

If there is one thing I know, it is this...I once was bound in my sin, but now I'm free! I may not know much, but I know this...I once was lost, but now I'm found. Jesus is indeed alive! If the world needs proof... just look this way! We are living epistles! We are the proof!

I. THE POWER OF TESTIMONY

- A. I was away this weekend speaking at a women's conference and was reminded, more than reminded, **UNDONE**, at the goodness of the Lord. I listened as women from the conference shared their stories. Each story was different, each history was unique, but they had one commonality...Jesus saved them!

Revelation 12

11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

- B. I think sometimes we forget where we came from! We forget where we started. But O, the power of our God. He is good and his mercy endures forever!!!! We have been purchased from slavery to sin, that we might be slaves of righteousness! **HE IS SO GOOD!!!!**

Romans 6

15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

- C. We are free! Think about that... We are free to be right with God. Free to be holy. Free to be kind. Free to serve. Free to walk by faith and not by sight. Free to trust God though we don't always see the end. Free to love. Free to dance. Free to sing. Free to be good. We are free!
- D. You have a testimony of God that no one else on the entire planet has. No one who has gone before you, in all the history of mankind, has your testimony! No one else can love God the way that you do.

Acts 17

26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us...

- E. Whatever the hardship, whatever the pain, whatever the boundary- it was all for love. Your race, your gender, your mental ability, your physicality even was purposed by God. What a great mystery! Every hair on your head is numbered, how much more should we believe that every moment is ordained for us.

Matthew 10

30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

F. Nothing is hidden. Nothing is random. Nothing is inconsequential to our God! He sees you. He knows you. And He loves you!

II. HE KNEW AND KNOWS**Pslam 139**

139:1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me! 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. 3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. 5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

A. Every day, even the hardest of days... He knew and He saw. And for many this can cause great offense. "How could you let this happen," we may say. "Where were you," we cry. But Beloved, He was there. He saw. He heard. He cared.

Exodus 3

3:1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." 4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. 7 Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

- B. Never mistake your hardship for indifference. Out of response to our oppression and slavery, Father sent us a deliverer, a Messiah. His name is Yeshua, His name is Jesus! Before we cried out, He heard us. Before we knew His name, He sent a sacrifice. Before we could trust Him, He sent His only Son. It was all for love. It was all for you!

John 3

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

III. IT'S FOR FREEDOM**Galatians 5**

1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

- A. It's for freedom that Christ has set us free! Friend, are you really living? I don't want to waste another minute complaining and murmuring. I want to live! I want to love! I want to worship! This weekend I was reminded of where I came from. I was reminded that every breath is a gift. I was reminded that life is precious. I was reminded that our loved ones are irreplaceable. I was reminded that we are not promised tomorrow, and so let's live every moment for Christ to the full!

- B. He's just soooooooo GOOD! Let's remember our first love.

John 15

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

You want to honor God? Bear fruit!

Galatians 5

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- C. Let's not be distracted. Let's throw off the sin and offense and misunderstanding that so easily entangles us, and let's go after the Lord! Let's run the course that's been set for us. Let's forgive. Let's learn how to love. Let's be about the Father's business. Let's worship!

IV. YOU CAN ALWAYS GO UP

- A. There is a standing invitation to "Come up here." Many nights I have prayed for deliverance to break in upon me here in what seemed like no avail. I prayed though, but no peace seemed to come. I prayed through, but no answer came. I now believe, these are the echoes of that timeless invitation to "Come up here."

Revelation 3, 4

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as

I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

*4:1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”
2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.*

When deliverance doesn't break in, we can always go up! When rest won't come, we can always go up. Jesus is undisturbed. He's confident. He lives in passionate peace. He's secure. And when everything is turned upside down here, He has invited us into His perfect order.

Ephesians 2

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

B. Beloved, you have access now! Right now, you have access to the Creator of the entire universe. You! Today! Even now!!

Colossians 3

3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Ephesians 2

17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

C. You can always go up! You can always go in! He loves you, He loves you, He loves you! Leave your doubt and worry down at the altar, and enter into the Spirit. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.