



**Wednesday Night Bible Study
Eldress Denise Nance**

**Overcoming in the Power of God
“What is my Testimony?”**

Matthew 3:16-17

Matthew 4:1-11

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

¹⁷ *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

² *And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.*

³ *And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

⁴ *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

⁵ *Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

⁶ *And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

⁷ *Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

⁸ *Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*

⁹ *And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

¹⁰ *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

¹¹ *Then the devil leaveth him (Luke says for a SEASON – we need to know there will be other seasons of temptations and test, and behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*

At the start of this 25-day consecration fast, I pray we all had and daily continue to have a heart to heart with the Lord, but for me, I began to ask the Lord and give the Holy Spirit permission to search my heart, all of me actually and, reveal every dark place, everything that is not pleasing to him, that does not resemble his character and that is not beneficial to the kingdom in this time of consecration – because I desire more than anything to live a life of holiness in my mind, heart, attitude, my talk, everything.....for real. There is so much mess, ungodliness, perverted stuff that is creeping into the body of Christ and I want no parts. Because if we are not careful, if we are not obedient, we are targeted and could be like

so many others who lost focus and turned back. Now is NOT the time. But I know without the daily power of the Spirit of God, I cannot do it alone. I am not strong enough within myself.

I know that can sound like a cliché, but they are not just words, because there is a supernatural move of God going on in the Spirit Realm and I don't want to get stuck in this season or stay in a season too long when God says it's time to move on and miss this next level of living!

So, what is my testimony? Firstly, Testimony – in Hebrew is 'Aydooth' (**eduth**) which means 'do it again with the same power and authority' Each and Every time as believers when we speak out, we are saying to the LORD or of the LORD, '**by FAITH, do it again' GOD** with the same power and authority, that you did it before, we believe you to do it again, we believe you are the only one who CAN do it!! **Testimony is also evidence or witness, it manifests a person's real, true character!!**

Saved or unsaved, believer or unbeliever, religious, Christian, or carnal, we all have a testimony!!! The question is what is our, what is my testimony? I can remember before salvation my testimony of course and definitely after salvation, my testimony has not always been that of aligning up fully with the Word and the Will of God. I can remember plenty of times, going my own way! So as I was trying to study the 5 objectives of the fast in order, but when I realized that my testimony has not always been do it again God, I have not always represented Christ nor Re-Presented HIM to those who don't know him, to those who have fallen away, the true character of who he is, I had to **repent** – turn to God with my heart first in order to have that Spiritual intimacy, that closeness, that oneness that I so much desire to have with him!!!

You see, I no longer desire to have a testimony that resembles that of the world. **For if we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; Then we must BE always that!!! Consecrated, set apart to worship God only in Spirit and in truth!**

A worldly testimony is one such as those who are about to receive an Oscar, Emmy, or some sort of an award, I first want to thank God, you know the rest. Or one such as that of the children of Israel who knew God for his **Acts** but not desiring to know His **ways**! God made his ways known to Moses because the condition of Moses heart was turned towards God, because he experienced and witnessed the power and authority of GOD himself time and time again, that's a true testimony. I don't know about you, but I want to know the **WAYS** of GOD more, a more intimate relationship, more of his will, to know more of the hidden things of God, experience his presence that's what I want my testimony to be, God do that again, **when I laid on my bed in 2020 not knowing if I was going to make it or not – ended up in the hospital for 3 days, it wasn't Lord heal me first, but it was repentance, for I want to not just see your FACE** but dwell with you eternally to hear you say well done, I desire your PRESENCE, when I was positive with virus – true I had to quarantine, and all those things, but it was his LOVE, his grace and mercy that pulled me through. **The Acts of God will come**, but it is his WAYS that will launch us to the next LEVEL in this season, just as it did JESUS during that season in the Wilderness for the purpose he was sent here for!! Glory to God!!!

It has come a time in our lives that we should no longer be known by our own testimony or testifying of just the acts and hand of God but NEVER truly experiencing his WAYS, and his PRESENCE and intimacy with our Father which comes when our Heart is truly seeking after the Heart of GOD.

