

## We Will Overcome!

(Revelation 12:11)

### Session II: 'The Word of our Testimony'

**μαρτυρίας** (marturias): testimony, eye-witness account, record, evidence

Jesus has commissioned us to be his witnesses (—which means sharing our testimony):

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses***

*[witnesses = μάρτυρες (martyrs)] in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Acts 1:8

#### 1. Why is testimony important?

i. Testimony helps overcome the enemy

*They have overcome him by the blood of the Lamb **and by the word of their testimony**... Rev. 12:11*

ii. Testimony glorifies God and moves us to worship

*Men shall speak of **the might of Your awesome acts**, and **I will declare Your greatness**. Psalm 145:6*

iii. Testimony cultivates faith and imparts life

*Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these [testimonies] have been written **so that you may believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and **that believing you may have life** in His name. John 20:31*

iv. Testimony stops us forgetting what God has done and guards against temptation

*Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? Who can declare all His praise?...*

*We have sinned with our fathers, We have committed iniquity, We have done wickedly.*

*Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders;*

***They did not remember** the multitude of Your mercies, **But rebelled** by the sea—the Red Sea.*

*They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel... Psalm 106:2,6-7, 13*

v. Testimony releases the joy of the Lord

*Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."... In that hour **Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit**...*

Luke 10:17,21a

vi. Testimony demonstrates God's mercy to those we know

*And Jesus did not permit him [to come with him] but said to him, "**Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.**"*

Mark 5:19

vii. Testimony cannot be debated or denied

*So the Pharisees again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. **One thing I do know**, that though I was blind, now I see."*

John 9:25

#### 2. Two sorts of salvation story: Damascus Road & Emmaus Road conversions

We sometimes think that only the extraordinary and unusual stories qualify as 'real testimonies'.

Paul's Damascus Road conversion (Acts 9:1-19; Acts 22:1-22; Acts 26:1-29) is in this category.

But just as important are the 'Emmaus Road' conversions (Luke 24:13-35) where people's hearts are gradually opened as they encounter Jesus through the ordinary rhythms of Christian discipleship: the Scriptures (24:27,32) and the breaking of bread (24:30-31,35). Perhaps Luke has deliberately left Cleopas's companion anonymous because he – and all Christians! – can identify with this account!

## We Will Overcome!

(Revelation 12:11)

3. The gospel's not just information, it's a personal invitation.

"Come and see!"

And **John bore witness**, saying, "**I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove**, and He remained upon Him. **I did not know Him**, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' **And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.**"

Again, the next day, **John stood with two of his disciples**. 36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "**Behold the Lamb of God!**"

**The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus**. 38 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?"

**Jesus 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).

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was **Andrew, Simon Peter's brother**. **41 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...

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him** of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him, "**Come and see.**"

John 1:32-46

It's an invitation

So go to the street corners and **invite to the banquet anyone you find.**' Matthew 22:9

It's personal:

Paul includes a list of eye-witnesses as part of his summary of the gospel:

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, **of whom the greater part remain to the present**, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me... Therefore, whether it was I or they, so **we preach and so you believed**. 1 Corinthians 15:3-11

It's an invitation to direct personal encounter of Jesus

And **many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified**, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "**Now we believe, not [just] because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him** and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

John 4:39-42

# We Will Overcome!

(Revelation 12:11)

## 4. Simple Testimony and Kingdom Multiplication

What **you** have heard **from me** in the presence of many **witnesses** entrust **to faithful men** who will be able **to teach others also**.

