

Monday 23rd November Andrew Baddeley The power of Testimony

Good morning to you this morning. I hope you're all well on this Monday morning. It's good to start the week with a devotion isn't it, good to get into His word and think about Jesus think about Him, His faithfulness, His goodness.

This morning, I wanted to share with you about the power of the testimony. I don't know about you, but I've been really encouraged by listening to our chats and being involved with our chats with Luke Vardy and Paul Skelton over the last two weeks, and some of the stories they've been sharing. And some of the testimonies they've been sharing of healing, particularly and what God is doing in their lives. I don't know about you, but they have so encouraged my heart and strengthened my faith and given me some real focus in that I need to go after these things again. I need to press in to God, I need to press in to healing, for example, or whatever it is, because the power of the testimony, what it did was, it released faith into my heart. And it released this expectation and hope that God, just pour out your spirit, do it again in my life. So that is what the purpose of the testimony is, it encourages you, it strengthens you, I know from my early days as a Christian, just listening to testimony I used to read book after book about testimony of what God has done, particularly in healing.

I've mentioned this before, but I remember reading a book by Mahesh Chavda, 'Only love can make a miracle' and the miracles, the outstanding miracles that happened in that book, were mind blowing. And I remember just reading it with my mouth just dropping open and thinking, my goodness, this is my God. It just imparted so much faith into my heart thinking God, this is a God, my God, who can do these things in my lifetime. This is not something I'm reading that happened 2000 years ago. This is something that what God promised, that you will do greater things and these, is happening in my day. You know, just even listening to salvation stories, listening to stories of God's provision, it so encourages us, doesn't it? And so if you want to look at the root word of testimony, the root word in Hebrew of testimony is 'Do it again'. So we're basically saying that as we share our testimony it's a declaration and we're saying, do this again, that is why it's so important to share our testimony. Because we're saying, this is a prophetic, if you like, declaration for God to do this again in our lives, and in other people's lives.

And in Revelation, Chapter 19 verse 10, 'The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy'. And what it is, it is the realm of anointing that is very prophetic in nature. So when we testify about Jesus, when we testify about what He has done in our lives, and what He is doing through us, and when we're sharing testimony, it creates this realm of anointing that rises up and gets released. Because what we're doing is we're releasing that spirit of prophecy, as we share the testimony of Jesus. So when we share testimonies, we are creating an atmosphere where miracles can be duplicated. So then when we think about the word, do it again, we're saying, actually, so when we share your testimony, when you share your testimony, when I share my testimony, or when we hear testimonies, like, for example, hearing the testimonies of the last couple of weeks on these evening chats, it created an environment where actually we're saying to God, we're allowing God to say, let's do it again, you know, it's faith arises, faith gets released. So that is really the very nature of what the testimony does. It duplicates this miracle, which is really exciting, isn't it?

And I don't know about you, but when I hear the stories of testimonies, just hearing this stuff again, I think I want to encourage each one of us today say, let's share our testimonies, let's share stories, let's remind ourselves of testimonies that God has done in our own lives. And I was just even thinking about this morning, and just reminding myself of testimonies of what God has done. And thinking, sometimes it's very easy to forget, isn't it? It's easy to forget what God has done. And I just wanted to say that not to bring a negative on this but you know, the enemy schemes, it says in John chapter 10, verse 10, it says that he comes to steal, kill, and destroy, and we know that don't we, we know that that's what the enemy is there for. But he also comes to steal away your testimony, comes to steal away what God has done in your life. And you know, sometimes we wake up and we forget don't we, we forget what God has actually done. We

forget that he has done miracles in each one of us. He has saved us, you know, you may have had a miracle of healing, you may have had many miracles and how easy it is to forget those things.

So I want to encourage us today, to remind ourselves of what God has done. See the power of testimony has the power to change the present events, because it's very prophetic in nature, it can change current events. So sharing a testimony can change someone's life today, but also can speak into what God can do in the future as well. So it's a shifting in the environment today, but also, in the coming days. Your salvation story, so thinking about your testimony today, thinking about my testimony, thinking about how I got saved, in 1989, I think it was, and I was 19 years old. And someone came and shared their story with me, their story about how they had got a relationship with the Father, how their relationship with the Father, their intimacy with the Father, basically, their testimony so caught my heart that I was able to give my life to God by listening to someone's testimony. What about the woman at the well, in the Bible, she shared her testimony about what God had done in her life. She shared, it says in, and I'm going to read actually, in chapter 4 of John, verse 39, it says 'many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him, because of the woman's testimony'. She shared everything that happened in her life with the village, and they all got saved. And many people believed, and were set free.

So what is your salvation story? You know, sometimes I hear people say, 'Well, I was brought up a Christian, I haven't really got a story about what I can bring. I haven't really got a testimony'. But I want to say to you that you've got such a great testimony of what God has done in your life, you've got such a great testimony of how God has kept you throughout all these years. People need to hear our story. People need to hear our testimony, we need to hear it from each other, you know, this is what God has done in my life. So I just want to encourage you to share your testimony. Even on this chat this morning just share your testimony, write some comments about, you know, what has God done in your life, what is your salvation story? What is your salvation story that He has done through you? Because each one of us who are saved, you know, if you've given your life to Jesus, you are saved. If you're listening this morning, and you've made Jesus your Lord, you are saved. And that is a testimony that could, you never know, could save hundreds of thousands.

