



Sermon Series: Belonging, Part 3

Sermon Title: *Sharing Our Salvation Story*

Date: 1/22/2023

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

From God's word, we get today's

Big Idea: Don't fear sharing your salvation story.

In this section, Paul is expressing his belonging to God, the purpose of his ministry, and how every believer can share the simple faith in Jesus with someone else. Paul gives us three amazing reasons to share your testimony.

1) We are designed to be courageous

2 Corinthians 4:1-2

The ministry Paul speaks of at the beginning is simply faith in Jesus. The type of faith that causes great courage and change in your life. For Paul, his transformation was instant and undeniable. When Jesus met Paul in a vision and confronted him on his evil ways of persecution, Paul was forever changed. **1 Timothy 1:13**

As Paul says in verse two, we have no reason to trick others into believing; there's no need to misrepresent your testimony or tamper with the good news of Jesus. One of the sweetest sounds is the voice of someone telling the story of how they came to be a follower of Jesus, how they went from being blind to seeing Jesus face to face. We are designed to be courageous, not because of how well you can share, but because GOD has given you a story of salvation to tell.

2) We reveal what is hidden

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Paul is not deterred in sharing the good news of Jesus: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved." Even though, something so simple continues to be hidden from the sight of some.

In some places, the word of God talks about the god of this world hiding the truth, in other areas, Jesus said he spoke in parables to keep truth hidden. In Matthew 11:25, Jesus thanks God for hiding truth from smart people and revealing it to the not-so-learned. Why does God operate this way: I am convinced that He designs it so that we come to faith fully dependent on Him – not our own power, learning, or understanding. We see salvation and trust in Jesus as a gift – start to finish.

We are the little children. Be undeterred; you and I have the call to share – the Holy Spirit has the role to reveal. It's your story that reveals Jesus, who is the very image of God.

3) We are designed to shine

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Just as Paul says here, we may be designed to shine – but the spotlight is not on us – it is on Jesus!

Paul is living as a servant to the Corinthians because he was sent by Jesus. And just as God, back at the beginning of creation, spoke LIGHT into being out of the Darkness, you and I, when we share Jesus shine the GigaWatt spotlight on Jesus' love and forgiveness for someone else.

We don't share to make ourselves look bigger or better; we share because we passionately believe in this Jesus; we proclaim He Lived, Died, and was Raised from the dead! **1 Peter 2:9**

Our mission - Make disciples who make disciples, and that happens when we Know God and are known by Him, the Ultimate belonging

Don't fear sharing salvation through Jesus.

What difference does this make today?

We are the ones to show others - they belong to God.

“You belong to God - through faith in Jesus Christ.”

For Paul, he did not need to defend himself - this moment was one of defending the sincerity of his faith in Jesus Christ.

It truly is a whole new life: available to you and everyone you share it with!

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Are you courageous or shy when sharing your salvation story? Explain**
- **Describe your salvation story.**
- **Describe a time when your testimony was impactful in leading someone closer to God**
- **How can you effectively share your testimony without keeping the spotlight on yourself?**
- **Is it acceptable to embellish a testimony for the benefit of reaching an unbeliever?**