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. **2** Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. **3** Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. **4** Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. **5** Remember the wonders he has done,

☞ **1 Give thanks to the LORD**

Testimony Sunday is about **expressing gratitude to God for who he is and what he has done**. The emphasis is gratitude, rather than telling a great story. Let's keep that our focus today. It would be great if each testimony shared starts with these words, "I want to thank the Lord for..."

☞ **call on his name;**

Call him by his name... God has many titles and descriptive names. He is healer, savior, deliverer, provider, counselor, comforter, etc. As you share your testimony **think about the key attribute of God you want to focus on**. "I want to thank the Lord for his provision..."

☞ **make known** among the nations **what he has done**.

Tell the story of his work in your life this past year and as you tell the story make sure it focuses on what God did. You can give a brief summary of the situation, but then give careful attention to how God worked it out.

☞ **2 Sing to him, sing praise to him;**

We will do some more singing before the time is up. But each of us can make sure that we are **giving honor to God**. If you are one who chooses to simply listen today, then you can add an "Amen" or a "Praise the Lord" as the testimonies are given.

☞ **tell of all his wonderful acts**.

Give some thought to this; **ponder on the wonders of God**. God has done some amazing things; things which can't be explained away or credited to anything or anyone else. That's the kind of testimonies I want to hear... stories that show what God and only God could accomplish.

☞ **3 Glory in his holy name;**

This is a continuation of praising him. We want to make him famous. It's been said that **we don't have to defend his name, we just need to spread his fame**. When we are properly focused on what God has done, it's actually okay to boast about it, because it's not about you, it's about him.

☞ **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice**.

Here is the response that we can all have today. We can **rejoice with those who rejoice**. We can all be grateful to the Lord for his power at work in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Today, whether you have a testimony to share or not, you should go away from here rejoicing, with a brighter outlook.

4 Look to the LORD and his strength;

This is a continuation of the last phrase. We should all be rejoicing in the Lord's goodness. And as we hear personal stories from our friends and family it should inspire us to **look to the Lord for his work in our lives.**

--James S. Hewett... Jim Smith went to church on Sunday morning. He heard the organist miss a note during the prelude, and he winced. He saw a teenager talking when everybody was supposed to be bowed in silent prayer. He felt like the usher was watching to see what he put in the offering plate and it made him boil. He caught the preacher making a slip of the tongue five times in the sermon by actual count. As he slipped out through the side door during the closing hymn, he muttered to himself, "Never again, what a bunch of clods and hypocrites!"

Ron Jones went to church one Sunday morning. He heard the organist play an arrangement of "A Mighty Fortress" and he thrilled at the majesty of it. He heard a young girl take a moment in the service to speak her simple moving message of the difference her faith makes in her life. He was glad to see that this church was sharing in a special offering for the hungry children of Nigeria. He especially appreciated the sermon that Sunday--it answered a question that had bothered him for a long time. He thought as he walked out the doors of the church, "How can a man come here and not feel the presence of God?"

Both men went to the same church, on the same Sunday morning. Each found what he was looking for. What do we look for on Sunday morning? Or any day, for that matter?

☞ seek his face always.

The whole idea of Testimony Sunday is to **glorify God and inspire his people.** When I hear how God is working in others, it makes me want something similar. I want the testimonies of 2019 to inspire my walk with the Lord in 2020.

☞ Testimonies

☞ Song: You Deserve The Glory

☞ Testimonies

☞ 5 Remember the wonders he has done,

We can all do this whether we have a fresh testimony or not. **Are you glad the Lord saved you? Are you glad you have a place in eternity?** That's a miracle. None of deserve his salvation, yet he has given it to us through his son, Jesus Christ. Remember that!

☞ 8 Ways to Praise: Give thanks; Call on God; Make known; Sing; Talk; Glory; Seek; Remember