

God Promised

The providential weaving of God's hand into the life story of Joseph and Mary and the Holdens and the faith family at Briggs Chapel.

It started with a message, some bible study material, and a gift, some 15 years ago, given to the members of Briggs Chapel that blossomed into a providential work shared with you today. And it revolves around a promise Giver and Keeper.

God promised a Son

God promised a Savior

God promised a Salvation

God promised a Shepherd and King

Telling Our Story — Christmas

My story... (Isaiah 9:6-7)

He became a Wonder to me.

My Counselor and I started seeking His advice.

My Refuge, my Mighty God.

My forever protector, My everlasting Father, who provides my every needful thing. Psalm 84; Romans 8

My source and supreme peace, my Prince of Peace.

A Testimony — What should we listen and look for while living on a mission for Jesus?

Little by little I've expanded these marks from four to six.

Six Marks — Distinguishing Marks of an Authentic Witness

Six MARKS of an Authentic Witness, as seen throughout the Newer Testament and specifically recognized in the testimony of Paul in Acts 26, Romans 2, and throughout the Scriptures. The testimony and teachings that support an authentic witness in the Bible are as follows: The evidence of His presence and witness in the life of His disciples. Their Testimonies are that:

1. They REST on a CURRENT Lifestyle. They don't have to look back to what they did... but their witness rests upon a current lifestyle of faith. They love, believe, trust, joy, and celebrate the wonder of God in His Son. They do seek not sinless perfection of themselves but possess a single-minded priority to seek and follow Jesus. Their salvation doesn't rest on their decision but on a deliverer that set them free to trust and obey Him and His gospel.

2. They're ROOTED in a Past CONVERSION. (When we entrusted our lives to Jesus being interrupted and invaded by Him and His grace.)

3. They REFLECT a CONSISTENT COMMITMENT of Following Jesus (from the time we were interrupted and reconciled to Jesus, including being chastened, restored, corrected, revived, redirected, disciplined, and cared for by Jesus and His people).

4. They're REWARDED to CERTIFY the Gospel is True and to CLARIFY Truth about Jesus. (Gifted to be His witness... that gets to declare His praise and purpose, telling and retelling our story, again and again, of His redeeming grace. We open our mouths, our bibles, and our lives alongside His truth and grace and show how He and His truth and grace continues to transform our lives.)

5. Their REPENTANCE is a CHARACTERISTIC mark of His sufficient grace. They have a history of repentance and restoration. Everyone has a history of disobedience but not everyone has a history of repentance. And until someone is interrupted by Jesus they'll end up on the wrong side of history. Because all of us have a history of missing the mark with the Lord but not everyone has a history of glorifying Jesus with their faith and repentance.

6. They're RECONCILERS reaching A CORRUPT WORLD with His gospel who long to teach, equip and mobilize those they reach. One of the sweet blessings of being made a new creature in Christ is the amazing truth that God entrusts to us the MINISTRY and MESSAGE of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). And when we understand God's zeal to build His church, with His church, we can see how He rewards His people with this opportunity to co-labor with Him to fulfill His promise. Isaiah spoke of it like this:

"...The ZEAL of the Lord of host will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

This principle cannot be separated from any work of the kingdom of God. Everything and anything that is done, in and through and for Christ, and the culmination of His return and reign, can be traced back to this word... "the ZEAL of the Lord of host will perform this." Every missionary, every mission, every soul that's been born again or will be birthed into the kingdom of God is the beauty of this verse being fulfilled. Yes, the ZEAL of the Lord of host will see that

it happens, just as He said, and when it does, it happens through His ambassadors. God always follows through...with what He says, and He always finishes what He starts. So every demonstration of the Spirit, every time the gospel is preached and the truth is taught, each time a heart is reached, anytime a saint is comforted or afflicted it is the passion of the Lord of host fulfilling His promise to establish and order His kingdom and exalt His Christ. Glory, glory, glory... it's not you, no ma'am, it's not me, no sir, it's the zeal of the Lord of host at work in and through His people. We are fellow workers with Him in this ministry of reconciliation. As the Newer Testament proclaims and affirms, "It is Him who works in you to will and do according to His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12). I encourage you, my friends, to go read and meditate upon Isaiah 9:6-7 today and the next day --- until it's the message and love burst forth in your spirit and impacts every part of your being, so you recognize you have been REWARDED to CERTIFY the Gospel is True. All authentic witnesses that belong to Jesus have a testimony that rests on a current lifestyle, that's rooted in a past conversion, that reflects a consistent commitment to follow Christ from that conversion, it's

rewarded to certify that the gospel is as true and reliable, as He promised, they have a history of repentance and they make it a priority to live on mission for Jesus.

Jesus is their testimony and this evidence, as His disciples, cannot be hidden or denied. They will characteristically be His witnesses for His glory and good.

Hearing Jesus, on everything, concerning all things, as a way of life, is everything to His disciples. (Acts 3:22-26; Luke 2:34-35; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21).

**#nestingwithjesus #matthew1 #matthew2 #luke1
#luke2 #leviticus12 #immanuel #emmanuel #isaiah9
#christmas #1samuel2 #hearHim
#hearingheedinghorning #redeemer #princeofpeace
#Isaiah9and6thru7 #acts26 #testimony #sixmarks
#sixmarksofanauthenticwitness
#fourmarksofanauthenticwitness
#attentionaffectionadoration #notashamed
#thosethatdiewithHim #livewithHim**

#thosethatendurewithHim #reigneithHim

#hethatdeniesHim #Hewilldeny #notashamedofJesus

#puzzle