

# The Testimony of Jesus

One of many Christians...

# The Testimony of Jesus

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If you want to purchase this book, please contact:

Phone: +370 616 06869

Email: [jotikslas@gmail.com](mailto:jotikslas@gmail.com)

Website: [www.jotikslas.lt](http://www.jotikslas.lt)

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This book is dedicated to  
anyone who will read it



## INTRODUCTION

Both, the first book, "His Purpose," and this "Testimony of Jesus," are unplanned and written without thinking about the style, fluency of thoughts, perspective or who will read them. Both are written in faith as a response to the Shepherd's voice, which guides His sheep, and they follow Him hearing His voice.

I wrote the first book, "His Purpose," from my personal notes, which initially I kept for myself, like a small loaf of bread, which seemed to be enough to feed myself, and certainly not sufficient for others. But the Lord encouraged me to bring what I considered small to Him, to prove that little things in His hands can grow and increase. Then I saw a miracle - something that seemed unplanned and impossible began to grow in the Lord's hands.

After giving away the small loaf of bread, I realized that at that moment I had nothing to write or to share. I was only able to observe what He was doing with this loaf of bread. But again, the Spirit of God showed me something I had not noticed before:

*Matthew 14 :17-21* We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples **picked up** twelve basketfuls of broken pieces **that were left over**. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

When I wrote the first book for myself, it seemed like I had so little, that it was a shame to give to the Lord, but when I gave it

away, I noticed around the rest of the crumbs. Then I heard His Spirit saying, "Gather all the crumbs and put them in a basket." When I started collecting the crumbs, I put them in one basket, and again, I got a book that I did not plan to write... What an active and powerful Word of God is.

This book is so similar to the first one, maybe because of the same loaf of bread that was multiplied, but also different. It is not about rules, customs, traditions, or morals, it is not about good and evil, good behaviour and self-improvement. It is about one Person, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who testifies to what God really is. It is also about how His testimony is changing my heart and yours.

I have often asked myself how to be the good witness of Jesus, why sometimes stories about Him do not work, do not touch the hearts of others, do not change their lives, and so often turn into controversies and complicated doctrines or theories. Sometimes you speak to others about God, about His works as well as list to them all the wonders you've heard and still nothing happens ... Then you pick up the greatest miracle you've ever heard, tell them about the most unexpected events, and still nothing.

Why do you often try so hard to prove to others that God exists and that He is good, as if you were trying to draw others to Him? Although Jesus Himself said:

*John 12:32* And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

So why do we so often attract people to ourselves, our church, our group, our home, our beliefs, our pastor, and our friends? Then it takes strength, effort, marketing, advertising, encouragement, and invitations, but then why Jesus himself doesn't draw others to Himself?

What is the testimony of Jesus - true, alive, powerful, and real?



## 1 CHAPTER

### The True Witness

**G**od created man to be like the Creator, so that God could show and reveal Himself to all the heavenly creatures, angels, authorities, and principalities through relationship with man. Man is destined for this privilege in order to know the Creator, to become a part of Him and, living in Him, to spread the knowledge and glory of God. Thus began the wonderful plan of God - the creation of man and relationship with him.

Adam communicated with God, observing His creation, wisdom, and power. He saw God's unmeasurable power, rejoiced in His works, and participated in the creation process himself. Adam gave names to God's creatures, and the Lord watched and showed everyone through Adam, how unmeasurable His power, greatness and wisdom are.

*Genesis 2:19* Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He **brought them to the man to see what he would name them;** and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

The angels, the powers and principalities in the heavenly realms, and all the creatures of the heavens watched, how God revealed and displayed His majesty and power, creating vast oceans, filling them with all kinds of fish that can reach the deepest places, bringing forth the most wonderful kinds of plants and trees, filling the earth with birds and animals, who caused wonder and admiration with their colours, size and sounds. He finally created a man, so similar to Himself that decided to crown him with beauty and glory of all creation. But this was only the beginning -

only the beginning of that idea to reveal the depths of the Lord to the universe and fill it with the glory of God through relationship with man. This was the beginning of the road to know God. Thus began the relationship between God and man, so that God would show through man what a wonderful divine person God is.

However, at the very beginning this relationship was interrupted by Adam's sin, his disobedience, and his decision not to follow the road of knowing God, but to know good and evil by himself. Since then, all of man's attention has turned to the independent pursuit of good and evil, which is constantly being tasted by humans from the same tree of disobedience. God has become hidden, invisible, distant, unknown, and alien. Now man sees only good or bad deeds, but he has stopped seeing God. Something has changed with our sight - we no longer see God, instead we only see good or bad deeds without the knowledge of Him. God has become hidden to us.

Normally if we do not see something, we do not understand it. What we don't know, we ignore. That's what kind of persons we became. A great change has taken place in the relationship between man and God. When Adam refused to walk on the path of knowing God, we lost our sight - we really don't see God anymore. We no longer know Him; we no longer know what He is like. After sin, Adam heard only His voice:

*Genesis 3:8* Then the man and his wife **heard** the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

**The Hidden God.** From then on began speculation about God, groping in the dark and guessing - what is He like? Without seeing Him, we began to compare Him to animals, celestial bodies, buildings, other people, and anything we could see. Since the

beginning of the fall of mankind, God has been hidden, invisible. Man no longer knows what He looks like. We have so many questions about God, which only confirm that we do not know Him. We only heard an echo from our ancestors that He exists, an echo coming from the time of Adam, as if crying out to us, "Where are you?"

**People don't argue about whether God exists.** Everyone agrees that He exists, everyone believes in something, they just don't know what. But the essential question is, what is He like? We do not know what He is like. The proof of God's existence, which has survived from our ancestor Adam, is the awareness that He is. We are born inheriting from Adam that part of the knowledge of His existence, power, and creation.

**Therefore, there is also no dispute about His majesty, divinity, and power.** Through creation, He not only declares that He exists, but also shows His wisdom and unmeasurable greatness. The book of Job in the Old Testament is full of questions and debates about the God of Universe. Job argues and discusses about God with other wise men and tries to understand His behaviour, thoughts and motives, but does not understand and is often angry about it. When God speaks to Job at the end of this book, He does not provide a single answer to the questions about Himself, as if the way of knowing God is still closed. God is only reminding Job about the level of knowledge that Adam was able to experience - the realization of God's majesty and power through creation.

*Job 38: 4-6, 18* "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ....<> Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this.

To Job, God showed His wisdom and power in the form of questions, reminding us of what we can see and know. But Job could not see God's heart, as if God had prepared something more wonderful for us, as if the whole earth was waiting for a True Witness who would announce and tell everything about God, testifying to what God really is.

As much as Adam came to know God, so we inherit it because it was revealed to us. God could not take away that part of knowledge that Adam was able to experience - through God's creations - God's power, majesty and His undeniable existence are plainly visible to everyone.

*Romans 1:20* For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—**have been clearly seen**, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

*Acts 14:17* Yet **he has not left himself without testimony**: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”

So, through all creations, looking at the unfathomable distances of the universe, discovering stars and galaxies of ever larger scales, looking at the wisdom of God in nature, hearing the roar of the ocean, smelling the aroma of forests, seeing plants and animals that surpass each other in beauty and ability to live in various conditions, penetrating to human cells, genes and the smallest particles, we see the proof of His existence, His power, but we cannot know Him through it. The human heart longs to know Him but does not know how. Therefore, we often just sit on the seashore, looking into the distance, and wandering with questions...

**Religion.** Many try to quench this thirst using the religion, humanism, good behaviour, as if searching for a hidden God, as if trying to know Him, but all religions or any other code of good behaviour are only branches of the same tree of knowledge of good and evil, where we rediscover our disobedience and resolve to look to good or evil but not to God.

When we look for Him in religion, we became disappointed because He is not there. Every religion is full of rules, traditions, rituals, morals, and norms of behaviour, but His heart is not found there. No religion knows what God is like because none of the people have seen God, so how can they know Him and talk about Him, whom they have not seen?

So, we can only guess. Therefore, all religions agree that they cannot know Him and therefore put the knowledge of God aside with the stamp "all roads lead to the same God", whom no one has seen, does not know Him and does not know what He is like.

Religion is the same fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which teaches how to know good and evil, but turns away from God himself. Every religion tells what to do, what rituals or rules to follow, what efforts to make, how to behave well, what to refrain from... But usually, they don't say anything about God himself, **what is He like?**

Instead of knowing Him, we taste the knowledge of our weakness, our sinfulness, but God's heart remains veiled. The most religious people shrug their shoulders when they try to talk about God. Being religious, we can list the rules, judge the behaviour of others, say what is allowed and what is not, but when someone asks what God is like, we shut up and... repeat what good works we must do.

Jeremiah 4:22 "My people are fools; **they do not know me.** They are senseless children; they have no understanding...<>

Most of the time, God is understood by us as impersonal, indifferent, angry and having all authority and power and doing whatever He wants. No one knows what He is like, what His thoughts are, what His heart is, what He seeks, what He admires, what He approves of, and what He delights in. You may find it very strange to think that God can be as real a person as you are. If you look at what He has created, you will see a variety that is but a drop of His power. Did you know that the world's scientists and astronomers claim that 96% of the universe is still a mystery? What about His heart, how well do we know it?

How to know God, who can tell about Him and testify what the Creator really is? Creation is only the work of His hands, religion is only the branches of the tree of good and evil, man cannot tell about Him, because none of the people have seen Him, nor can we go to heaven to Him. Who then will lead us to the tree of life, to the closed road, to the knowledge of God, which He offered in the beginning to Adam?

Since the beginning of human history, everyone has been waiting for someone who could testify about God. Even now, there is tension in the world, as if everyone is waiting for something. When scientists recognized the unfoundedness of the theory of evolution, there was no longer even a slightest foundation, only speculation - who is He who created everything?

Only those who have seen Him, who have been with Him can tell and testify what the Creator is like. A true witness is required. Someone who would not only tell about Him, but who would testify. Someone who would come from on high and reveal everything to us, illuminate everything and showing us what God really is.

*John 4:25* The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, **he will explain everything to us.**"

Who is He who created the things we admire and Who is He who would answer the questions that rise in our hearts: does God want good for me, does He know me, what will happen after death, how will I see Him, is He angry, will He judge me, is He right, what does He think, what does He feel, does He care about me, or maybe I am just a small worthless piece of dust in the universe... There are so many questions about Him, like about a distant and unknown person.

If we want to know God, we must see Him because without seeing it is impossible to know another person. We must see Him because that is the only way we can know the Creator. A real and visible witness is needed.

*John 14:17* the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, **because it neither sees him nor knows him.** But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

How wonderful is the Creator who first responds to the desire of the heart and paves the way to Himself, opening again access to the knowledge of God and His tree of life. He came out to meet us so that we might see and know Him by seeing. He sent the true witness, the Word of God and His Son.

*Revelation 3:14* "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and **true witness**, the ruler of God's creation.

Jesus Christ is the true witness of God, through Him the heavens and the earth were created, He knows how God created all things, how He set the limits of the oceans, how He assigned spaces for the birds, how He filled the earth with life and how He breathed life into Adam. He created, saw and observed everything together. He knows why God created everything, what He aimed for, with what heart and mind He set the stars, with what look He

accompanied the bird that flew for the first time. Jesus Christ knows all the power, might and majesty of God, therefore He is the true witness.

*Colossians 1:16* For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Jesus Christ alone saw the Father. Adam observed His power and majesty through the creations, Christ saw the Father Himself. He was with the Father from the beginning, so He is the true witness.