2 Timothy 2:2

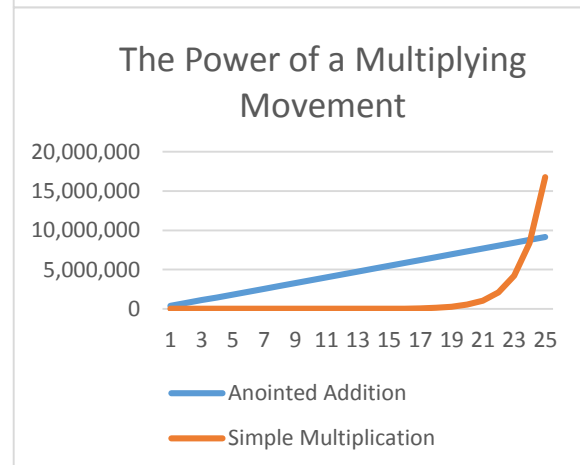
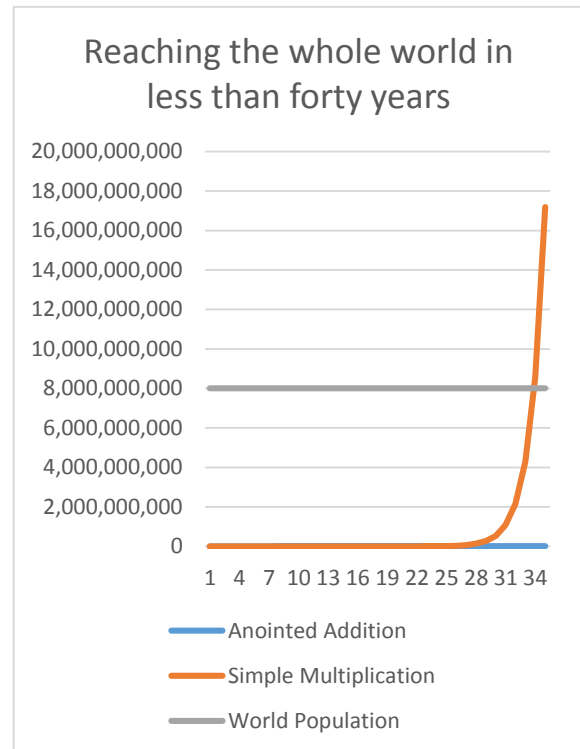
**4 generations** of discipleship here: Paul ('from me'), Timothy ('you'), 'faithful men', and 'others also'.

We need to grasp the difference between addition and multiplication. Imagine these two Christians:

- i. an incredibly gifted evangelist, who could lead a thousand people to the Lord every single day.
- ii. a faithful but not particularly gifted Christian who was committed to simple evangelism and discipleship – and only led one person to the Lord each year, but then trained that person to do the same, and to train their subsequent generations to do the same.

Now let's compare the numerical impact of these two. We'll call the first 'Anointed Addition', and the second 'Simple Multiplication'.

Year	Anointed Addition	Simple Multiplication
0	365,000	1
1	730,000	2
2	1,095,000	4
3	1,460,000	8
4	1,825,000	16
5	2,190,000	32
6	2,555,000	64
7	2,920,000	128
8	3,285,000	256
9	3,650,000	512
10	4,015,000	1,024
11	4,380,000	2,048
12	4,745,000	4,096
13	5,110,000	8,192
14	5,475,000	16,384
15	5,840,000	32,768
16	6,205,000	65,536
17	6,570,000	131,072
18	6,935,000	262,144
19	7,300,000	524,288
20	7,665,000	1,048,576
21	8,030,000	2,097,152
22	8,395,000	4,194,304
23	8,760,000	8,388,608
<b>24</b>	<b>9,125,000</b>	<b>16,777,216</b>
25	9,490,000	33,554,432
26	9,855,000	67,108,864
27	10,220,000	134,217,728
28	10,585,000	268,435,456
29	10,950,000	536,870,912
30	11,315,000	1,073,741,824
31	11,680,000	2,147,483,648
32	12,045,000	4,294,967,296
33	12,410,000	<b>8,589,934,592</b>
34	12,775,000	17,179,869,184



# We Will Overcome!

(Revelation 12:11)

## 5. How to share your Testimony

Top Tip: Beginning//Middle//End

Every testimony has three basic parts (you can see eg. this in Paul’s testimony to King Agrippa):  
Situation Before (Acts 26:4-11) // The Encounter with Jesus (v.12-18) // Situation Afterward (v.19-23)

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

Don’t worry about how to share your story!  
*But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. But **it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony**. Therefore **settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer** [‘what you will answer’ ἀπολογηθῆναι– this is where we get our word ‘apologetics’]; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.*  
Luke 21:12-15

When you’re overflowing with the Spirit, you’ll find you can’t help yourself!  
***“We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard!”***  
Acts 4:20

Mostly you just need courage to open your mouth and trust God will give the right words.  
*Pray also for me, that words may be given to me in **opening my mouth boldly** to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.*  
Ephesians 6:19

## 6. My Testimony

- Family background and Missionary Kid childhood
- Teenage questions and getting baptized
- Weekend Retreat and fully surrendering to Christ
- University and the search for purpose
- Married and a revelation of Jesus the Bridegroom
- Missionary call confirmed by supernatural prophetic word
- The Kingdom is at hand: Salvations, healings, financial provision, visas