I am talking about the true evidence and witness of the overcoming power of God in our lives that will cause someone to want to truly want to follow God, serve him, to truly live for HIM, surrender their lives for God for real. **Again, What is my testimony?**

In our scripture we have before us tonight, we have it written and told in three of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Mark summarizes it in a couple of scriptures, whereas Luke's version is more topical. He writes the complete dialogue between Satan and Jesus and the three areas of temptations. And perhaps it was the physician in him that reversed the order of the temptations, I am not sure, but I chose Matthew for our text tonight because it was the chronological order of how the tempter, the devil approached Jesus that stood out for me.

This was interesting to me, because you see the **enemy is very strategic**, when it comes to breaking us, cracking us, remember that his sole purpose is to discredit God, his purpose always has been and always will be to get us off focus of our purpose, and who God truly is!

So, he studies us, he watches our consistent patterns, our behaviors, and desires, and our past, come on now that is all he has. He is determined to keep us away from our next level and our future – he knows his has already been determined. We have so many witnesses, Job of course being one and we all know the story and can relate to some degree. So, he must present himself and come to us in the enticing manner of what he thinks is more important, or more desirable to us!

Yes, and I am talking about after salvation, after being immersed in the water, after being full of the Holy Ghost, filled and led by the Spirit as Jesus was. Why? Because he is determined as he was with the first Adam, as he was with the last Adam to get us off focus of the creator and get us to focused on ourselves, focused on the World, on the temporary things, so he must present to us that tangible thing, that person or whatever it may be - whatever is more desirable to us!!!!

He is the author of confusion, so he still wants to confuse us just like he did with Eve in the garden, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? Is what the serpent said to Eve! Eve responded - But of the fruit of the tree, which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, **neither shall ye touch it**, lest ye die.

But God never said touch!! With the power and authority that God gave unto Adam, **he** should have spoken boldly to the serpent, because he was right there, and God gave him dominion over EVERY **creature** to include the **serpent**.

Jesus has restored the power and authority back to us, so what are we going to do, is our testimony going to be as Jesus said get thee behind me Satan, put him under our feet in the name of Jesus, or are we going to continue to ALLOW and give power to the enemy that he does not deserve!! Our words speak life, or they speak death. We must be confident of the WORD of GOD and speak with boldness as believers with the power and authority he has given unto us to put the enemy where he belongs!!!

In our scriptures tonight, Jesus before being led into the wilderness for forty days and forty nights, had just been baptized in the Jordan river, the Spirit of God in the person of the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove, filling him with the Holy Spirit, preparing him as the **Son of God for the journey**, for his purpose here on earth and to be tempted of the devil! He heard his Father say, this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Not only did Jesus hear it, but the people also heard it, they witnessed this confirmation preparing Jesus for his earthly ministry. Oh, but there was another witness as Jesus was

being prepared to be led in the wilderness for this forty day and forty-night consecration fasting, praying, setting a part, dedication for a higher purpose.

Sound familiar, as we are in the midst of this 25-day consecration fast, purposing to abstain from worldly and lustful pleasures that we so desire. Just as the tempter joined Jesus every day and night, not just after he came out, but while he was in the midst of the fast from beginning to end. Do not think he is going to make it easy for us! I know as we are about to enter day 13, **we all have been met with oppositions** like never before. But, if we are determined we have also experienced, **the power of the greater one** that is in us than he that is in the world.

Jesus was led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil, and at the same time, **tested by God**. Jesus, who knew no sin, who needed no forgiveness nor had reason of repentance, did this for you and I and for the glory of his Father. Both the Father and the Son knew that He could not sin, could not be tempted with evil, but he must be tested so that the world and the devil would also know. Glory to God, each one of us **MUST** go through the wilderness – our own personal wilderness - it may not feel like it while we are going through but rejoice as it is **temporary and only** for a season but preparing us for our next higher **LEVEL** higher **PURPOSE** of victory and living in HIM!!!!