*John 1:18* no one has ever seen God, **but the one and only Son**, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Jesus Christ knows the Father. He has not only seen all His works, but He knows the Father's heart. Jesus Christ sees the deepest reaches of the Father's heart, knows His thoughts, feelings, will and decisions. He knows all the beauty hidden in God, His love, mercy, justice, grace, sacrifice and devotion, self-denial, peace and glory. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the true witness.

Matthew 11:27 “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and **no one knows the Father except the Son** and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Jesus came to earth from on high, from the depths of the Father, so He can testify what God is like. He alone was born unnaturally, showing where He came from, bearing a seal as it were, the true witness.

*John 3:13* No one has ever gone into heaven except the **one who came from heaven**—the Son of Man.



This is the kind of witness God has sent that we may know Him. He did not send an angel or an archangel, He did not even send a cherub of His glory who could only tell of God's power and glory. He sent His Son, who is the fullness of God, the true and open heart of God, so that we may know Him all from within.

*Colossians 2:9* For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

Knowing that man cannot know the Creator without sight, God sent a visible witness - Jesus Christ, who could be touched and felt. Since the time of the garden of Eden we see again, because by seeing Jesus, we can see and know God again. What a grace of God, what a return. But this time God has prepared something more for us. To Adam He showed His power, strength and wisdom, to us through Jesus Christ, He decided to show all of Himself - all of His heart. He opened it wide and let us in, as if shouting - look, do you see Me? **This is who I am.**

*John 14:9* Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

From now on, God became visible in Jesus Christ. The way to know Him through Jesus has become open again to everyone who believes. What a wonderful and true witness came to earth. He knows the whole heart of the Father, hears all His thoughts, and sees all His works. God shows everything to Jesus in order we could see too.

*John 5:20* For the Father loves the Son and **shows him all he does.** Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

The true witness reveals what the Creator really is like, what His heart really is. He preaches about the Father, about the hidden God, about His salvation, about His love and will. Without hiding anything, Jesus testifies to the depths of His heart, His desires and will, His mercy and justice, about the inexhaustible riches of God's grace, justice, love, sacrifice, nobility and knowledge.

But Jesus came not only to proclaim God's love, justice, mercy, forgiveness, and sacrifice, but to testify that we would SEE it. But can one see the heart of God, can one see His love and justice, grace and forgiveness, care, and holiness?

And yet, what is the testimony of Jesus? How does Jesus testify about God? It is written in the word of God that the testimony of God is greater than men. What is the difference between the testimony of men and God?

*1 John 5:9* We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is **the testimony of God**, which he has given about his Son.

The testimony of God is so different from the testimony of men that it is often difficult for us to accept it. God's testimony is real, authentic, and most importantly visible. Jesus gave visible testimony to the treasures of God's heart before all creation on earth and in heaven. He did not tell what the Father is like, He testified to it. How?

To testify to God's love, He accepts the unloved and rejected. To testify to God's justice - He fulfils the demands of justice for us, living in a weak human body. To testify to God's grace and mercy - He goes to die on the cross and takes the punishment for us. To testify to God's power - He becomes weak and allows Himself to be beaten and crucified, so that later God's power will appear in His resurrected body. To testify to His care - He gives all things away. To testify to the riches of God's sacrifice - He lays down His

life for others. To testify to God's forgiveness - He allows Himself to be insulted and humiliated. To testify to His patience - He suffers; to testify to His goodness - He accepts everyone. Oh, what a true, majestic testimony of Jesus, so different from human.

This is a true testimony. This is not a story or information. Why it is a testimony? Because He is VISIBLE, because we can see and feel Him. He does not just tell, He devotes Himself to the work of the Father, so that the riches of God's heart would be visible, known and accessible to everyone, so that the Father would be exalted, when He is low, wrapped in the clothes of a servant, so that in His weakness, sacrifice and self-denial we would finally SEE how great is God's love for us.

The deepest part of God's heart, His diamond, crown, and glory, through the sacrifice of Jesus, became visible to all creation, to whom God showed that He fulfills and does not abolish the demands of justice that demand our punishment, but Himself executes the death penalty for us, opening a fountain of grace, mercy and forgiveness gushing forth from His heart. This is what our God is like: all-sacrificing, all-giving, taking the punishment, freeing, healing and triumphing in justice, confirming the executed punishment and unending grace for us in Jesus Christ. That is His character. God has become close, seen again, known and more... The knowledge of God since the time of Adam has expanded and increased through Christ: not only do we know that He is, that He is powerful through creation, now we know what His heart is like. And it is all summed up and made public in Jesus Christ.

There is no other religion or person on earth that not only tells about God but testifies about Him. There is no one who would forgive sins, who would be raised from the dead, who would die and take the punishment for us, who would open the whole heart of God and let you in. Everything that is not in Jesus Christ is only

a shadow, only the knowledge of evil and good, because it hides the core part of God - His very heart.

When you receive the testimony of Jesus, you begin to spread the breath of His knowledge, then the eyes of all the angels are fixed on you, because only through this can they see what the heart of God is - only through the fellowship of you and the Father in Jesus Christ.

From now on, you have the testimony of Jesus in you, so your life changes, something wonderful, alive, true and unique enters your heart.

*Revelation 19:10* At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy **who bears testimony to Jesus.**"

When Jesus's testimony is accepted, it begins to work. Now you will not only preach and tell about Jesus, you will witness to Him. With this, you will truly testify of WHAT GOD IS - not just telling but sharing the same testimony of Jesus. Now look and see, how alive and real this testimony is and how it works in you...

## 2 CHAPTER

### Remember Him

In the New Testament, in his letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul urges the latter not to forget and to remember Jesus.

*2 Timothy 2:8* **Remember** Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel,...<>

It seems so strange to write such an exhortation to someone who serves the Lord with all his heart, who is entrusted to preach and teach the word of God, about whose devotion to the Lord Paul himself testifies.

But this exhortation is very important because it relates to our sight. We absolutely need to see Jesus, because when we forget what He is like, we quickly lose our way of knowing Him and return to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, turning our gaze to our own or others' works of righteousness. We can toil much for Him, be busy with countless works for God and stop looking at Him. Why is it so important to see Him? When we see what He is like, we know God. We only know by SEEING.

Look and remember what kind of Jesus you see. When you read about His eyes in the book of Revelation, do you see the love that flows from the very heart of God, or when you look at His shining belt around His waist, do you see His devotion and service, or when you look at His white clothes, do you see the holiness and purity of God, or when you read of the scars and nail-piercings in His hands, do you see the glory of God and the very heart of God?

God longs to SHOW who He is. Any religion tries to hide God's true character and makes Him seem unfeeling, boring, angry, indifferent, distant, and dead. When we do not see Jesus before our eyes, we do not see God. When we do not look at Him, many pictures appear before our eyes, wanting to "substitute" and stand in for Jesus.

By looking at other pictures for a long time, we become idolaters and preach "veiled Christianity" with an invisible Christ. By not looking at Him, we forget what He is like and throw a cloth over Him. Our vision gets used to other pictures, like advertisements from the TV screen, inviting us to look at everything but Jesus: a smiling and happy man in a beautiful suit with white and shining teeth, next to him a happy family without any problems, children playing in the meadow and eating chocolate, two big dogs running in a well-kept garden, a luxurious and comfortable car parked in front of a spacious house, the sun shining, happy work and laughing neighbours. Such a picture is not only painted by global advertisements, but we are increasingly looking at it. It becomes a dream with the inscription "I'm happy". "Veiled Christianity" in many places put a veil over Christ so that no one could see Him. Instead, we see Christian denominations many kinds of worship and preaching rules, traditions, and Christian values, but so little we SEE what JESUS is like.

In religion, it is not the differences of tradition that are misleading, but the hiding of God's heart. Arguments about what to eat, how to dress, how many times to pray, which church to go to, which traditions and rules to follow are meaningless, because they do not open the heart of God, they only throw a cloth over it. Jesus can be hidden by anything - a cloth, a shiny object, works, piety, service, so as not to see His heart, His will, purpose, mercy, grace, and most importantly - the cross of the Son of God, by which He revealed the whole heart of God. Religion hides God and exalts human efforts and works. It hides not only the miracles (in some places they remain), but it hides even more - the very content of

the cross, the Creator Himself and His work. It hides the most important thing - the cross of Jesus, His character and the work that He did and publicly showed to everyone.

Just from the beauty and diversity of creation, He calls out to everyone - I Am. He is not an indifferent being, a form, a mass of goodness, or an angry judge handing out invitations to heaven. He - having given and sacrificed everything for us out of love, He created everything with His one word. Nothing was created except by God speaking the word. And He gave Himself to human flesh and death for you. He also gave His Spirit, which by heavenly power makes His plans come true. There is nothing that He has not given to you in Jesus Christ. He did it out of love, with a large, paternal, and loving heart. Do you think that He cannot create meridian angels, beings of incomparable beauty, and clothe them with His glory, so that they may praise and thank Him day and night? Can He not create eyes full of joy and lips with a smile? Did He lack something and needed to save you, or did it pay off for Him? But He showed the whole universe how great His righteousness is, how boundless His love is, and how beautiful His labour of love and self-sacrifice is. And all this man wants to hide with religion, traditions and his works - to hide God's heart and true character.

Do you think you are different from other religions because you pray more, fast, read and study His word, go to church, and do the right thing? Do you think that you follow His requirements more precisely, do everything according to the word and stay away from evil? I have no doubt that you would find a Buddhist, a Muslim or a "nominal Christian", who pray more, fast more, and is not defiled by the world. So, what is the difference between them and you, what is the difference between the same Christians? The only difference is where His heart is seen. He seems to shout to everyone: I Am, I gave everything to my son Jesus Christ and sacrificed Him out of love for you, I did all the works, I AM, look into my heart, see what I am like. I am - as you see me in Christ. I

am not impersonal, but I am alive - full of love, justice, self-sacrifice, infinite patience, rejoicing in the truth and passionately loving man.

*John 7:37* On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.

When God is hidden, He is no longer visible in man either. He and man are linked forever. Therefore, fellowship with God is inseparable from fellowship with others. These are two parallel poles. It is impossible to love God without loving your neighbour. Your relationship with Him is directly proportional to your relationship with those around you. The commandments to love God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, are woven into one braid, because love for Him has become inseparable from love for another. He bound himself to man for all time, all eternity. He seems to be saying: "If you love me, then love him too, to whom I have associated all of myself, all of my heart, greatness and fullness, for whom I have sacrificed all that I had." He seems to shout to everyone: "I am inseparable from man, from my saved and redeemed. I am one with them. Everything you do to him, you do to me, as much as you hurt someone else, you hurt me." His heart embraces man and allows Himself to be punished together to reign together. He experiences hurts, hungers and thirst with man, but He also refreshes, is watered, and clothed with him. He is always together with us.

*Matthew 25:40* "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

God's commandments regarding love for Him and one's neighbour are like the branches of one tree, like two lungs, two hands and two eyes of one body. He loved man so much that he



wanted to be inseparable from him, so that those who love Him would also love man, so that those who glorify Him could share and be in the same glory.

*1 John 4:21* And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

When you receive the testimony of Jesus, all His beauty and character is poured into you. The Holy Spirit, day by day strengthens the testimony of Jesus in you, so that He becomes VISIBLE. It impresses upon you the stamp of God's character and heart, so that all the creation of heaven cries out in wonder - how wonderful God is.

