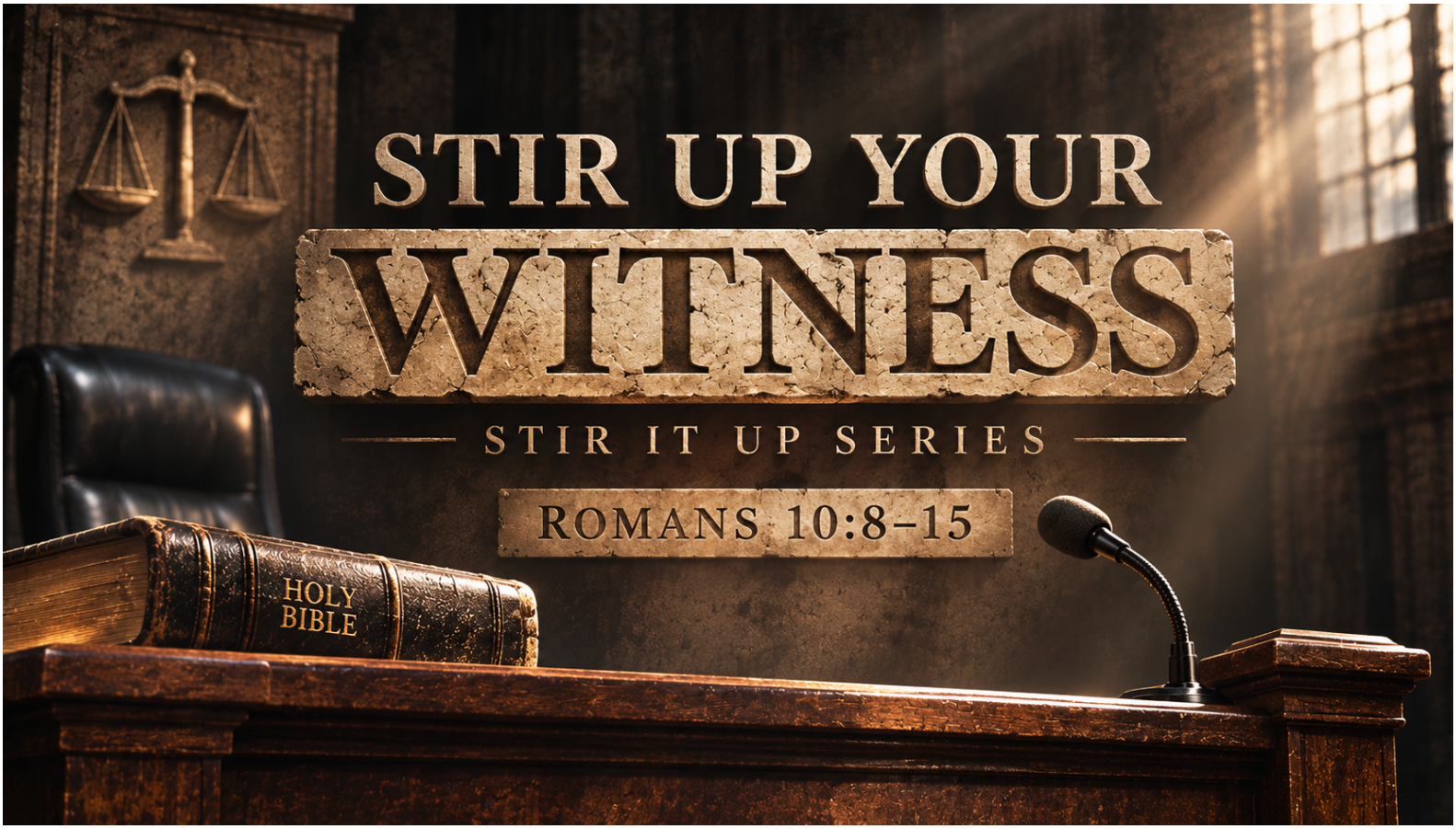



# Stir Up Your Witness

## Scripture Readings

Romans 10:8-15 (NKJV)
8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”
14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:
“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

## Introduction

Today’s message is one of the critical parts of the Stir it Up Series because it adds the discipleship link in the chain. It highlights the purpose of the “stirring of the gift;” the “stirring of circumstances as the Lord cooks;” the “stirring of the lame man;” the “stirring of our love and fellowship;” our song, His flow and our prayers. It is all to “stirring up our witness!”

