

Message for Sunday the 14th of October 2018

It is real! (part 4)

Opening Text: Acts 12:1-17

V.17b - *“Go tell these things to James and to the brethren”*

I said two weeks ago that we need to recapture the spiritual vigour and the spiritual tenacity of the early church. I would like to conclude this series by referring to 2 crucial keys to walking in the reality of the supernatural power of God.

1. The power of a testimony
2. The power of walking with Jesus

The power of a testimony

V.17b - *“Go tell these things to James and to the brethren”*

You give more mileage to a miracle when you talk about it to others. The miracle impacted those involved in it but, through their testimony it was going to impact *“James and the brethren”* and even us today, here, 2000 years later.

Peter knew the power of a testimony:

Acts 4:20 – *“For we cannot but speak about the things we have seen and heard”*

Peter had an almost ‘compulsive’ urge to talk about Jesus. He couldn’t help himself, he had to speak. *We cannot but speak!* In the previous chapter, Peter, and John commanded a man paralysed 40 years to walk. God performed the miracle right before everyone else’s eyes. Peter used the opportunity to lead 5000 men to Jesus (4:4). How could Peter stay silent?

In **Acts 5:20** an angel told Paul to speak: *“Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”*

In **Acts 18:9**, Jesus told Paul to speak: *“Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;”*

There’s great power in the testimony:

Revelation 12:11 - *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

(Revelation 19:10b - ... *“the **testimony** of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*)

The power of walking with Jesus

All they saw and all they heard came simply because they walked with Jesus.

Read **Acts 4:12-20**

V.13: *“When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus”.*

Their faith, their doctrine, their preaching stories their testimonies, all came because they walked with Jesus. The level of spiritual power they walked in, their unstoppable boldness, the notable miracles and undeniable evidence was all because they walked with Jesus.

What they heard and saw, positioned them for that moment. What they heard and saw empowered them to respond supernaturally to a natural impossibility.

3 things will happen when you walk with Jesus:

1. You build your personal history with God.

They saw a lot and they heard a lot. They saw a lot of God: there was a whole lot of history that they built with God, many chapters, many stories, many miracles, many testimonies.

We can hear preachers, and certainly that is important, but nothing replaces your own walk with Jesus. You need to build your own relationship with God -that no preacher can give you.

There are many things you can receive in the context of someone praying for you: healing or the impartation of a spiritual gift. You can receive great teaching from a preacher. However, there’s something that you can’t receive from the hands of any preacher, from his teaching or his prayers: history.

You build your own history with God. I have my own ‘history’ but I can’t give you mine, you have to build your own.

Peter’s unwavering commitment to be a witness of Jesus, his unstoppable boldness and spiritual tenacity, the powerful miracles he saw came out of his own journey with Jesus. Jesus and Peter had a history – much of it is written about in the gospels.

That is the kind of thing Jesus wants to do in your life. As you walk with him and build your history with Him you will have your own testimonies, experiences, miracles, revelation – all of which will make you bold and confident, will build your spiritual resilience and faith.

2. Unwavering faith

We cannot but speak of the things we have seen and heard.

Peter walked with Jesus. He saw a lot and heard a lot. He heard a lot of word! His faith was a product of all the word he heard from Jesus!

Faith only comes by hearing God's word. Their hearts were full of the substance of miracles: faith.

Peter knew the power of a Rhema word out of Jesus' lips:

- *'at your word I will let down the net'* (Luke 5:5)
- Another time Jesus said one word "*come*" and Peter walked on the water (Matthew 14:29-29)

Walking with Jesus sometimes involves risk, like Peter walking on the waters. However, when you have walked on the waters you know you can walk anywhere and do anything! No one can stop you!

The just shall live by faith! That faith comes by walking with Jesus and hearing His word.

3. A burning heart

Luke 24:32 - *And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road...*

You can't be lukewarm if you walk with Jesus. You will be a burning bush that burns but is not consumed - a bush from where the testimony of the Lord sounds forth!

Conclusion

How much have you seen? How much have you heard? How much have you walked with Jesus? The invitation is open to each one of us to walk in the reality of the power of God and see undeniable miracles. When you do, share those testimonies. There is power in the testimony.