This wonderful testimony about the Creator through Jesus Christ is imprinted in those hearts that allow Him to be so - the true and living God in Jesus Christ. Now the heart and character will be displayed and seen by the power of the Holy Spirit in you. This is the testimony of Jesus - alive and really working.



### 3 CHAPETR

#### The Testimony of Light

If you saw a thirsty man wandering in the desert looking for even the tiniest drop of water and he passed by a huge body of water right in front of his eyes, you would not hesitate to say that this man is blind. A blind person cannot see light, so he cannot see what is on the road. God's word says this about everyone who does not see God. All men are born blind because no man has seen God. But Jesus came into the world as a light, so that when people received His testimony, they would see. But the world did not accept the testimony of Jesus, so it remained blind and lost the ability to know what God is like, because only by seeing can one know Him.

*John 3:19* <>... **Light has come into the world**, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Before He returned to the Father, Jesus said that the world would see Him no more, so there is no way for the world to know God. There is no social group, state, government, or nation that knows what God is like, because without Jesus it is impossible to see and know Him.

*John 14:19* Before long, **the world will not see me anymore**, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

The whole history of the world is full of searching and wandering in the dark. No amount of philosophy, religion, revolution, theory, new ideas, technology and scientific achievements, values, principles, morals, transformations and democracy, changing governments and noblest intentions of people have opened the veil and answered the basic question of what God is. On the

contrary, the human history is full of wars, strife, deceit, hatred, selfishness, suffering and injustice, which have taken root in all periods, in all nations and in all governments. It shows that the world does not know where it is going and is bound in the unknown and the fear of the end of the world. Can a blind man see the pit in front of him?

However, in the same place of scripture, Jesus gives a wonderful promise - the promise to see Him, and by seeing Him, to know God. Therefore, the knowledge of God is not available to the world, state, or group of people, but personally to those who accept His testimony. Seeing Jesus became an immediate and personal relationship and experience. You walk the path of knowing God not guided by relatives, homeland traditions, friends, values, neighbours, or your community, not even your parents, husband, wife, or children, but you walk personally and directly looking at Jesus.

*John 12:46* I have come into the world as a light, so that  
**no one who believes in me** should stay in darkness.

Now the knowledge of God is available to everyone personally. Although you live in a world that does not see, does not know, and therefore ignores Him, you can see, know, and therefore love Jesus. It can only be seen personally. After the resurrection, Jesus appeared only to his disciples, thus showing that everyone who receives Him hears and sees Him.

Therefore, for a blind man to see, the first step is to accept the testimony of Jesus. But how can I accept the testimony of Jesus whom I have not seen, how can I see Him who was on earth even before I was born, two thousand years ago? How can I get sight? But Jesus' promise is for everyone and is not limited by time or place of birth, race, or age, because He said that if you believe you will see.

*John 11:40* Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that **if you believe, you will see** the glory of God?”

You absolutely need to see, because without seeing, you have no chance of knowing God. Jesus is the light, so He alone gives sight. How then can I become seeing? Knowing that man is weak and blind, and cannot find God by his own strength, God sent His Son in a simple and weak human body and gave Him His words so that we could accept by faith the simple message in which eternal life is hidden, so that without work, wisdom, and effort we would get the sight. **Only faith opens our eyes.**

*John 6:40* For my Father’s will is that everyone **who looks to the Son and believes in him** shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Faith and sight go together. They are inseparable. It is impossible to believe and not see, because faith without seeing is a deception that does nothing and leads nowhere. If a blind man says he can see, where will this faith lead him? However, Jesus showed that the one who receives Jesus - sees Him. There are many examples in the New Testament where the blind, who accepted the testimony of Jesus by faith, received his sight and saw Him. One such event is described in the Gospel of Matthew.

*Matthew 9:28* When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they replied.

When the blind met Jesus, they did not see him, but only heard the question: "Do you believe?" What could these blind men believe, with only blackness in their eyes? They only heard the message of Jesus and heard His words. Jesus did not demand any works of righteousness from them and did not reproach them for their life or past, He did not ask them to earn the sight and merit it, He only asked their consent: do they believe (accept) the testimony of

Jesus? All that was needed was to say "yes". But what a great miracle happened after that. After saying "yes", the blind did indeed receive their sight. The first thing they saw was Jesus. When you receive Jesus, you immediately see Him. Those around you may wonder and laugh, not seeing Him, but you really see, and therefore from now on, you can know what God is like. Sight returns, and you begin to see Him, know Him, and love Him. You are taking your first steps in the light. From now on, the testimony of Jesus from the outside moves into you and becomes His personal testimony to you.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," **made his light shine in our hearts** to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

From this moment on, your life will be painted with all kinds of colours that you have not seen before, and the darkness will be replaced by the light that comes from Christ. How much you will see now, so don't stop looking at Jesus, because He opened your eyes, and He is your light.

## 4 CHAPTER

### The Testimony of Devine Nature

When you accept the testimony of Jesus, the most wonderful thing happens in your life - you are born again from the seed of His word. It is written in the Bible that the word of God never passes away and never ends, so your new life is also eternal. This mystery was sealed and was inaccessible in the days of Old Testament, but when Jesus came to earth, the divine nature was revealed and witnessed to all. How?

Jesus showed the new life by giving Himself to death so that the Father, who raised Him from the dead, would confirm to all the creation of heaven and to you that the new life is eternal and never ends, so that the basis of your faith would be not theory, stories and empty words, but the power of God, which He confirmed by the testimony of Jesus.

*1 Peter 1:23* For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

By being born supernaturally by the Holy Spirit, Jesus testified that this new life was of a divine nature, not from men but from God. Through His ministry and life on earth, Jesus showed how wonderful, unearthly, and contrary to human nature this life is, and at the same time how real and bright this life is that only can come from God's own heart.

When He came to earth as the Son of God, He testified to all the depths of God's heart, revealing that God is the Father. He is not a grumpy and bearded old man or a mighty superbeing, He is not

even a shining and indifferent judge, He is a Father. Jesus revealed the new name of God, unknown to anyone until then – the Father. In the time of the Old Testament, no one could and did not approach God as the Father, because it was hidden with Christ in the depths of God, but after the coming of Jesus, this mystery became visible. Jesus testified to this by obeying and giving Himself to the Father as the Son, becoming obedient unto death, and death on the cross. This is how Jesus testified about His Father and about the eternal life that is in Him.

Jesus gives everyone who accepts this testimony the same power to become a child of God, to be born into a new family, to have an eternal Father who cares for His children, to live a new life and to know God as closely as a son knows the Father. The divine nature is now in you - you are born of God and become His child.

*John 1:12* Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, **he gave the right to become children of God,..<>**

From now on, the testimony of the new and divine life will begin to shine in you until it becomes fully visible. As you look at Jesus, you will begin to know Him, and day by day your new man, made in His image and inheriting His character, will grow and strengthen until it becomes visible. As you look at Jesus, you grow in knowing this new nature. Now the Divine character is sealed in you.

Suddenly you notice these strange and contrary to human nature desires in you, which are so incomprehensible to those around you: the desire to sacrifice and share, the desire to love the unloved, to give without expecting get back, to share yourself, to rejoice in the truth, to grieve with those who grieve, to comfort the depressed, to serve others. Where is this from? Where do these things that previously seemed impossible, unreal, and invisible come from? Do not think that you have become good, and they come from



you. No, they are from there, from the new divine nature, testifying to the new eternal life and showing what God is like.

*2 Corinthians 5:17* Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, **the new is here!**

Since the new nature is from the very depths of God, the new creation has no desire to sin, and therefore the law with all its commands, regulations, rules, and traditions does not apply to it. The law is intended only for the old human nature that has the desire to sin, that is why there are many commandments with the word "no" in the law - do not kill, do not steal, do not commit adultery, do not bear false witness... Only the one who has the desire to sin is subject to the law, which limits and constrains the corrupt human nature.

*1 Timothy 1:9* We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,...<>

But the new creation is made out of Christ, to whom the law does not apply, because it is impossible for Christ to sin. How can you say "don't steal" to someone who gave away everything, how can you say "don't kill" to someone who gave His life for others, how can you call darkness someone who is light? You are born of God, of this light and of this life, in which there is not a speck of sin or darkness, so your new self has not anymore desire to sin—it is impossible.

*1 John 3:9* No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; **they cannot go on sinning**, because they have been born of God.

Only in the new creation can Jesus and His testimony be seen. Therefore, when you allow the new creation to live, His character begins to emerge in you. You don't get closer to God, and you don't know Him more because you follow rules, traditions, regulations or moral standards, because all these are just the clothes of the old man, covering the deep-hidden filth. The law is not for your new nature, the law is no longer yours. Christ Himself said that the law is not ours, but theirs, those who have only the old nature and the desire to sin. Our law now is Christ.

*John 8:17* In **your own Law** it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true.”

However, if everyone born of God doesn't have the desire to sin, then why do I sometimes stumble and sin, why do I see other Christians who also stumble, and sin?

We are born again while still living on earth, so from now on we carry two natures within us. The old human is dying, the new divine is growing and devouring the old. When we live according to the old nature, we try to repair it, patch it up, and improve it, we stumble and face our weakness and disobedience again, but when we let the new creation to breathe the freedom to love and believe without restraint or condemnation - then the new man grows out of Christ and becomes visible and recognizable. Our old nature is meant to decline, while our new nature is meant to grow and strengthen. The divine character planted in us by Jesus must grow, so all we need is to live by Him.

*John 3:30* He must become greater; I must become less.”

When we receive Jesus, we are born again, but at first, we are babies. We need to grow and be strengthened by Him, to see and look at Him in order to know God. This growth happens by

looking at Him. Day by day the light planted in us grows brighter and His nature becomes more and more visible. The word of God says that the light is already shining in us, but there is still darkness around, which is gradually dissipating to reveal the true picture. Therefore, as the new creation grows, more and more of the divine nature, His heart and character become visible in us.

*1 John 2:8* Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

But how does this new divine nature grow and become visible? It grows in knowledge, and knowledge is possible only by seeing Jesus, the Son of God. We know the old nature by looking and studying the law, which reveals and shows our sinfulness, weakness, secret desires, and thoughts. Through this, we see more and more hidden dirty thoughts and ideas in ourselves, we see that if we want good, we are not able to do it, that a selfish king is sitting inside us, longing for honour, recognition, and attention. In trying to fulfil the law, to do good works of our own righteousness, we are only digging through the old garbage. Not through following regulations, rules, rituals, and traditions, not through learning how to behave, but through knowing a specific person, Son of God Jesus Christ, we grow and become stronger. Therefore, let your eyes always look at Jesus to know your new nature and life.

*Galatians 6:15* Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts **is the new creation**.

When you receive Jesus into your heart, you become a new creation, a partaker of the divine nature. The birth of a baby becomes visible and vivid, because everyone around sees a strange change in your life, and especially in your behaviour. You eagerly begin to drink the milk of the Holy Spirit and grow. The testimony of the new nature begins to work in you, everyone notices the

birth of the baby, but they do not yet see what is in it, what is its character and what it is like. People around you are just surprised that you started behaving strangely and spend a lot of time drinking God's word and His blessings, enjoying fellowship and finding your Father in prayer. All your attention revolves around His blessings and your only desire is to drink, eat and receive as much of His goodness and blessings as possible. You taste how gracious the Lord is. But this is only the beginning of a wonderful testimony.

