

## Life on Mission #5: “The Power of Testimony”

An epic battle arose in the universe, and in some ways still remains, for the hearts & souls of human beings!

*“Then there was war in heaven; Michael and the angels under his command fought the Dragon and his hosts of fallen angels. And the Dragon lost the battle and was forced from heaven. This great Dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down onto the earth with all his army...But woe to you people of the world, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time.”* (Revelation 12:7-9 & verse 12b TLB).

God’s Original Plan for Mankind:

- A safe place to live: a garden of abundance for mankind to guard, to rule, and to tend
- A safe family: complete transparency; no guilt & shame
- A safe relationship with God; enjoyed evening walks
- What happened to this perfect world? Sin caused separation from God - the cause of all evil in the world.

Adam & Eve’s story begins with a Garden from which they were removed. As great-grandchildren of Adam & Eve we began our lives removed from God so our story starts outside of paradise: *“all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23)...Sin pays fair wages BUT the paycheck isn’t good, *“the payment for sin is death”* (Romans 6:23).

My testimony has four parts:

1. Before Christ; our B.C.
2. How I met Christ and my A.D. *“the year of our Lord”*
3. How my spiritual journey changed course with Christ
4. How my journey on earth ends BUT my life doesn’t

Yes, there is an epic battle taking place on earth between God & Satan for YOUR soul and YOUR heart! Our opening verses affirm the battle rages: Satan & his angels against God and His Angels with earth and its people in the middle. BUT we left out two important verses.

“...Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down onto the earth with all his army. **THEN** I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, ‘It has happened at last! **God’s salvation and the power and the rule, and the authority of his Christ are finally here; for the Accuser of our brothers has been thrown down** from heaven onto earth—he accused them day and night before our God.’ (Rev. 12:9-10).

**THE SOLUTION:** “They **defeated him [Satan]** by the **blood of the Lamb** and by **their testimony**; for they did not love their lives but **laid them [their lives] down for him**. “Rejoice, O heavens! You citizens of heaven, rejoice! Be glad! But **woe to you people of the world**, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time’.” (Revelation 12:11-12 TLB).

Revelation 12:11 NIRV “They [brothers & sisters in Christ] had victory over him [Satan] by the blood the Lamb spilled for them. They had victory over him [Satan] **by speaking the truth about Jesus to others**. They were **willing to risk their lives**, even if it led to death.”

**What we have learned about this epic battle:**

#1: Two groups of people with two responses:

- a. Citizens of heaven: “rejoice...rejoice! Be glad!”
- b. People of the world: “woe to the people of the world **BECAUSE the Devil has come down to you**”

#2: What happens when we receive Jesus as Lord:

- a. Receive His power and rule
- b. Possess the authority of Christ is in their lives now
- c. The accuser of the brethren (the voice reminding us of our unworthiness before God) has been cast down

#3: Our means of exercising Satan’s defeat:

- a. The Blood of the Lamb: Jesus Christ
- b. The word of our testimony
- c. We exchange love for our own lives for a love for His

**OUR MISSION** (below is the account of the Apostle Paul’s mission): “I [the Lord Jesus] have appeared to you to appoint you to serve me. And **you must tell other people about me...I am sending you to them to open**

***their eyes. I want you to turn them from darkness to light. I want you to turn them from Satan's power to God. I want their sins to be forgiven. They will be forgiven when they BELIEVE IN ME. They will have their place among God's people'.*** (Acts 26:16-18)

This is "Life on Mission" for the Church:

- To serve Christ
- To tell other people about Him
- To share our story with others about when we met Jesus
- To open the eyes of those in darkness so they can see the Light
- To free people from Satan's bondage to walk in God's freedom
- To lead people to faith in Jesus Christ so they can be forgiven
- To welcome people into God's family: The Church