I remember when I first went to South Africa. This church was started by one man who got healed. He got healed by the founding pastor, who came on holiday to this region, a nice region of South Africa, he prayed for this guy in the village, this black guy, and he got radically healed, and went around and told his whole village. The next year, he came back, and the whole village got saved and within a few months, 500 people got saved in that region from that one man's healing. So the power of that man's testimony brought healing in that village. What about the demoniac in the Bible? When he got set free from that legion of demons, the whole village got saved, they saw what happened to him. What about healing testimonies, I remember going to listen to Randy Clark many years ago, Helen and I went to a conference. And he was talking about the power of testimony, and how as you share your testimony, how it releases, you know, we know the root word, do it again, how it releases healing in other people, releases faith for people to receive healing in their lives. And I remember he released numerous words of knowledge during that event. So many people got healed specifically of that one area of sickness.

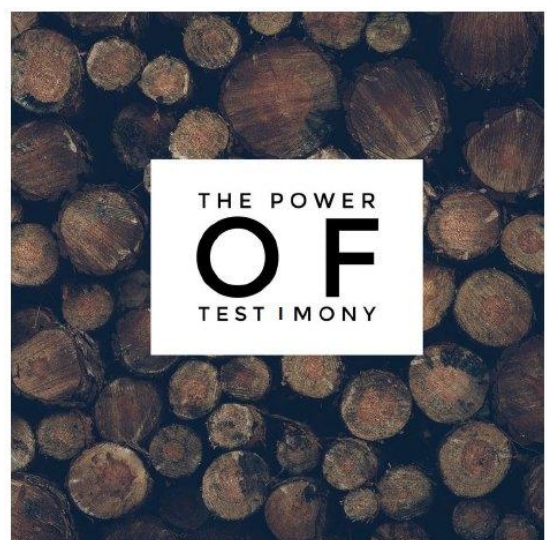
Now I've seen it many times in meetings where we've shared a testimony or a word of knowledge of what God has done, sorry, through the testimony shared a word of knowledge and shared a testimony as well. And how people have been set free from that very word because it releases faith, it releases the power of God to touch people's lives. And the other one I wanted to mention today which really affects each one of us is money, because money is such a massive thing isn't it, we all need money to live on. It is a commodity that we have on in this earth, but how it also can bring much struggle to us as well. I remember, as a very young Christian, in the 90s, listening to a guy called Clive Pick, who came to speak at our church about money, he just talked about the power of giving, he spoke about the power of tithing, the power of sowing seeds and it was all real new teaching to me. And I remember, we made a decision in our lives, that we were going to change the way that we dealt with money, that we were going to, we tithed anyway, but we started making a commitment that we were radically going to give into the kingdom. And I have to say that just by listening to the testimony of what God had done through this one man's life, it significantly changed how we dealt with money, and how much God has been so faithful to us with money throughout our

Christian lives, that He is our provider, it's not just something we read about. And we know that this is our God. But it is something that actually God wants us to have a testimony about His provision, just listening to a friend, and he's actually watching here, who shared a testimony of how God has just been so faithful to Him, and poured out just such an amount of money into his bank account this week. And I'm just so encouraged by that testimony and thinking God, it so encouraged me because I had a couple of challenges in my face at that time and I'm thinking God, it gave me faith to pray through some areas of financial battles that I was having at that moment.

So praise God, you know, your testimony, whatever it is, just encourage you to share that this morning, just encourage you to share it with one another, share it on Facebook, share it with your family, share it with people in the shops, share it with whoever you come across and ask God to remind you of the testimony that you've got to bring this morning because each one of you, even as you're watching today, you've got a testimony you can share. And you can share and you don't know how much of a release that can bring to someone's life, of God's goodness, of His faithfulness, because God is so desperately wanting to show His goodness and faithfulness to the world, but He uses us, He uses our stories, He uses your story, He uses my story. And just quickly before I finish this morning, our testimony can also be a breakthrough as well. I won't go into this very much this morning as there's not much time, but David, in Psalm 27, he basically proclaimed about and I'll just read a couple of verses. And I wanted to read this this morning, because the power of breakthrough in our testimony is so powerful. And one of the things we need to do sometimes is actually declare our testimony, is actually speak it out. So David is proclaiming in Psalm 27, a power of testimony. And he's saying 'The Lord is my light and my salvation, so Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?' So he goes on and just declares God's goodness, because this is his testimony of who He is. So if you need to declare God's goodness this morning, if you need to declare his provision over your life, if you need to declare, that he has healed you and touched your body, then speak it out this morning, proclaim it, declare it out, because greater is the one in us than the one in the world. And the more we declare what God has done in us, the more we speak it out, the greater effect that the kingdom will advance on this earth.

So I just want to bless you this morning. I hope it's been helpful, just a reminder, a simple reminder of the power of testimony. We're asking, you know, as we share the testimony, we're saying, God do it again, do it again, do the miracles that you've done in our lives, do the miracles that He's done in your life, and replicate that miracle, speak it out this morning, speak it out into the atmosphere around you, speak it out to the people around you, speak it out to friends, write it on Facebook, share your testimonies, I want to read some testimonies this morning, I feel I want to encourage myself this week. And we need to encourage each other with what God is doing, even if it's something really small.

Whatever it may be, share your testimonies with one another because however big or small, it's the power of Jesus. It's the power of prophecy, it's the power of what God is wanting to do and release on this earth. And I believe that I want to see the testimonies that I saw in Africa, I heard in Africa, of that one man who shared his story of healing and hundreds got saved. You know, who knows if you share your testimony of what God has done in your life, your whole town might get saved through you. Isn't that mind blowing? Isn't that mind blowing, you don't need to be a super preacher. So God bless you. And I could go on now and start going for it but I will leave you. Have a great day and let the testimony rise up in your heart and share it. God bless you. Amen.



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