*1 Peter 2:2-3* Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As the new creation grows, the testimony of Jesus in you also grows and strengthens. The Lord wants to testify not only of His works, but also to SHOW His heart. At first you seek and notice only His works, healing and deliverance power and grace. This is only the beginning, the first fruits of His knowledge, after the eyes are opened. But He wants you to see more.

*John 1:50* Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. **You will see greater things than that.**"

Jesus wants you to see what God's heart is like. He wants your vision to be strengthened and you to know Him more. Therefore, Jesus directs your look from His power, works and miracles directly to His heart. Jesus walked, healed the sick, cast out demons, so everyone saw His works, but when He died on the cross for you and me, He showed the depths of God's heart. First seeing His power and works, then seeing His heart.

As you grow, the witness of Jesus begins to reveal in you the heart of God. His love can be seen when you love the unworthy, His patience can be seen only when you have to wait (and in infancy you got everything at once), God's provision when you give, God's kindness when you receive the unworthy. The Lord wants to testify visibly because it is the testimony of God. The testimony of people is invisible - it is just a story.

People, who see not only the story, the information, or the works of righteousness, but His very heart, will see in you the true testimony of Jesus, what God really is. Because everyone needs the same answer and the same vision - how beautiful God is.

That's how great His testimony is waiting for you.



## 5 CHAPTER

### The Testimony of God 's personality

Jesus's testimony revealed one of the greatest mysteries about God, opening the door and revealing the wonderful relationship that is hidden in the person of God. It is the revelation of God's personality as the Holy Trinity. This mystery and revelation caused an explosion of God's glory in the universe. It is so great and incomprehensible to human nature that we can only accept it with our hearts because our minds do not have that much space. Even among Christians, Jesus's testimony of the person of God is so hardly accepted, put aside, and ignored, therefore so much of God's glory and knowledge is neglected.

Through Jesus Christ, God wanted to show all of Himself, to open His heart and reveal what wonderful treasures of relationship are hidden in Him. He opened the door for you to come in too. Without the revelation and acceptance of the Holy Trinity, we cannot know God and understand what He is like.

Jesus life on earth showed that God is one in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each of them is a person - not a mist or a force, but a separate person with his own will, feelings and character. The greatest wonder is that Trinity is not united—it is One. It's like a person who has body, soul and spirit and remains ONE person. Therefore, God is one, but in three persons. It's hard to understand, but easy to believe. It cannot be contained in one page, in a book, or in all the libraries of the world, for the heavens cannot contain Him, but the revelation of the Holy Trinity is inseparable from Jesus's testimony of God to you.

Why did God reveal the mystery of the Trinity? What does He want to show? Is it just that the Father sent His Son to earth, that Jesus died for our sins and was raised from the dead, that the Holy Spirit was poured into our hearts, so that we can pray in tongues, have spiritual gifts, and see miracles, healings, and God strength? Was it necessary to open the mystery of the Trinity? If we realize that God is a Trinity, and we do not see what wonderful relationship is open for us in God, then we look at the water, but we do not drink it.

Jesus testified about God, revealing what fellowship, love, devotion, humility, respect, self-denial and patience are in the Trinity. Jesus revealed to us what is the heart and character of God and invited me and you to the same type of fellowship.

**Father.** Jesus, as the Son, removed the veil that hides the Father. Many think of God the Father as of an angry, unapproachable, unfeeling ball of great power and radiance from which lightning come and wrath is poured forth. However, what a different and opposite to this picture the Father is.

The Father, as a true Divine person, has His own will, feelings, and character. What is He like? Jesus revealed that the Father is full of love, justice, mercy, self-sacrifice, devotion. The Father proved this by giving to his Son all authority over all flesh.

*John 17:2* For **you granted him authority over all people** that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <>...

The Father also gave Jesus the words that contain eternal life (*John 16:8*) and glory (*John 17:22*). The Father gave everything to the Son.



*John 3:35* The Father loves the Son and **has placed everything** in his hands.

He put all his love, wisdom, strength, and glory in Jesus, as if giving Himself all, that is why Jesus says that the Father is in Him. There was nothing that the Father did not give to Jesus. Such a Son He sent to earth to bear witness to the inexhaustible treasures of God's goodness and mercy. He did it out of His own free will, His own decision, and with the pure motive of love. Jesus reveals the Father's feelings and judgment, which show how wide and loving the Father's heart is. The Father loved and gave...

*John 3 :16* For God so **loved** the world that he **gave** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The Father showed His love by giving everything to the Son and sending Him to earth. He did not send to inform us of what He is like. Sending - means giving forever, irrevocably. The Father sent Jesus to earth out of love for us—a love in which there is no shadow or ulterior motive. What sacrifice, love, mercy and kindness, what fellowship with the Son. This is the kind of Father the Lord showed to us.

**Son.** The life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus revealed the Son's relationship with the Father, His devotion, self-denial and love. The Son, as a separate person of God, has His own will, feelings, and character. He could have refused to go to earth or die on the cross, but He chose not to be forced, but out of love for us, fully obeying and surrendering to the Father's will.

*John 6:38* I have come down from heaven **not to do my will but to do the will of him** who sent me.

*John 8: 28-29* So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that **I do nothing on my own** but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for **I always do what pleases him.**”

Jesus did nothing of Himself, did not seek glory for Himself, but did only what He heard and saw the Father was doing. The honour and will of the Father were His life. He revealed the name of the Father to people and glorified Him, while Himself being dishonoured and humiliated.

*John 17:4* I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

Everything that the Lord received from the Father, He gave and distributed: the love that the Father put in His heart, He gave to us. Jesus also gave the words of eternal life and glory that He received from the Father.

*John 17:8* For **I gave them the words you gave me** and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

*John 17:22* **I have given them the glory that you gave me**, that they may be one as we are one:

The Son had nothing to add to what the Father had put into Him. But yet He added... Jesus added His own life, freely agreeing to lay it down for us. Therefore, Jesus brought and gave all of Himself, like a loaf of bread to be broken, so that all the Father's love and eternal life placed in Him would be pour out and truly reach you.

The Lord glorified the Father with His whole life by dying on the cross for us and publicly showing the triumph of God's righteousness: the punishment for our sins put on Jesus shoulders and justification as His gift to us. Jesus revealed to people not His name, but the name of the Father, He did nothing of Himself, He sought not His own, but God's glory.

But there is another great gift that Jesus has given us. It's the Holy Spirit, because He sent It.

*John 16:7* But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, **I will send him to you.**

The Holy Spirit could not be poured out and given to people until Jesus was raised from the dead and ascended to the Father. It could not be given to anyone else, because it was already promised - promised not to us, but to Jesus. The Holy Spirit waited in heaven for Jesus to come with His blood shed for our sins.

*Galatians 3:16* The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.

The Holy Spirit is described in God's word as a gift. Whose? He is Jesus's gift to you. Jesus deservedly received the Holy Spirit, in whom there was new, eternal life for the resurrected human body. The Lord now can live forever in human body, raised from the dead. But again, what a sacrifice and grace of God. It was not enough for Jesus to give us everything that the Father put in Him and to sacrifice His life on earth for us, but He also gave us His new eternal life by sending the Holy Spirit, which He carries with this life, as a gift to our hearts - for all time, for all eternity. He has linked His new life with us forever, irreversibly. The Holy Spirit

did not belong to us, and we did not earn Him, but we received this gift only because of the love of Jesus. This is His gift to you. How wonderful is the Son, how great is His devotion to the Father and how passionate is His love for Him. The Son does not seek His own interests but glorifies the Father with love and joy. What a wonderful divine relationship, what a wonderful person of God – the Son.

**The Holy Spirit.** Perhaps this is the most unknown and ignored person of God. Usually He is equated with mist, water, radiance, or goodness. And usually, He is understood only as an impersonal power of God - healing and performing miracles, as if a machine that works when we use some principles.

But Jesus testifies of Him as a separate person of God who also has His own will, feelings, and character. The Holy Spirit, as a person, can be hurt, grieved (*Ephesians 4:30*), He has His own will, because He distributes the gifts of the Spirit as He likes (*1 Corinthians 12:11*). He is full of devotion and love, He does not seek glory for Himself, but having the full and limitless power of God, He is devoted to Jesus in divine humility. He speaks only what is Jesus's and proclaims nothing of Himself. He confirms with power every testimony of Jesus and loves Him so much that He seeks His glory alone. Every word about Jesus moves the Holy Spirit, every request to know and glorify the Son ignites Him, every work of the Son is witnessed by Him with signs and wonders. The Holy Spirit draws from the Son and proclaims and reveals to us, remaining silent, humble, and gentle, like a dove that rests with open confidence on everyone who loves the Son. He is so gentle, quiet, and powerful that we often do not even notice Him, but with what joy He fills us when we say to Jesus - "I love you".

*John 16:14* **He will glorify me** because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

*John 16:13* But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. **He will not speak on his own**; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

He made a decision and gave Himself to Jesus, agreeing to live forever in our hearts out of the same love. He was not sent as a thing or a force, but by His own decision and out of a loving desire to share the greatest wealth - the eternal life of Jesus Christ hidden in Him. He will never leave us, because only He can bring eternal life given to us because of Jesus's sacrifice.

What a wonderful relationship lies in the Trinity, what sacrifice, self-denial, giving everything, love and seeking the glory of another, what divine humility and surrender, what power in this relationship. Do you see how God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit communicate: if He gives, then everything, if He sacrifices, then with all His heart and out of love, if He glorifies, then He glorifies another, if He lives, then for another.

Neither the creation of the earth, nor the heavens, nor the angels, nor the authorities, nor the principalities knew about this wealth and fellowship. No one could get there, see and be a part of that fellowship. There are no angels and cherubim here, however glorious they may appear. When Jesus came to earth and testified about the person of God, all the heavenly creation began to cry out in wonder and admiration and praise God: how wonderful the Creator is. But still, they can't get inside.

However, how great His grace is for man, because Jesus opened the door to God's heart and decided to let man in, so that man too could participate in this fellowship, so that man too could sacrifice, love, live for others, seek others' benefits, seek not his own, but

God's glory, obey and surrender and enjoy the wonderful fellowship prepared for him in God.

He did not let the angels or cherubim inside, who only watch and praise Him, but cannot enter. Not one of the angels has anything to sacrifice, nothing to share and nothing to lose, they cannot say to God "I love you", not one of them can love with the love that is in God. They stand in great power and glory, but... they look wonderfully upon you who give yourselves to Christ and live for Him. You can come in and be a member of the Divine fellowship and family because God wanted to share with you not only what He has, but what He is. How?

The Father gives everything to the Son and sends Him, the Son gives everything, even His life, and sends the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings everything that the Father and the Son have given and remains in our hearts. A wonderful thing happens, and the word of God is fulfilled: we enter into divine communion, because now, as the Father is in the Son, so through the Holy Spirit all the fullness of God dwells in us. It is still a mystery that we cannot understand, but this fellowship in the Holy Spirit is for us.

*John 17:23* I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

But that's not all. The door of fellowship is open, and God calls others in. Now He hands everything over to you and sends you, just as He sent His Son.

*John 20:21* Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

What kind of fellowship do you think is unfolding before your eyes now? As wonderful as it is in the Trinity: not seeking glory for yourself but for Him, living for Him, surrendering to Him and sharing what you receive from Jesus with others, seeking others' benefits, bearing others' burdens, loving from the heart and without reason. That's what a wonderful fellowship, that's what God's heart is in you.

Now the same fellowship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit will be reflected and made visible in your life. God opens His heart and lets you in. Therefore, He wants you to open your heart and let others in.

