Summer Stories – Trials of Life #3

2022 Mandate: Gather, Grow, Go

Video: Richard and Michelle Small

John 14:11 “Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the *evidence* of the works themselves.”

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Witness Definition:

witness - *noun* wit·ness \ˈwit-nəs\

* a person who sees something (such as a crime) happen
* Court of Law: a person who makes a statement in a court about what they know or have seen
* a person who is present at an event (such as a crime) and can say that it happened

A witness is a person who sees something (such as a crime) happen.

We see others depressed… we become a witness to it.

We see others battle disease… we become a witness to it.

We see others hurt, broken, beaten down by life… we become a witness to it.

In the body of Christ, we are witnesses to horrific crimes of the enemy. This includes lost people, searching people, and even those active in the Body of Christ.

In the Court of Law, a witness is a person who makes a statement in a court about what he or she knows or has seen.

A witness in the Court of Law is more than someone who saw something occur. It is a person willing to testify (give a testimony) about what they saw or experienced.

Many in the body of Christ are great at this. The issue is we are testifying more on the enemy's behalf than about Christ's power.

We even go so far as to label people with their “victimized state.”

They are divorced!

They’re the Drunk!

They’re the one who was molested!

They’re the whore!

They’re such a loser!

They’re the one with cancer!

The victim has a Name! If they have a name, we are obligated by God to bring them before the throne room. We bring the victimized to the one who can make them victorious.

What happens when we are “the victim?”

When we are victims, we become much more than someone who gives a testimony. You become "Evidence."

We are all "Evidence" because we have been a victim of a crime.

We can testify about…. Divorces, Addictions, Abuses, Oppressions, and go on and on.

But Jesus came to “Flip the Script.” This is your Plot Twist!

Acts 1:8 “8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jesus does not want you to stay “victimized," so you only testify about the Crime. Jesus wants you to receive power to be evidence of His victory.

When the Presence of God touches you, you will be transformed by his power into a new creation. You are the evidence that Jesus will use to testify about his justice to the whole world.

You become a “Witness” carrying the power of “Evidence!”

I may have witnessed it, even been the victim of it, but I am not defined by it.

What I am is Evidence; that He who began a good work in me is faithful to complete it.

Now, when people don't have faith, we do not try to convince them to believe in the unseen. You are “The Evidence” that they can look at, touch, and put their faith in Christ.

Jesus said, "… or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.”

They became Evidence:

• Jesus changed water into wine ([John 2:1-11](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=joh+2:1-11)).

• Jesus cured the nobleman's son ([John 4:46-47](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=joh+4:46-47)).

• The great haul of fishes ([Luke 5:1-11](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=lu+5:1-11)).

• Jesus cast out an unclean spirit ([Mark 1:23-28](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mr+1:23-28)).

• Jesus cured Peter's mother-in-law of a fever ([Mark 1:30-31](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mr+1:30-31)).

• Jesus healed a leper ([Mark 1:40-45](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mr+1:40-45)).

• Jesus healed the centurion's servant ([Matthew 8:5-13](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+8:5-13)).

• Jesus raised the widow's son from the dead ([Luke 7:11-18](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=lu+7:11-18)).

• Jesus stilled the storm ([Matthew 8:23-27](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+8:23-27)).

• Jesus cured two demoniacs ([Matthew 8:28-34](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+8:28-34)).

• Jesus cured the paralytic ([Matthew 9:1-8](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+9:1-8)).

• Jesus raised the ruler's daughter from the dead ([Matthew 9:18-26](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+9:18-26)).

• Jesus cured a woman of an issue of blood ([Luke 8:43-48](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=lu+8:43-48)).

• Jesus opened the eyes of two blind men ([Matthew 9:27-31](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+9:27-31)).

• Jesus loosened the tongue of a man who could not speak ([Matthew 9:32-33](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+9:32-33)).

• Jesus healed an invalid man at the pool called Bethesda ([John 5:1-9](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=joh+5:1-9)).

• Jesus restored a withered hand ([Matthew 12:10-13](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+12:10-13)).

• Jesus cured a demon-possessed man ([Matthew 12:22](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+12:22)).

• Jesus fed at least five thousand people ([Matthew 14:15-21](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+14:15-21)).

• Jesus healed a woman of Canaan ([Matthew 15:22-28](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+15:22-28)).

• Jesus cured a deaf and mute man ([Mark 7:31-37](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mr+7:31-37)).

• Jesus fed at least four thousand people ([Matthew 15:32-39](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+15:32-39)).

• Jesus opened the eyes of a blind man ([Mark 8:22-26](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mr+8:22-26)).

• Jesus cured a boy plagued by a demon ([Matthew 17:14-21](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+17:14-21)).

• Jesus opened the eyes of a man born blind ([John 9:1-38](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=joh+9:1-38))

• Jesus cured a woman who had been afflicted for eighteen years ([Luke 13:10-17](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=lu+13:10-17)).

• Jesus cured a man of dropsy ([Luke 14:1-4](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=lu+14:1-4)).

• Jesus cleansed ten lepers ([Luke 17:11-19](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=lu+17:11-19)).

• Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead ([John 11:1-46](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=joh+11:1-46)).

• Jesus opened the eyes of two blind men ([Matthew 20:30-34](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+20:30-34)).

• Jesus caused the fig tree to wither ([Matthew 21:18-22](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+21:18-22)).

• Jesus restored the ear of the high priest's servant ([Luke 22:50-51](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=lu+22:50-51)).

• Jesus rose from the dead ([Luke 24:5-6](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=lu+24:5-6)).

• The second great haul of fish ([John 21:1-14](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=joh+21:1-14)).

Today let the Presence of God touch you. You will be transformed by his power into a new creation. You are the evidence that Jesus will use to testify about his justice to the whole world.