

JANUARY 5th, 2024

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Revelation 12:10-11 (NASB) - 10Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. 11And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

OVERCOME: TESTIMONY

Testimony (Witness):

- **(G3144) Martyrs** - of uncertain affinity; a witness (literally (judicially) or figuratively (genitive case)); by analogy, a "martyr":—martyr, record, **witness**.
 - **(G3141): Martyria** - evidence given (judicially or genitive case):—record, report, testimony, **witness**.
- **(H5707) Ed** - concretely, a **witness**; abstractly, **testimony**; specifically, a recorder, i.e. prince:—witness.
 - From **(H5749) Ud** - to bear witness, **to testify, to return, repeat or go about again**.

A **witness** is someone who sees something important or amazing and shares what they've seen.

A witness's **testimony** is what they declare about what they've seen, known, or experienced.

We as believers are invited to be a group of witnesses who see, know and experience God and bear witness, or give our testimony, of it to the world.

God has been offering this invitation since the beginning:

- Abraham (and others) - A man to bear witness for God
- Exodus - A kingdom of priests to bear witness for God to the world
- Moses - A lead man to bear witness to those who were supposed to bear witness for God
- Prophets - More people to bear witness for God to those whom have forgotten and strayed
- Jesus - The chief witness (martyr/martyr) of God to the world
- Disciples - The people who are sent by Jesus to bear witness to the world about God.

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) - 1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of **witnesses**, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of **faith**.

OUR TESTIMONY - TO BEAR WITNESS:

1 John 5:1-12 (ESV) - 1 Everyone who **believes** that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7For there are three that testify: 8the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. 9If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. 10Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 11And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

- Belief (faith) brings new life from God
- Belief is evidenced by living action – obedience to the will and ways of God – His commands
- Everyone born of God **overcomes** the world
- **The victory that has overcome the world is our faith!**
- Those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God overcome the world
- The testimony of people carry weight and are accepted... the testimony of God is greater.
- **Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in themselves!**
 - **You are the witness! Bear testimony of God to the world!**
- This is the testimony: God gave us eternal life and life is in his Son.

YOUR TESTIMONY OF THE TESTIMONY:

Psalm 66:16-20 (NIV) - 16Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. 17I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. 18If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; 19but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. 20Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

- Let me tell you - share
- What God has done for me - personally
- I cried out
- I praised Him
- He listened because I rejected sin in my heart - repentance
- He answered my prayer and bestows his love on me'

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NIV) - 17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- A new birth – a new creation – a new life
- Reconciled to reconcile
- A message and a mission – words and ways

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stood out to you from this message? Why?
- What is the most personally challenging part of this message? Share.
- How does God's part, our part and other's part play into the topic of testimony?
- What is one next step you can take from this message?
- To watch the Overtime Podcast, go to: <https://bit.ly/RLOvertime>



Overtime Podcast