*1 Corinthians 1:9* God is faithful, who has **called you into fellowship** with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

When you don't see the testimony of Jesus and the fellowship hidden in Him, then it seems to you that God wants to take something from you, demands your sacrifices, asks you to give up or lose something or that you need to go through various trials and difficulties to receive the anointing, or maybe He asks you to "pay the price" for His power, miracles, and ministry. Perhaps when you see a problem or a loss, you begin to mutter, where is that peaceful, beautiful, and blessed life. That's what a baby who takes and drinks blessings thinks, but the Lord is raising us up to fellowship with us as adults in God and to have the relationship that He has in the Trinity.

However, if this testimony of Jesus about relationship in God becomes visible, your heart will share and sacrifice out of love and gratitude, will seek the glory of the One who sent you, will love and accept those around you. Then the trials and storms will make you grateful and you will understand that all this is just wonderful opportunity to have fellowship with Him as He has with you.





## 6 CHAPTER

### The Testimony of His grace

**W**hen Jesus came to earth, He testified about the unending and unfathomable grace of God to man. Although in the Old Testament, God is already known as very gracious, but grace itself reached us in Jesus Christ. Jesus is not gracious; He is God's grace come to earth. Before His coming, the heavenly creation saw the works of grace: God's mercy and patience, when God withheld the hand of justice seeking to punish the disobedient, lawless, and living in iniquity, they observed His patience and grace to the nation of Israel when He sent prophets and His servants to warn and exhort them to turn from evil deeds to the Lord and seek Him. But no one has yet seen the grace itself, - Jesus Christ, who did not stop the hand of justice demanding our punishment, but Himself stood under it and was punished for us, who did not prolong the earthly life, but gave the eternal one. No one had seen this grace of God and could not even imagine that through Jesus Christ God would give everything He had to fallen man, thus testifying to how wide His heart and great gift is to us in Jesus Christ.

*John 1:17* For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Most of the time, we understand grace as something to receive - undeservedly and as a gift because someone chooses to give it. But God's grace is completely different because it is not a receiving grace, but it is giving grace. Man understands grace as receiving, but God understands it as giving. And He testified to this through Jesus by His free will and by giving everything He had out of love: love, words of life, glory, His only begotten Son and the Holy Spirit. Grace reveals God's character and His heart.

*2 Corinthians 8:9* For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

When you see the grace of God in Jesus Christ, that changes you. Your human understanding of grace as receiving is changing to a new one - grace as giving. God's word says that we have received grace from the fullness of Christ, but this is the beginning because He wants His grace to flow and reach others. Now He is ready to share in you, so that His grace in your life will turn into even greater grace in others, distributing what you receive from the fullness of Christ to others.

*John 1:16* Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

In this passage, Paul reveals that grace flows and does not stand still, that each grace comes only after another one. In order for the second grace to reach you, you must surrender the first. As long as your vessel is full, as long as you keep the first grace, the second is waiting outside the door. We draw everything from the fullness of Christ because He is the grace of God. He is God's gift to us, which we received undeservedly, forever and without any reproach. But the Lord wants this grace to flow and flood you all over, to rush across the borders and, like a river of living water, overflowing from the banks and any boundaries, to reach everyone around.

God's grace does not stand still, it flows, moves and is alive: sharing, sacrificing, and giving. It is against human nature because it is not for receiving but for giving.

*2 Corinthians 9:8* And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will **abound in every good work**.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes about God's grace given to the Macedonian churches.

*2 Corinthians 8:1* And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know **about the grace that God has given** the Macedonian churches.

Then you immediately think, what did they get from God, what was given to them? But when you read it, you are surprised that it is not about receiving, but about giving. The Macedonian churches, being in great distress and want, distributed what they had to others, thus visibly testifying to the grace of God, the grace that does not take but gives.

Often grace is extinguished when we close our vessel, when we limit ourselves in our church, our denomination or our circle of friends with whom we are good, comfortable and safe. But the Spirit of God often breaks through this circle of self-preservation and comfort so that His grace may spread all around. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that after the descent of the Holy Spirit, many people believed in Jerusalem, who gathered and enjoyed fellowship. They glorified God and had favour in the eyes of all people, becoming a wonderful community of love, generosity and devotion, in which the grace of God flourished. But the Lord had prepared something wonderful to spread this communication, devotion and love around. He broke through the ring of protection surrounding this community. Because of the persecutions and hardships that arose, the believers of Jerusalem were scattered in the surrounding areas and forced to flee to remote places. What a loss, what a loss. Perhaps they longed for that wonderful, safe fellowship, when they were good together,

when they served each other and enjoyed the glory of God. But now, it seemed, it was over. Many became disillusioned, saddened and hid. But it was the seed of God's grace that spilled out of the closed circle and fell elsewhere. In many of these areas, equally wonderful communities were born, where the Spirit of God, love, devotion and joy reigned.

When we live only in our environment and in our denomination, where there are established rules, traditions, a circle of believers, then grace cannot flow, because we share it internally with each other, as if pouring water from one vessel to another. But Jesus testified to the fellowship and grace that is in the Trinity, opening the door and pouring out all the beauty and riches to those who are outside - unworthy, distant and unloved. The Father gave all things to the Son, and the Son gave all things to us, and therefore the grace was strengthened because the circle of the Trinity was opened, and it reached us.

Human grace is radically different from Divine grace. We are used to giving to those who give to us, giving back and repaying those from whom we have already received something. It often happens that when you receive from others, you give back to them, because you feel obliged to return the same. The circle of human grace is always closed.

*Matthew 5:46* if you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

But God's grace flows to fill empty and dry places. The apostle Paul understood this and tried to work and preach the Gospel where no one had been before, so that the grace of God would not stand in a closed circle but flow and increase. God's grace can grow and flow only by giving it away.

*Romans 15:20* It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

In some churches, human grace has replaced divine grace, so the water has stopped flowing, the freshness of the spirit has disappeared. Ungiven grace is yesterday's stagnant water poured among themselves. How often Christians try to lure believers from one church to another, from a less alive to a more alive, from a less powerful to a more spiritual one. However, such grace does not grow but stands still. God's grace always opens closed doors and finds those who are without grace and rejected, sitting and waiting in the roadsides.

Human nature is so uncomfortable with not paying back to those who give to us, and our nature always "repays" with silence to those who don't say anything good to us. But God's heart and character are opposite. He gives undeservedly and distributes to those from whom it is impossible to get anything, who can give nothing in return. Can we repay the God from whom we have received everything, because there is nothing that we have not received from Him?

The Spirit of God desires to connect and strengthen the ties between His children regardless of the degree of faith, infancy or full knowledge, "level of purification" or abundance of fruit. He desires that we grow as His Temple, as a building connected by various ties. Therefore, the Lord makes us dependent on each other. You depend on His grace that is placed in your neighbour's heart, but you have grace that is for yet another. That's why you often receive from someone you can't repay, just like you give to someone who can't repay you - grace flows.

*Luke 14:12-14* Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

God's grace, which contains all His love, wisdom, goodness and devotion, has come from a place beyond the reach of anybody. It came from the unapproachable depth of God, then flowed into Jesus, who entered through the Holy Spirit into your heart. All the treasures of God's wisdom and knowledge have reached you through Jesus Christ. Christ, who gave away all He had and made you rich.

*Colossians 2:3* <>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

There is nothing that you do not have in Jesus Christ, because God has given everything to His Son, so that you too may be rich. However, now the Lord is passing the ball to you so that, after going such a long way, God's grace may also reach those around you. Now a wonderful knowledge of the riches of God's wisdom and glory is taking place in you, which will show what you have in Jesus Christ, so that these riches may be seen by all. How?

*Ephesians 1:18* <> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened **in order that you may know** the hope to which he has called you, **the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,**

However, how to know and find out the riches given to me in Jesus Christ, how to see the grace that I already have? The grace of God

that you have in Jesus Christ is for something. You won't know what it's like until you give it away. The way to know the riches and grace of God is simple and wonderful because it opens the heart and distributes it.

When God's grace opens the door of your heart, you begin to know what you have. It happens when you give, share, sow, and donate. The poor widow in the time of the prophet Elijah did not know that she had a barrel full of flour and an endless pot of oil until she gave the last pinch of flour and a drop of oil. The disciples of Jesus did not know that they had 12 baskets full of food until they gave a few fish and loaves of bread. The coming grace always opens the door of your heart to fill you with the riches of His knowledge and spread them around you. The grace is waiting for you to let it flow.

Sometimes it is so difficult to give what you have, as if He would demand and want to take it away? He doesn't want to take away, but rather to multiply. When you hold His grace in your hands, no miracle happens, only simple human things happen, market economy and human rationality, but if you put it into His hands what you already have, then something supernatural begins, something that is above the earthly laws and rules, which is above human affection and politeness, which is above the market economy, above rationality and deduction and practicality. It is the spring of water and the flow of river in your life, bearing and testifying to others about the grace of God, about the inexhaustible riches of His glory and knowledge. When Jesus comes into your life, your heart opens. When Jesus entered the house of the Zacchaeus, his heart was opened, and the grace of God appeared: he began to share what he had because he received the salvation that was sitting in his house - Jesus Christ.

Divine grace changes your heart and shows you what God is like. Its flow without cause and opens His heart, in which you see the hidden riches of His knowledge. You let God's grace flow not to reap a harvest, to make riches in heaven or on earth, to be spiritual or to be praised, but you let it flow without a reason, just because it is God's grace that comes from the purest source - His heart.



## 7 CHAPTER

### The Testimony of His will

Perhaps the most frequently asked question about God is what is His will? Everyone at least once in his life asks himself: does God want good for me, what is His will for me, my family, work and life as a whole, what is His will for a person in general, is He playing with me, is He able and willing to change something in my life, does He seek to help or to punish, to justify or to condemn? Religious people argue about God's will in the same way, as if they do not know Him: whether it is God's will to follow the rules and traditions that are in our church, whether He approves the regulations of another church, whether it is necessary to pray while sitting or standing, whether it is His will that we fast rarely or often, is it His will that we associate with unbelievers and those who have turned away from God? There are so many differences in praise, worship, prayer and other things that many think: if the Lord came, He would explain everything to us. This is how the people who lived in Judea and Samaria during the time of Jesus felt, who were waiting for the coming of Messiah, who could finally clarify where and how God should be worshipped, what His will is.

Man feels that he is able and ready to do God's will, if only he knew it. This "excuse" has haunted us since the beginning - if only I knew God's will... The only reason for weakness and error seems to us is the inability to know God's will clearly and accurately enough - if only God would reveal His will more clearly and loudly so that there would be no doubt, we would immediately fulfil it. With this we try to cover up our unwillingness and inability to know His will.

However, the way Jesus testified about God's will surpass not only the imaginations of the earthly, but also the heavenly creation. Jesus, who came to earth, did not tell about God's will, what and how to do it. He fulfilled it for us.

*Hebrews 10:7* 'Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, my God.' ”

Now our "excuse" of ignorance, as well as unwillingness, weakness, and inability to do God's will, has been removed. How? He did not tell about how it should be carried out or how to be good and what works to do, He did not even tell how God wants to save man, how He loves and cares for him. He came to do God's will for us, to save you and me, and He did it to the end. Salvation accomplished, a righteous and blameless life lived for you and credited to you as a gift, the price for your disobedience paid, your place in heaven prepared, the way to the Father open, eternal life granted, the certainty and the guarantee of salvation sealed by the Holy Spirit in you, God's power, riches, wisdom given in Jesus Christ to you as well. All that is required is to accept this salvation. God's will for you is already done.

