



The great heart of God desires that every Christian realize we are privileged to belong to Jesus' Church and are called to be deeply involved in and committed to His Church. Why does this matter? Because it is essential to our walk with Christ. Simply put: **To truly follow Jesus, each one of us has to fully engage in Jesus' Church.** The Apostle Peter put it thus: *We (the people of Jesus' Church) are like living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple in this day & age. What's more, we are His holy priests. Through what Jesus has done for us, we now qualify to continually offer spiritual sacrifices that please God (1 Peter 2:5).* Our Lord calls us to walk arm-in-arm with our brothers and sisters in the family of God ... **to do life together.** We need each other in order to go where Jesus wants to take us, become who Jesus wants to make us, do what Jesus wants to accomplish through us. And here's the best part: Nothing is as sweet as being "knee deep" in Jesus' Church when together we're loving Jesus, loving each other, and loving others to Jesus. As we've learned during the past three Sunday teachings, this happens when we bring to our Lord & His Church the gifts of our **time, talent, and treasure.** Today we look at a fourth wonderful gift that God asks all of us to bring to Jesus' Church as part of fully engaging ... our **testimony.**

P _____
(Romans 10:14)

P _____
(James 5:16)

P _____
(Psalms 22:3)

P _____
(Job 2:11-13)

P _____
(2 Timothy 2:15)

P _____
(Job 2:9; Psalms 63:8)

P _____
(1 Timothy 1:1; Titus 2:13)

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of this week's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. PJ said that communicating the Gospel involves ... (1) A clear and simple telling ... *What does that involve?* (2) Sharing your story with Jesus ... *How has Jesus changed you?* (3) Courage fueled by compassion ... *Why might you need courage & how does compassion fuel it?* (4) Humility ... *How does that contribute to an effective testimony?*
2. All seven ways of living out our testimony are essential to having a testimony for Christ. But, of the seven ways of having a strong testimony for Christ, which one did the Holy Spirit most speak to you about personally? Why do you suppose that is? How might other people seeing us live out prayer, praise, presence, promise, pursuit & perspective cause them to be more ready to open the door to listening to our proclamation?
3. Has there been a time in your life when you were going through a really hard or tragic situation and someone came to share with you their ministry of presence? How did them being there testify to you of Jesus?
4. What does a church, that wants to have a great testimony for Jesus, pray about specifically? Make a list and spend time in your small group praying through that list for NCFE. Don't take so much time making the list that you don't have time to pray together. If you have to, skip the list making and just pray about the things the Holy Spirit places on your hearts for NCFE.