²⁶But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning. —John 15:26-27 ESV

Witnessing is Difficult Work Because of Resistance

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I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor Me.

—John 16:1-3 ESV

A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me. —John 16:16 ESV

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Witnessing is Dynamic Work Because of Coming Joy

²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish,

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for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.—John 16:20-22 ESV

Witnessing is Dependent Work Because of the "Helping" Spirit

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⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.

⁸And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. —John 16:7-11 ESV

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The Helper John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26-27; 16:13-14 "God's way to strengthen and sustain His people is through the work and power of the Holy Spirit."

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13When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.

14He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you.

-John 16:13-14 ESV

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"Sin is a violation of God's intention for humanity. It is a destructive force that wrecks and ruins the full glory and beauty of humanity as God intended it to be. A mere glance at what is happening in society will convince you how true this is...

People all around us are hurting, lonely, and miserable inside;

is anywhere on earth. Why is that? It is because of sin. But they do not know that. They do not understand what causes all the pain, hurt, and loneliness. They ascribe it to a lot of different sources, but when those are corrected the same pain, the same emptiness remains."—Ray Stedman

life is just as empty and as painful as it

"The ministry of Jesus is continued and fulfilled through the strategy

and sufficiency of the Holy Spirit."

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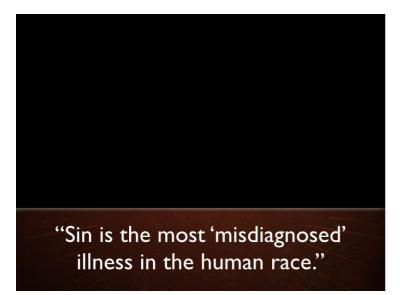
18Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

19And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

—John 3:18-19 ESV

²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God. —John 3:20-21 ESV

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"They are trying to play the game of life without any reference to the One who sets the rules. The first thing they learn when they see people who have been inwardly transformed by the presence of the Spirit releasing to them the life of Jesus is that here are people who have found the secret of life. Here are people who like themselves have suffered all the hurt and the loneliness of life

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who now have found the secret of calmness, peace, and forgiveness. They discover for the first time that the nature of sin is to ignore the One in charge of life. 'They sin because they do not believe in Me,' Jesus declares. The secret to life, therefore, is to believe in and come to the Lord Jesus.' —Ray Stedman

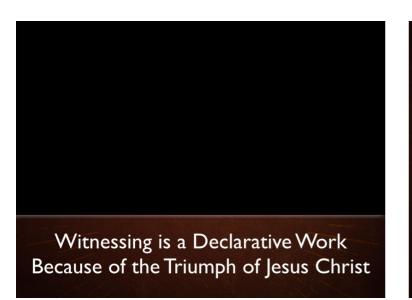
"The Christian life is not a righteous performance, but a life of peace and power through the righteous performance of Christ for us."

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Romans 8:3-4, 10

"We live no longer in the bondage of the adversary, but now in freedom as the sons and daughters of God."

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I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart;
I have overcome the world.

—John 16:33 ESV

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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? —I John 5:4-5 ESV

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