After accepting the will of God, you will be surprised how your life begins to change, because **after accepting the already fulfilled will of God, you begin to know it.** This is completely incomprehensible to human nature, but your new creation in Jesus Christ so rejoices and accepts this mystery - to know the already accomplished will of God.

Why do you need to know His will? We often think that knowing His will is necessary so that He can fulfil His plans and desires. You are like a dead tool that He uses. Oh, how often we imagine Him as a mighty one who wants to use us to achieve His purposes.

We are so used to being "used" by the forces of darkness - like drained, used and unnecessary things thrown into the garbage. But how contrary to this understanding is God's desire to fill us with the knowledge of His will, so that we may be enriched, clothed with His glory, joy, love, and be full of the riches of His knowledge and glory.

The knowledge of His will is inseparable from Him. Only by knowing His will do we know His heart and character. Knowing God's will bring you closer to Jesus so strongly that relationship with Him changes and becomes like fellowship with a brother. As we grow in the knowledge of God's will, we turn from babies into youths and finally adults, empowered through the Holy Spirit to fellowship as closely with Jesus as with our brother.

*Mark 3:35* Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Knowing God's will is a more wonderful thing than knowing commandments and commands. Commandments, rules and traditions do not bring you closer to God, but they restrain you. However, filled with God's will, we know Him as a person, we know His open heart. Therefore, if you do not know the heart of God, His will in your life will only sound like a command and a command to do something, which will exhaust you and catch you unprepared. However, if you know the person, you will also know what his will is.

God's will is inseparable from God's heart. It is impossible to fulfil God's will without knowing His heart, so He often waits for us to know what He is like, so that we can also see His will, because the will comes from the heart. God does not hide His heart, He opened it in Jesus Christ and "bare" all His beauty, showing what He really is. Why often, when you learn about God's will, you have

to wait for something, why does it take a long time before it happens. He is waiting and wants to open His heart so that what is in His heart may be in yours also. First His heart, then His will. When you try to separate God's will from His heart, that's when you stumble.

### **Knowing God's will lead to knowing His heart and that changes us**

As we grow in the knowledge of God's will, we not only draw closer to Him, but our hearts also are being changed. Only learning about God's won't give you full knowledge and understanding. We grow in it. We grow by knowing His heart. In the lives of patriarchs, we can see how at the beginning of their life they were just learning about God's will, while at the end - they were very close to God and saw the fulfilment of His will. Through this they came closer to His heart, being changed.

We can read about the wonderful way of knowing and seeking God's will in the lives of God's servants described in both the Old and New Testaments. At the time when Moses only knew about God's will, that the Lord wanted to bring the nation of Israel out of slavery by his hands, Moses was impatient, confident in his own strength, had his own plan, was emotional and restless. He tried with his enthusiasm and strength to help the nation of Israel but was forced to flee into the wilderness. But how big change of his heart is seen when Moses drew near to God and turned his eyes to Him. Then we see in Moses great humility, not trusting in his own strength, being filled with faith and obedience. After drawing closer to God, Moses' plan and strength were replaced by God's plan and a personal encounter with God in the wilderness. Having personally met the One whose will he was trying to fulfil, Moses was able to see God's plan for Izrael. Now it was not Moses who led the nation of Israel out of the land of Egypt and fulfilled

God's will, but God himself saved Israel with His hands and fulfilled His will.

We see the same great change of character that took place on the way to the knowledge of God's will in the life of Jacob. What a change has come from the time Jacob learned God's will and tried to fulfil it himself, still being cunning and treacherous, and then when he came closer to God's heart and knew Him personally, he became humble, weak, seeking and trusting in Him alone. What a great change of man's heart that came about just because he came closer to the One whose will he wanted to do. Only by touching God's heart can you see His will.

Do you remember when you started taking the first steps of faith, you wanted to know and do His will? You waited for commands, instructions, to fulfil them as soon as possible. But isn't this just executing commands? However, when the Spirit of God raises your eyes at the source and author of God's will, you start truly seeking Him. Then you will start knowing His heart and at the end of your journey you will be find yourself surprised how He changed you and prepared you to see how He fulfils His will in your life. Learning about God's will is only the beginning of the path that will lead you to Him, just don't stop searching and walking.

### **The fulfillment of God's will**

Believers often ask the question of what needs to be done to fulfill God's will. How to find out and fulfill it?

In the word of God, we see how kings and prophets, faithful servants and ordinary people stumbled in doing God's will. Some would get up and obey what the Lord said, while others, after

starting to fulfill His will, would leave after some time. Why the is such difference? We see this most clearly in the lives of King Saul and David. Both were kings, both were anointed, both knew the will of God, both had great sins, falls, mistakes and downfalls in their lives, but one big difference does not go unnoticed. God testified about Saul that he did not fulfill God's commandments, while the Lord testified about David that he found a man after his heart who would fulfill all His desires. Why was the Lord so sure of David but was silent about Saul.

*Acts: 13:22* After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, **a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.**'

In this place, the Lord reveals why David fulfilled His desires. David fulfilled the desires of God's heart, while Saul only knew orders and commands. It is impossible to do the will of God without knowing the One whose will you are fulfilling. Knowing His heart opens the way to the fulfillment of His will. From the very beginning, Saul rushed to fulfill God's will with great enthusiasm and zeal: he began to defend Israel from enemies and was ready to punish even his own son with death for disobeying his word. What zeal, what initiative. But soon all that disappeared. When difficulties came, not knowing the nature of the One whose will he was fulfilling, Saul finally frivolously "corrected the commandment of God". But can the heart be adjusted? What was a small thing to him was not to God. Why did Saul miss so greatly? Because he did not know God's heart.

David, on the contrary, committed sins in his life and stumbled many times while following God, but in the most difficult situations he knew the One who can save and knew who His God is. David fellowshiped with the Lord by holding on to His heart.

David's behavior was incomprehensible to many Israelites, even to the priests of God's temple. David took pity on his enemy and persecutor Saul, even though he had opportunities to kill him, he showed obedience to Saul, remaining faithful to him until the end, as a servant, even though he was chased, despised and persecuted, he mourned Saul and his dead son as he mourns the closest family members, he was merciful to traitors and rebels, even to his own son, who wanted to overthrow and kill him. David surprised even the temple priests with his behavior when he allowed his companions to eat the consecrated loaves of bread from God's tabernacle, which according to the law they could not even touch. He did this because he cared about others and was compassionate to the hungry. Do you see what kind of God David knew, what kind of God's heart he saw, don't you sometimes smell the aroma of Jesus?

*Mark 2:25-26* He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."

David came to know a merciful, forgiving and gracious God, and that's why he was a man after His own heart. Drawing near God changed David's heart. This is what the Lord desires: heart to heart relationship. The Lord knew what David's heart was like, because He saw His own in it.

### **Love is the guarantee of the fulfillment of His will**

But Jesus revealed the most wonderful and simple truth about God's will. He showed who can know and fulfill the will of God, testifying that love is the door, the seal and the guarantee for the full knowledge of His will.

*John 14:23* Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

In this place Jesus says that love guarantees, ensures and seals the fulfillment of God's will. This is not a promise, this is a guarantee. The Lord did not say that if you love, then try to do the will of God. No! He guaranteed that for those who love God, it is impossible to deviate from God's will. Knowing His heart from which you received His love, you will also fulfill His will.

Jesus testified by His example that love is always at the forefront of God's will. Jesus could do the Father's will only because He loved Him. It was Jesus' own decision and obedience out of love. The Father had given everything into the hands of the Son. When Jesus came to earth, everything depended on His decision. He knew the Father's will and was now free to make any choice. The Father did not intervene and forced Him to do so.

*John 14:31* but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave...<>

Only love for the Father strengthened Jesus' steps towards the cross and gave Him strength in the Garden of Gethsemane. Command and orders cannot do that.

### **How to know God's will?**

In order God's will could grow, it demands the good soil and a suitable environment. The knowledge of His will grows in the soil of love and faith. The condition and sign that you are approaching His will is the growth and strengthening of love and faith.



In the letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul reveals the secret that knowing the will of God requires love and faith that fills our heart. Without them, God's will have no place to grow and spread.

*Ephesians 1:15-17* For this reason, ever since **I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people**, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Paul rejoices that faith and love are growing and becoming visible in the hearts of the Ephesians. Only after hearing about this, he prays and asks God to give them wisdom and the spirit of revelation, so that the Ephesians know the Lord and realize where He is leading and what His will is. To know His will is impossible without faith and love. When love and faith grow, then our eyes open wider, everything becomes clear, bright and true, doubts disappear, and we hear His word clearly. Then we begin to look at everything through the window of His heart and how amazed we are when we see His will so easily and clearly.

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul is happy to hear about their faith in the Lord and their love for each other. However in our days we often hear and see not the faith and love, but discussions and arguments about who does what and why, who has a newer and more impressive "revelation", which church is more spiritual and why one and another Christian slipped up, sinned; why some Christians praise one way and not another, how someone did wrong to his brother or how extinguished and unspiritual the pastor of certain church became, how the prophecy did not come to pass, etc. Paul writes, that in such environment it is impossible

to grow in the knowledge of God's will, because it is not the soil in which God's word is sown and reaped.

*1 Corinthians 3:2-3* I gave you milk, not solid food, for **you were not yet ready for it**. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

A condition of love and faith is needed. We hear less and less about the grow of love and faith, about the things that no-believer longs for. Everyone listens carefully and wants to hear about the authentic love and simple faith in Jesus, in which there is no shadow, which comes from His own heart, without intermediaries and preconditions, for everyone and anyone who is willing to receive it - faith and love that works and is visible. But very often we attribute this kind of love and faith to babies or thing about it as the very distant and impossible future. Very often we are in a hurry to get new "revelation" about whether to forgive someone who has sinned against us or if we have to help a neighbor.

But Paul showed us where to start, where that wonderful and invisible seed is and the beginning of the way to His heart and the knowledge of His will.

*Philippians 2:1* Therefore **if you have** any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,...<>

He was pointing to those little seeds from which the knowledge of His will grows. If there is even the slightest sincerity, love, mercy, compassion - if there is even a drop... From here Paul encourages us to start. In many of his letters, Paul simply asks and

begs believers not to look and concentrate on disputes, disagreements, differences, but to look for those small sprouts that grow in the right environment. He encourages us to live and grow in love and faith, which are vessels for the knowledge of God's will. He also encourages his companions Titus and Timothy to pursue love and faith with all simplicity and sincerity. Sometimes we need such simple encouragements to live with the love of Christ. Therefore, Povilas encourages us to follow and pursue faith and love with his personal example.

*1 Timothy 6:11* But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

If you had the fastest, most powerful, and most beautiful car, but you only put a few liters of gasoline and a few drops of oil in it, and you knew the route, you couldn't get there if you didn't have enough fuel and oil. So, it is with God's will. The knowledge of God's will is limited by the measure of love and faith. To know His will requires faith and love. God encourages, nurtures and guides through it. Without faith and love, the will of God remains only information in the mind, waiting for fuel - the growth of love and faith. Knowledge and information are not the will of God, they are only echoes without content. In the New Testament we see how the Gospel spread through works of faith and labor of love. In order to have works, you need faith; in order to be able to labor - you need love.

*1 Thessalonians 1:3* We remember before our God and Father your **work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love**, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord, in order to fill us with the knowledge of His will, does not cultivate in us information, data and new revelations, but love

and faith, so that our work of faith and labor of love become heard, seen and known.

