



THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MY GOD STORY



WEEK 4

Acts 4:32-5:11

As the full number of believers gathered, it says they had everything in common. They were of one heart and one soul, with an overwhelming sense of belonging that led to extreme generosity. Nothing they had was theirs, but considered ours. Their souls were knit together through the gospel of Christ and power of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Their hearts' desires were unified as they pursued the same purpose of glorifying God and caring for one another. As a small group, how are we all of one heart and one soul, with an overwhelming sense of belonging to one another? How could we collectively grow in these areas (especially concerning mutual ministry)?

In verse 32, it says "with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all." That same great power is in you! The Holy Spirit will be at work in your life as you share your testimony of Christ in your life. When you are sharing your testimony, you are extending the grace that has been given to you through Christ, to others. How does this knowledge help you overcome any fears you may have about sharing your faith with others?

The not so common fruits of the Spirit as mentioned on Sunday are: 1) Unity – When Jesus matters most. 2) Generosity – When others matter more than me. 3) Honesty – When integrity matters more to me. These fruits are counter-cultural, and when we display evidence of them in the way we live our lives as Christ-followers, it will lead to more opportunities to share our testimonies. Discuss how you've seen this to be true.

The first step of your testimony was "Who you were before Jesus Christ?" The second step of your God story was to tell about "When did you meet Jesus Christ?" Tonight, we are focusing on the third part of your testimony which is "Who you are now in Christ?" Have your testimony that you started last week and pen ready! This part should be about two minutes of your testimony.

Step Three: "Who you are now in Christ?" We began with sin as the problem, and Christ is the solution. Now you will be able to share the radical change and impact Christ has made in your heart and life. Think of it this way, "I once was _____, but now I am _____." The "but now I am _____" is this portion of your testimony. Articulate specific changes and illustrations about how having a relationship with Christ changed you from the inside out.

Here are some other questions that might help determine this part of your testimony. How has Christ brought you lasting joy? What does your life revolve around now? How has He changed the desires of your heart? How does knowing Christ give you clear purpose and hope? How has your perspective on life changed? How is He working in your heart and life right now? What have you done to continue to grow deeper in your relationship with Him? Why is He the one your heart finds complete satisfaction in above all other relationships?

Take five minutes to write out step 3 of your testimony and then share it in groups of 3 to 4 people. Ask for feedback from one another if it was concise (about two minutes), clear (how having a relationship with Christ has changed my life), and compelling (would the listener want to start a relationship with Christ, be saved!!). Be ready to share your entire testimonies in 2 weeks with your small group.

Helpful Hints for Writing out your God Story:

- 1) Practice your God Story out loud over and over until it becomes natural.
- 2) Do not imply that having a relationship with Christ solves all your problems, but instead you now have hope and a clear purpose.
- 3) Keep current, how is God still impacting your life today...not just 10 years ago when you were saved.