



HOMESCHOOLING HIGH SCHOOL

MY TESTIMONY

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“AND THIS IS THE TESTIMONY: GOD HAS GIVEN US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE

IS IN HIS SON. HE WHO HAS THE SON HAS LIFE; HE WHO DOES NOT HAVE THE SON

OF GOD DOES NOT HAVE LIFE.” (1 JOHN 5:11-12)

Every person who has been redeemed by God, who has repented for their sins, and who has made Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior has a testimony. As 1 John 5:11-12 says, a testimony is the story of eternal life. Our personal testimony is how we individually have received eternal life.

I grew up in a Christian family and asked Jesus into my life when I was 3 years old. Growing up, I always thought that only people who had radical conversions had testimonies and that people who were saved when they were older had testimonies, but this verse says differently. It says that anyone who has been given eternal life has a testimony, because that is WHAT a testimony is: it is your story of eternal life. I know that I have eternal life and that when I die I will live forever with my Savior and God. The gospel, the way to eternal life, is powerful to affect and change lives. I have the Son, therefore I have life and I have the power to affect and change lives. Scripture is powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, the gospel is powerful and my story of receiving Life, “and that everlasting,” is powerful.

I have learned that even if I don't have a “radical” testimony, that my testimony is still MY story of receiving Life and is therefore as powerful as anyone else's testimony. I did ask Jesus into my heart at 3 years old, but it wasn't until high school that I really

began to have an individual relationship with God and truly made him my Lord, instead of only my Savior. I began, then, to start having regular quiet times (my personal time with the Lord) and began to have His heart for the lost and for the saved.

My story of becoming closer to God, of beginning to have a passion for His things and for His ways has been a powerful tool in my ministry. When discipling, my testimony is an encouragement to my disciples, because they feel that if I struggled with something and with God's help was able to move forward, then they can too. When witnessing, my testimony is an unobtrusive and non-pushy way to share the gospel. My testimony can make the gospel seem as it truly is: personal and alive, instead of dead and out-of-reach. My testimony, also, is an aid when I am reaching out to Christians that have never moved beyond the “pray the prayer” point. I can share, from personal experience, why it is so important to have a personal relationship with Christ and HOW to do it. Since that is what my testimony is.

My testimony is also powerful in my own life. When sharing it, writing it out, or remembering it, it reminds me of what God has done in my life: what he has rescued me from, what he has grown me in, and what I still need to grow in. It keeps the gospel always alive to me and constantly reminds me of the areas in my life that I still struggle with, therefore keeping me more humble (though that in itself is an area that I need to grow in). After sharing or writing out my testimony, I always feel invigorated, full of energy, and full of joy, as I am so thankful for everything God has done for me and am more resolved to submit everything to Him, to do with as he will.

My testimony is my story. It is my story of the power of God moving in and through my life and therefore it has power to, in turn, change other's lives. My testimony is powerful when shared with other people and powerful, when thinking or telling it, to myself. It can affect others to give their lives to God and it affects me to give more of life to God, and therefore it is the most important tool, after scripture, which God has given to me.