*Philippians 1:9* And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

As much as you have love and faith, you also have knowledge of God's will. Anything beyond that will turn into sand, human effort, and slowly become tradition and religion.

**Searching and filling.** God's word is spread with examples of how God's servants and prophets sought God's will. Even Jesus Himself, while on earth, testified that He was constantly seeking God's will.

*John 5:30* By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for **I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.**

God's will is not something you just pick up - it has to be found. Everyone goes through this wonderful path of seeking, because as we go, we change, we draw closer to Him, we grow in knowing Him, until we see the will of God flowing from His heart. Sometimes we imagine seeking God's will as if we were tossing a coin (prayer) into a slot machine, from which an answer comes out with instructions on what to do today. Then we start obeying commands, still not finding His will. But the Lord wants us to start looking at Him. At the beginning of Abraham's life, the Lord told him to leave the land of his fathers and go to that which he would show him. This was the beginning of the road. Abraham traveled through the whole Promised land, observing and exploring it. Why can't God's will be fully known immediately, received as a thing, noticed without searching and without wasting time? Why is it necessary to search for it and travel through the Promised land? It

has to do with Him, His character, and His personality. While seeking His will, you draw closer to Him, you become like Him. Therefore, do not stop after the first step, but walk that way every day.

The Spirit of God does not want to inform us about God's will, but to fill our whole inner being with it. This happens gradually, because the water in the empty vessel does not appear immediately but is poured day by day until it becomes full. When we seek only to know His will, but not to be filled with it, we quickly stumble. Why? When we run to Him and learn about His will, we immediately retreat and run away from Him - we run away to do His will, while He longs for us to stay close. He doesn't just tell and inform you about His will, He wants to come and fulfill it in you with His life. Only His Spirit can do this. Let yourself be filled with the knowledge of His will. Without any fear, tension or human initiative, only with the power of His Spirit filling the still and yielding vessel.

**Renewal of the mind.** The Holy Spirit searches every day for a vacant place in our mind to fill it with understanding and knowledge of His will.

*Romans 12:2* Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then **you will be able** to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

He is looking for at least a small slice, but an hour or the smallest piece of time, to give you wisdom and understanding. Therefore, reflecting on God's word, enjoying it, is the ball from which the knowledge of God's will is rolled, which later bleeds to His heart. Therefore, the apostle Paul encourages us to close the windows of

the mind to the environment of the world, which contains fear, negativism, panic, irony, fear of the future and intimidation. The Spirit of God wants your mind to be filled with the word of God, so that you find time to just be with Him, not rushing anywhere, not rushing, but enjoying Him. The example described in the Gospel with Martha, who worked hardly serving Jesus, and Mary, who only listened to His words, shows that we need to rest, to sit next to Jesus and spend a little time with Him, just listening, thinking and drinking His word. We are so often overwhelmed with works, prayers for something, prayers for our needs and problems, church service, that the fuel in our tank runs out and we rush only with our works and toil, but the love and faith that grows while sitting with Jesus melts away.

The renewal of the mind is necessary so that we do not feel the will of God, but understand it, not hear the instruction, but be filled with the knowledge of His will.

*Ephesians 5:17* Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand** what the Lord's will is.

**A special place.** The apostle Paul shares a wonderful knowledge in the letter to the Ephesians, testifying that there is a special place where the will of God is waiting for us and where it must be sought. It's the heart. Although we perceive God's will with our mind, we discover it in our heart.

*Ephesians 6:6* Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God **from your heart**.

This special place where God's will is carried out is your heart. There we can find it, reflect on it and understand it. Therefore, before seeking His will, your heart shall be freed from worries and protected from any stress, panic that comes from the world.

Almost everywhere, beginning and ending his letters to the churches, Paul reminds us:

*2 Corinthians 1:2* Grace and **peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Likewise, Jesus, who rose from the dead and appeared to His disciples, immediately said: "Peace be with you" and only then began to explain the word of God and teach. That is why it is so important that when seeking His will, our heart is at peace so that we can notice what is hidden in the heart.

Don't stop seeking God's will, because you will be surprised where this path will lead you. You will find not only God's will, but also His heart. Then, looking within, you will exclaim, "How wonderful is the Lord and how beautiful is His heart."





## 8 CHAPTER

### The Testimony of the Tree of Life

**W**hat word did Adam hear from God's mouth the first time he became a living soul and awoke from creation? The Bible says that the first words were "Be fruitful" (*Genesis 1:28*). Just created, Adam received a blessing and calling from God - to be fruitful, to fill the whole earth with the fruits of God's knowledge, so that God's beauty, glory and fellowship with Him spread around like a cloud of glory. No commandment or prohibition of God had yet been given to Adam, but this blessing - be fruitful - had already sounded in Adam's heart. God prepared the way for man to wonderful and eternal fruitfulness by planting and hiding in the Garden of Eden the Tree of Life that awaited Adam. This tree was unlike any other. Adam plucked fruit from other trees and ate them, but the Tree of Life was waiting for Adam not to be plucked, but to be joined to him. That unknown and untasted Tree of Life was the hidden Word of God—eternal life. Adam did not yet know that such a tree was growing in the Garden of Eden, that God was waiting for him there. Adam on his way to the tree of life had to pass by the tree of knowledge of good and evil in order to have the right to choose. God gave him a choice, allowing him to obey or reject the Word of God that was waiting for him in the garden. However, Adam stopped to taste the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thereby rejecting the Tree of Life prepared for him in the Garden of Eden - the Word of God. After picking the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Adam's eyes were opened and he saw and learned about eternal life, about the Tree of Life growing in the Garden of Eden. He found out about it but lost the way and access to it. It is possible to know that there is eternal life, but to die. Knowledge did not open eternal life, but on the contrary, it blocked the way.

*Genesis 3:24* After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to **guard the way to the tree of life.**

Since then, the dream of eternal life, of fruits that do not end and remain, is in our heart as an inaccessible dream. That tree in the Garden of Eden became protected and inaccessible. He became for us a fairy tale, a dream, a naive dream, but which our hearts with question: "What if I could live forever..". Our life has become full of bad fruits, the last of which is death. We thought that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was good, but we reaped bad fruit. We thought that knowing good and bad would give us eternal life and fruitfulness, but knowing all this, we remain the same.

*Matthew 7:18* A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

From now on, a person tries to live his life meaningfully and fruitfully by himself, but when he sees the approaching death, he lowers his hands, watches how his works and fruits fall away, remain for others who throw them away and break them. We all strive to leave something behind, to give meaning to our life, but after learning what is good and bad, we remain the same - barren. We know that we are called to be fruitful, but we do not know how to become so.

But God has shown what the true Tree of Life is, what the true fruit-bearing vine is. He not only showed the Tree of Life, but also opened the way to it. The true vine and the true tree of Life is Christ, the Word of God and the eternal being. Christ was prepared for Adam before the foundation of the world and intended for man to be united with Him and bear eternal fruit in Him. Here is the true and real desire of man, coming from the depths of the heart - to be fruitful.

*John 15:1* “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

God opened the way again to the tree that bears fruit. But something has changed since the days of the Garden of Eden. How to plug in the sinful Adam into this tree? At the beginning the Tree of Life hidden in the Garden of Eden waited for Adam and extended its branches towards him waiting for his choice, however now, the only way to connect man to this tree is to graft him in. And God did it out of love for man.

He cut wounds in the green tree and prepared a place for you to be grafted in. Christ, like a green tree, allowed Himself to be pruned, broken and wounded. On the cross Jesus was wounded and pierced as the green tree. The juice of life started to flow from His body (the blood and water) in order you could be grafted in and become a part of Him, thus gaining eternal life and the ability to bear fruit. Through Christ's wounds, sufferings, and death, you are grafted in.

*1 Peter 2:24* “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

Then His blood, water, and power begin to flow into you. You are joined and strengthened as you mature with Him, drinking every drop of eternal life. You don't drink just once, but you remain grafted into Him forever, until you are so grown up with the trunk of the Tree of Life that you are unrecognizable—you become not a separate branch, but a part of the vine. Now God not only leads you to the Tree of Life and the true vine, He not only wants you to taste the fruit of this tree, to admire and talk about Christ, He wants you to bear fruit in Him, being united and immersed forever. It is impossible to be fruitful when you are outside. You can look

at this tree, pick the fruit, receive God's blessing, but only by surrendering and being in Him, you are truly fruitful.

## **Surrendering in God's hands**

Jesus Christ is the only good and true tree of life that bears eternal fruit. He doesn't invite you to pick fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, nor to learn about how to behave well or what to refrain from, He doesn't even invite you to learn a lot about Him, get something and stand by. He invites you to be grafted like a branch into Him, so that you will constantly let His blood and water flow freely through you and that this new life and never-ending stream will strengthen you, until at last your branch is strong and capable of holding many fruits.

*John 15:5* “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Jesus testified that the trust in God and dedication to Him brings true spiritual fruits. He testified to this by placing Himself in the hands of the Father as a vinedresser who knows what to do with the tree so that it will be fruitful, and its fruit will last forever. Jesus submitted Himself to the Father and trusted in what He was doing. Jesus's self-giving showed the wonderful and shining heart of God, who gives and loves not in parts, portions or stages, but fully, forever and immediately.

This testimony of the vine begins to work in us when we are grafted into Him as branches. We are branches that cannot bear fruit of themselves. But how simple and wonderful is the testimony of Jesus, who says that you should not be afraid to fully trust and give yourself into His hands, despite the fact that sometimes it can hurt when He removes dead or unnecessary



ourselves. He does not give a command or a word, He comes to do it Himself. He gives love and prayer; He prays and answers to it Himself. Perhaps you remember how long and sincerely you pray and ask God for grace, love, salvation and mercy for your loved ones or others, as if you need to convince God, to beg, as if you love your loved ones more than He does. Then it seems that you want to fill the measure of prayers by "forcing" God to finally consider your requests and "love" your loved ones. But God is the real source of mercy, love and grace. He loves your loved ones and friends as no one else loves them and gives you prayers, mercy and intercession for them. He Himself gives the prayer and answers it Himself. When the juices of His life flow unhindered into you, His love and mercy change your life and the lives of those around you. All He wants is for you to submit to Him like a branch.

**From Him - through Him - to Him**

Not the efforts of the branch hold it, but only the juice of life flowing through the trunk of the tree. So, what do I do, what is my role, what do I have to do? That's how you want to be important, and that's the nail to the carnal nature that nails it to the cross. Your role is to be a branch of the vine and hang. Allow Him to work so that the juices of His Son, the blood and water, flow through you. Only from Him the fruit grows.

But if I don't have to do anything, then I won't do anything. After all, if He wants it, He will do it anyway. But He needs your presence in Him, because only by being in Him can you bear fruit. He needs your mind to fill it with His word and give you to understand and know Him. He needs your feelings and heart to fill with joy, compassion, kindness, which will help and enable His grace to flow through you. He needs your free will. You were freed and became a free son, but He needs the decision of your will,

your consent - consent to serve. Put it all in His hands and you'll be surprised what He can do with your life.

*Galatians 5:13* You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, **serve one another humbly in love.**

We are the branches of one vine, so we not only receive the juices of life into ourselves, but also let them flow further - to other branches, so that the vine is whole and His life spreads everywhere. By serving others with love, you let His life pass through you and let it flow on. Then it reaches even the most distant branches, which are waiting for new strength. Therefore, while accepting God's grace, blessings, provision and goodness, do not lose the spirit of service, because only by serving you get fresh strength. Service is life of love, it is not a position (preacher, pastor) or job. This is the Spirit of Christ. It's not about being a preacher or a teacher, it's not about being a pastor who teaches the congregation every Sunday, it's about filling your heart with His Spirit, enabling you to bend down and serve. The Holy Spirit will keep you as a servant, because ministry is not what you do, but who you are.