One of the reasons why the Bible is so powerful as a credible book is because it is more than just one Book

with one author.

**66 books** — 39 Old Testament, 27 New Testament
**Approximately 40 authors** — traditionally attributed
**Approximately 1,500 years** — of writing and compilation
**3 continents** — Asia, Africa, and Europe
**3 primary languages** — Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek
**2 Testaments** — Old and New
**1,189 chapters**
**31,102 verses**
**5 books of the Law** — Genesis through Deuteronomy
**4 Gospel accounts** — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
**21 New Testament epistles** — letters to churches and individuals
**1 central redemptive narrative** — God's relationship with humanity, culminating in Jesus Christ
**Multiple generations. Different geographical regions. Different historical circumstances. A continuing testimony concerning the same God.**
**these are the numbers of the books of the Bible that were verified to have prophetic value and credible witnesses, authenticated and corroborated.**

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)
1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Bible is full of examples of how the testimony of God is lived through the life of Someone touched by Him.

## Someone

**Today's Scriptural focus gives us the blueprint for how an unbeliever becomes a believer and an effective witness for Christ. Verses 14:15 give us the emphasis here:** 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

A commentary put it this way:
Paul gives us a chain:
**Someone is sent** ⛓️
**Someone preaches** ⛓️
**Someone hears** ⛓️
**Someone believes** ⛓️
**Someone calls upon the Lord** ⛓️

**God uses Someone to reach Someone.**

**Verse 15 - the beautiful feet reference is a direct quote of Isaiah 52:7**

Isaiah 52:7 (NKJV)
7 How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who proclaims peace,
Who brings glad tidings of good things,
Who proclaims salvation,
Who says to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”

It is the same Isaiah who had a Heavenly encounter and a vision of the Lord as the Glory of God was revealed to him. And Isaiah was overcome because as good as everyone else thought him to be, he was confronted with his own unrighteousness. He cried “woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.” And one of the seraphim from the Presence of God took a live hot coal and touched Isaiah’s mouth with it and said “Behold this has touched your lips and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is purged.”

The work of sanctification was done in this encounter. God reveals himself to Isaiah, he confesses his sin, God forgives and sanctifies him and then asks the question:

Isaiah 6:8 (NKJV)
8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:
“Whom shall I send,
And who will go for Us?”
Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

It takes Someone to reach Someone. Are you that Someone?

### The Power of an EyeWitness

Consider a courtroom where a jury is hearing a case. The prosecution presents photographs, documents, forensic reports, surveillance footage, and physical evidence. Each piece contributes something to the case. But then a witness takes the stand and says: “I was there. I saw what happened.”
Now, the jury is no longer just dealing with disjointed pieces of evidence left at the scene. They’re hearing from a person who claims to have experienced it firsthand.

The witness becomes a living connection between the event and those who were not there. A credible witness allows the account of events to feel more real.

An eyewitness can perhaps present a perspective that an expert witness cannot communicate. An expert witness takes a look at the facts of a case and give an educated opinion. However, a personal eyewitness testifies about what happened in the moment. The expert witness wasn’t there. The eyewitness was there. They were a part of the experience and can share what they felt, sensed and how it affected them. These are very real factors that cannot be gathered in a test tube for examination.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus says:
“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me…”

(NKJV)

Peter and John before the authorities in Acts 4:20:
“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” (NKJV)

Peter and John realized that their calling and gifting was to be anointed witnesses to the things that they had seen and heard (past and present tense). They moved in the miraculous and in the passionate preaching of the Word of God. Churches were established, people were healed and many were discipled. Signs and wonders followed their ministry. But there was a distinction between being a witness of what they had “seen and heard” and being a ‘witness to the unseen.’