We must know that Satan has absolutely nothing new. **1 John 2:15-17** - Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

Satan knew he would not be successful when it came to Jesus sinning, he knew that, and he cannot **make** us sin, but he can as he did from the beginning, as he did with Jesus and as he will continue to do with us, present to us the **temporary pleasures** of the world and if we fall for them with our own lustful desires then we will sin, but he does not cause us to sin. It is the choice we make. What will my testimony be? It will be the testimony of Jesus.

While Jesus was in this Spirit led wilderness, and while we are in our Spirit led wilderness on this Spirit led consecration, three things that I believe we can learn, experience and be well able when we come out on the other side:

Firstly, it is where separation will take place. If we will be truly dedicated to the fast that he has called and embrace this time, we will be cleansed from the influences of the world and become completely dependent on God. Allow this experience to create a deeper need for God rather than a need for fleshly relationships. God will allow us to **temporarily be without** so that we will truly know what it is know him as our provider. If we are feeling lonely, as we embrace him as our comforter and a friend that will stick closer in every situation than a brother, we will not so easily turn to that temporary pleasure as we have in the past. Having feelings of being frightened, worried, anxious or in the midst of a storm, he wants us to know him as our peace in the midst of the storm. When we are weak, that is the time to call on the great **I AM**, and he will be made strong in all of our weaknesses!! As we truly separate ourselves, God will truly be faithful to us in every area he knows EVERYTHING that we are in need of. Let that be our testimony.

Secondly in the wilderness and the midst of this consecration, **it is a place of preparation**. God made a promise not only to Abram, but to Abram and his descendants, but there was a preparation time, the

promise God gave came to pass, but in order to receive it, preparation had to be made. In Deuteronomy 29:5-6 - God said - ⁵"I have led you forty years in the wilderness; your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandal has not worn out on your foot. ⁶"You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or strong drink, in order that you might know that I am the LORD your God. We know how many times the Children of Israel flip flopped, went their own way, built and worshipped other gods, even desired to go back to their old lifestyles – back to bondage. Just as we know how many times, we have done the same thing.

Once God promises it, He does not take it back, he cannot go back on his WORD. We think we are ready for it when he says it to us, and when he does not give it to us at the appointed time, when we think we are ready for it, we call it being deprived, or him withholding from us, but he calls it preparation, maturity preparation for becoming his Sons! For he truly knows the condition and purpose of our heart!!!

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. Do not despise this place of preparation, nor rush the time of preparation during this consecration because it is important for what God has spiritually prepared for us. Let that be our testimony.

Finally, the wilderness, this consecration will be a place of Revelation (*that Spiritual Intimacy*) - Again, it does not feel good, but it is not about a feeling, but if we will embrace it, and endure it, we will see that God brings us to and through the wilderness so that we *will know, see, and experience HIM* like never before, that is what Revelation is – *it's an uncovering, it's a bringing to light that which has been previously entirely hidden or not clearly seen or understood!!*

Something that we could not handle before the wilderness, before this consecration, but NOW GOD, our ABBA Father can trust us with MORE of HIM!!!

Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Exodus 19:2-6

For most of us, the only place that God can readily prepare us, get us to a place where we will listen and obey his voice and give us the revelation of who he truly is in the wilderness, a set apart place, during this consecration!!! Trust me, I know it through MANY wilderness experiences!!! But I thank God that once I surrendered my will, my ways, my LIFE to HIM, I can truly say that my BEST LIFE is here!!!

In closing for forty days and forty nights Jesus was tempted for you and me by Satan. For the Glory of God and the reconciliation of us back to the Father, he endured. *A testimony is how we go through, and the way Jesus went through the wilderness is how he came out!! The Same way he began, is the same way he finished!! With the overcoming power of the Word of God!!*

When he came out and was tempted with the temporary things of this world, because of his obedience to the Father, being led by the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, his testimony each time was boldly speaking, with the Word of GOD, NEVER wavering!

In the midst of this consecration fast, at the end of this fast and the many days to come after, What will My testimony be? What will your testimony be?