

“Building Someone Else’s Testimony”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Recently I saw a video clip of people holding up signs telling one thing Jesus had done in their lives. One young woman in her teens or early twenties had a sign telling how Jesus saved her parents’ marriage.



Notes:

[a] Acts
16:25

All of the people in the clip had significant testimonies, but this one caused me to pause and ponder it. This young woman’s life was significantly impacted by how God worked in the lives of her parents.

So my question to you is, how is your testimony affecting someone else’s testimony. The Sojourner has many times said that we are not in a vacuum. What we say and do, and our willingness to surrender hurts, challenges—everything—to Christ affects the people around us. How much we allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through our lives impacts more than just we ourselves; it affects everyone with whom we come in contact.

Now do not go on a guilt trip for what you may or may not have done, remember we serve a God of grace. Please just consider, that just like the

prisoners who listened as Paul and Silas sang in the Philippian jail,^[a] the people around you are watching and listening. Your words and acts that coincide with the Word will plant and water seeds of faith and love in the lives of those around you. Likewise, your prayers will also build their testimonies.

So often people are encouraged to take a difficult step in their walk with God after they have seen or been reminded of how another person threw themselves into God’s plan despite fear, doubt, or any other obstacle.

Our Heavenly Father is a master at impacting many people by one miracle. So let me encourage you—everything you do to glorify God, publicly and privately builds testimonies all around you.

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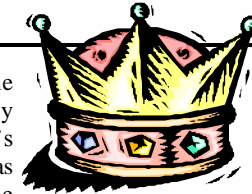
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...with The Sojourner

“Lordship And Indwelling” (Teaching Sketch)

Philippians 3:12-21 (NIV)



When I was following the leading of the Holy Spirit by developing a Sojourner’s Fellowships brochure, I was preparing to write a doctrine statement when suddenly the Holy Spirit said, “No, don’t produce a doctrine. The doctrines of men divide The Body. I will tell you what to say about what those in Sojourner’s Fellowships are to do.”

Marching Orders

It was then I realized doctrine is not necessarily a marching order! Then I was taken to Jeremiah 23 to the section of “woe to the shepherds.” I must tell you I was a little taken back when I was first reading where I had been sent. I was wondering what I had done wrong to receive such a strong rebuke!

Then the Holy Spirit said, “Tell the people they are to do what these shepherds had failed to do! The Sojourners with you are to be doers and not just hearers! My people are to be people of action, my action through them. Believer and unbeliever alike are to see my glory flow through them in power!”

Notes:
[a]

Not Just Another Place
It was then I realized Sojourner’s Fellowships were not to be just another place to hear a message and go on about your life.

Lordship

Believers, Sojourners are certainly in this group, are active followers of their **Lord** and Savior, Jesus Christ. Notice here the word “Lord” I am using means *supreme* in authority.

The scripture calls Heaven, the Kingdom of Heaven. A kingdom has a king and Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords just as Isaiah said.

I may be the lord (little “l”) of my life but Jesus is the Lord (big “L”) over my lordship of me. When I accepted Christ I came under his Lordship by choice not by deception and force.

Our adversary, Satan, uses deception and force to demand lordship over people but the light of Christ exposes the deception allowing truth to bring an informed willing decision of

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Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-21 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Notes:

[a] community, i.e. (abs.) citizenship (fig.) :- conversation.

[b] fixed position — place, time, or state by implication *instrumentality*, i.e. a relation of rest

¹⁷Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship^[a] is in^[b] heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship** ([Offerings are placed in the basket at this time.](#))
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

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SOJOURNERS...

Sojourner's... Submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.



who is Lord in a person's life.

When in today's language we think of the word *perfect* Paul used in our scripture, a very different sense rather than *complete* (which is the Greek meaning) comes to mind. Many see the use of the word *perfect* as being without error, which is true, and in a sense when we think of a construction or a work of art we are given a much better understanding of the idea of *perfect* as *complete*. Think for a moment of the definition of *sin* as "falling short" or "missing the mark" which is the correct meaning for *sin*.

Jesus attained our righteousness for us. Paul exhorts believers to walk in what they are already seen as possessing by God. When a believer minds such great a salvation in their thinking, they will behave in accordance with their condition and position with and in Christ not to attain it but due to being in it!

Indwelling Of Holy Spirit

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit then is the imitation of Christ, *the anointed one and his*

anointing! The believer is not pretending to be something they are not, but being what they have been given as *anointed ones!*

When the Holy Spirit comes into a Believer in power it is at that point they will be Spirit-led and empowered. Jesus, the Son, said he only did what he saw the Father doing. We Believers are to do only what we are prompted to do and empowered to do by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

It is the not understanding of this fact which causes people to be Christians by philosophy rather than *real* Christians by relationship. Philosophical Christians are always seeking to maintain a decision to be better and more like Christ in their own strength of mind rather than the new creature who's mind has been and is being renewed by revelation through the work of the Holy Spirit. The way of philosophy is of man. The way of the Holy Spirit is of God!

The Lordship of Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit complete the purpose of God in a restored mankind!

Notes:

dwells within us.