## “A Witness to the Unseen”

Is it possible for a person to be a witness to the unseen? This section of the sermon stretches our understanding and our perception of what it means to be a witness through faith!

We become “witnesses to the unseen” when we receive and experience 2 things, **hope** and **revelation.**

**Hope** - an assurance of something to come
**Revelation** - a divine picture of “what is” and “what will be.”

**A Witness of Hope**

Hebrews 11 is perhaps one of the chapters of the “alumni of faith” where several eyewitnesses are mentioned and their testimony and experience in following God by faith. The chapter speaks of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Sarah and many more. And in verse 13 to 18 the Bible says:

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NKJV)
13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NKJV)
Seeing the Invisible
16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

**A Witness of Revelation**

When a person receives a revelation of things to come from the Lord, that message, that vision or that dream can be considered a prophetic revelation. They become a prophetic witness of things that haven’t happened yet but are already established in the spiritual realm and will manifest in the natural in the fullness of time.

Consider the prophets of the Bible:

**Isaiah** — Isaiah 53 describes the suffering servant. Christians understand this passage as anticipating Christ's suffering and redemptive work.
**Micah** — Micah 5:2 identifies Bethlehem in a prophecy concerning a ruler from Israel, later connected to Jesus in Matthew 2:5–6.
**Daniel** — Daniel 7:13–14 describes one like the Son of Man receiving an everlasting dominion, imagery Jesus draws upon in the Gospels.
**Joel** — Joel 2:28–32 anticipates an outpouring of God's Spirit. Peter explicitly appeals to this prophecy in Acts 2:16–21.
Jesus—who made several prophecies of His death and resurrection and also the last days in Matthew 24.
John — who received the visions known to us as the Book of Revelation where several time periods are forth told and foretold.

A prophetic witness says, *"God has revealed what is yet to come."*

## Say Something!

If Satan has a powerful plan of attack against the Church it is witness intimidation!
In a court case, there are usually two sides to a case being heard. The plaintiff and the defense. The side making the claim and the one being accused. And while the Devil usually likes to play the part of the prosecutor, he does his outmost best not to become the accused himself. He will gather as much evidence, damaging and circumstantial to point the finger at those he has targeted for demise. And he will exert tremendous pressure on survivors and eyewitnesses of his plans that they should not ever take the stand to say what they saw, heard or experienced.

There are times when a case is on the verge of being won or overturned and the key piece of the case is depending heavily on eyewitness testimony. And at some point the witness agreed to testify, but something unexpected happened and the witness has been called but they don't come forward to take the stand. Someone or something got to them to scare them out of giving their testiimony.

I believe this is what has happened to the Church. Through coercion, through intimidation, through legislation, through blackmail, through threats, our witness has been silenced!

There is a popular adage that says "if you see something—say something!" And I'll add,
"if you've heard something—say something!" I'm not talking about snitching, I'm talking about spreading the word!
"If you felt something—say something!"
"If you believe something—say something!"

2 Corinthians 4:13 (NKJV)
13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,

Psalms 107:2 (NKJV)
2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

Tell it all:
the hard parts
the great parts
the parts in between
the inconvenient parts
the parts you don't have all the answers about
the parts you are certain about
tell it all

Someone else's freedom is depending on your witness testimony!

## Close

Now more than ever, personal witness testimony is perhaps one of the most compelling forms of saying "I was there!." Your experiences in life and with the Lord can transform a seemingly futile situation into one of perseverance and hope. Personal freedom is wonderful and it's a gift. A gift that we can also be a part of giving to someone else who isn't free. In the judicial system, the judge determines the fate of prisoner or the accused; but a witness testimony can be the deciding factor in that person becoming free. To testify that Someone Else has come forward to confess — Someone else who was sinless became sin and took the punishment for your sin. Someone else loves them enough to take their place. That that Someone came forward for you and has decided to come forward for them. His Name is Jesus! God sent Jesus! Now Jesus sends you!

You have a role to play in the Advocate's defense team. Your story, your account, your experience matters here. Let no one or nothing intimidate you into silence. Stir Up Your Witness!