## **Being in Him**

When we surrender to His hands and become a hanging branch, at first it may seem to us that nothing changes, that there are no tangible fruits that were promised. Then we begin to think that something is wrong and with distrust we resist the flow of life within us. But mostly what we need is to abide in Him, to remain a hanging branch regardless of circumstances, feelings or thoughts. The most important thing for a branch is that the juice does not stop flowing into it. Fruits take time to mature, so the most important thing is that you stay fresh. Therefore, do not be afraid and do not be frightened, even though you do not see the

fruit yet - remain a hanging branch and do not stop the flow of life in you.

Jesus encourages everyone to remain in Him, to remain in His word, so that the fruit can mature. In the Gospel, we see many examples of when it was enough just to abide in Him for a miracle to happen. In the Gospel according to John, we read about a blind man who received his sight. But what path did he take? After calling the blind man, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud from the saliva, anointed the blind man's eyes with it and told him to go to the pool of Siloam and wash.

John 9:7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Oh, how we would shout for joy when we received the concrete and clear word of Jesus, which the mountains cannot resist. Probably many around would be happy, applaud and congratulate: "Jesus spoke to you". So, it is with us, we first hear God's word or prophecy about promises, abundant fruits and His wonderful plan for our lives. Then you are uplifted and surrounded by joy, support, approval, and your heart is filled with faith because you have finally received the concrete word of Jesus. He said you will get your sight. The only thing is you have to go to the pool of Siloam. To walk in blind, only trusting the spoken word...

This is where the path to this pool begins. The blind man turned away from the crowd that surrounded Jesus and moved towards the pool. The crowd disappeared; the commotion died down. Not even Jesus can be heard anymore. They all stayed behind somewhere, and you started walking alone, still blind. This often happens to us. The voices of supporters and the noise of conferences pass away, and we return from meetings, church, and



fellowship, and are once again alone with the promise of God. Still blind, but with His word. Now the path begins, when you must go through it alone, carrying only the word of God, spoken to you personally. Now no one supports you, congratulates you or makes you happy. That rush of blessings and closeness to Jesus goes away, those who support you fall away. So, this blind man went alone to the pool to wash himself. He must have been surrounded by endless doubts and thoughts: "You fool, and you believed that this was possible, that this would happen?" Look, you are blind, nothing has changed, where is that crowd now, where is your Jesus now, you should have stayed with everyone and rejoiced, maybe you would have had a chance to be healed, but now.. You have remained blind, you are walking to some pool, and it is not yet clear, will you find it, will you wash properly, will you come to that pool..." After such thoughts, you no longer feel the blessing, that attention and approval of the crowd, and you go alone. But you carry His word.

This is the path we all go through until we mature the fruit. Don't let His juice stop flowing, don't stop on the way to the pool of Siloam, no matter how empty and dark your eyes are. A wonderful thing will happen, a miracle will happen. As you walk the path, the fruits will mature, and you will see it. When you wash your eyes, as His word said, you will get your sight. The centurion also passed this way when, having accepted the word of Jesus about the healing of the servant, he turned back to the house and walked until he saw the healing. Everyone who has His word passes this way.

You will see fruit in your life, matured in faith and love, just don't stop walking, just don't stop drinking from His life, just stay in Him. It takes so little - you are already grafted into the vine, just stay. You will marvel at how life is changing as His juices flow into you and how your branch ripens eternal fruit. As the fruit grows,

the branch bends from the weight because the fruit brings the humility into your life. It is a wonderful beauty to have the fruit bowed down to the ground for others to taste it.

## 9 CHAPTER

### The Testimony of God 's power

**I**t is enough to raise your eyes to the sky, to look at the immeasurable distances and the stars shining in them, when you immediately see the great power of God, which created and supports the firmament of the heavens, the foundations of the earth and everything in them. It is even more breathtaking when you look at the images and photos captured by telescopes and satellites with many galaxies, constellations, with endless spaces that cannot even be measured by numbers. There are no words to describe the power of God that created all this and keeps it going until now. How truly immeasurable and mighty is the Creator of the universe, what boundless might and power is in Him.

Everyone longs to experience and see God's power, to witness His signs, miracles and incredible events. If He is God, let Him show His power? Where is God's power, why doesn't He do this and that in my life?

The nation of Israel also waited and longed for the power of God, the power that would deliver them from the oppression of the Roman Empire, the power that would restore the kingdom of Israel. Even the disciples of Jesus couldn't wait to experience and see this power - the power to bring down fire from heaven, the power to place the king of Israel on the throne.

But how wonderful, contrary to and exceeding human expectation, is Jesus's testimony to the power of God.

It is written about Jesus in the Epistle to the Hebrews that He is the one through whom all things were created and who holds the firmaments of heaven and earth by the power of His word. He is the One by whom everything was created we look at, marvel at and want to experience. All things were created, are sustained, and are subject to Him. God spoke the Word and it was fulfilled. With such great power of the Word of God, the heavens and the stars are built - flying and not falling, shining and not extinguishing.

*Hebrews 1:3* The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, **sustaining all things by his powerful word**. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

But God has revealed and testified to all His power, which is seen not by lifting your head, but by lowering your head, when you look to Jesus, the power of God to save you. Christ is a living and indisputable witness of God's power, in whom all the power of God is seen. That force which holds the foundations of heaven and earth, oceans, glaciers and mountains, stars and planets, God has shown visibly in Jesus Christ.

*1 Corinthians 1:24* but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God** and the wisdom of God.

This power of God is not for bringing down fire from heaven, not for showing signs and wonders, but for your salvation. In the past, this force was devoted to the creation, arrangement and filling of the universe. God spoke the Word and it happened. However, for the salvation of people, it was not enough for God to just speak the Word, He had to send Him to earth. Therefore, God clothed that Word by whom He created everything, with a weak human body and sent Him to earth. Now He sent not to create something,

but to save. In the past, God delighted in creating the universe with His Word, speaking through Him, and accomplished all things. Then the power of God was needed to arrange the planets, to fill the waters and the earth, but now it was not for creation, but for the salvation of man.

Through Christ, God saved us - it was not enough for Jesus to just be on God's lips, now He had to suffer, cough and spew blood, humble Himself and serve, sweat and wail, cry to the Father and die... This power of God was now meant to save. That greatness and immeasurable power which you see far away, God has shown in Christ, Who has redeemed you. God's power is not only in distant galaxies or deep oceans, but also much closer to you - it is in your Lord.

*Romans 1:16* For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is **the power of God that brings salvation** to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Jesus's birth, life and ministry on earth, death and resurrection are continuous and visible testimonies of God's power. The birth of Jesus in human flesh, but from the Holy Spirit, revealed the power of God. The Farther took the Word of God, by whom the universe was created, reduced Him to an incredible smallness and hid Him in the womb of Mary, so that He would take on human flesh forever. If a person does not have enough strength to even imagine and understand this, who else, if not the Creator, could do it.

When Jesus began to preach the kingdom of God, teach and serve, many, even His disciples, waited, pondered, questioned, hoped, were angry and did not understand what God's power was for and why He did not demonstrate it. Where is the power that sustains

the earth and created the heavens? On the contrary, Jesus often withdrew and went to remote places when there was a "golden" opportunity to show miracles, or He told them not to tell about those that had already happened.

*Mark 9:9* As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Even to this day, believers and unbelievers alike still argue about where God's power is, looking for it. Some look for it at home, others go out into the desert, where loaves of bread are multiplied, others do not stop and see miracles, but Jesus leads you even further to see where the power of God rests and awaits you - He leads you to the cross, where He testified to all the power of God, **for your salvation**. Someone can see many miracles, signs and coincidences, but can miss the most important thing - the salvation prepared in Jesus's death and resurrection.

Not a single miracle saved a person, they only pointed to Him so that when they started to see, walk and be healed, they would follow to the cross, and looking at Him, would see the power of God that could save them.

This power is often hidden because we do not notice what it is for. The disciples wanted to send down fire from heaven to use force against those who do not accept Jesus, the religious offered Jesus to save Himself, or to show signs and wonders. But there was silence. The power of God quietly led Jesus to the place where it was ready to testify to all the heavenly creation of God's power to save man, give him eternal life, raise him from the dead and take him to heaven.

## **The weakness and strength of the cross**

What a wonderful way Jesus went to the point where God's power was revealed to all creation. This limitless power has been desired and still being sought by the rulers of the world, kings, individuals, as well as by the forces of darkness, to whom this power is incomprehensible and inaccessible, because they cannot see the path by which it comes. The disciples of Jesus, who accepted Him as the Messiah and the One sent by God, waited day by day for the manifestation of this power. They were waiting for Jesus to go toward Jerusalem little by little, seek this power and grow stronger, showing more and more signs and wonders. But Jesus went in the opposite direction - a path that no one saw or understood.

It is not possible to experience, reach and see the power of God by following the human path, because such a path is to seek, to win, to claim and to grow stronger. Jesus, in whom all the power of God was manifested, went in the opposite direction: He surrendered Himself to the hands of the Father, opening His weakness - human body, so that the power of God could enter through weakness and, embracing Him, would reveal how indescribably powerful our Creator is. In what opposite directions does God and man move: man seeks strength, and God leads to weakness. Our Lord testified to this.

*2 Corinthians 13:4* For to be sure, he was crucified **in weakness**, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you.

Jesus opened and gave to God the only weakness He had - His human body. No one could overcome Him, surprise Him with word or deed, neither illness nor calamity could cling to Him. He was perfect, so no one could touch Him until He opened up and

exposed His weakness. The Lord opened His body to suffering, thirst, wounds, pain, whippings and eventually death. He was crucified because of His weakness, because He decided not resist, defend Himself and fight back. His body was weak and felt pain, it convulsed, it bled until it finally died. But no one noticed that in fact, in His weakness, He opened the door to God's power, which was ready and waiting to show what power and majesty there is in God.

When Jesus was arrested and the soldiers mocked and beat Him, the power of God was waiting. When the bribed witnesses testified against Him and the whole crowd demanded His crucifixion, the power of God waited. When Jesus followed and stumbled, unable to carry the cross anymore, the power of God was still waiting. As the nails pierced the body and pain gripped every muscle cell, the power of God waited and was silent. As Jesus was hanging on the cross, dizzy and nauseous, the power of God was still waiting. As each breath carved the Lord's flesh and the shadow of death enveloped Him, the power of God waited and rested. When Jesus cried out to the Father and breathed His last, when even those who wanted to wait lost hope and waited no longer - the power of God was still waiting. When the body of Jesus was laid in the tomb and the stone was rolled, when the whole world and even all His loved ones were no longer waiting - the power of God still rested and waited... But, having attained perfect weakness, it stirred as the waters stir and, embracing the dead body, raised Him from the dead and revealed the perfect majesty, power and might of God. This testimony of Jesus about the power of God overshadows the whole creation, which was created by this power, because God was not now creating a new, but saving what was lost and what was dead. He raised man from the dead.

There is no greater miracle in the universe, nor in creation, nor on earth, nor in your life, as the resurrection of Jesus - witnessed and still witnessed. Through His resurrection, God's power became



visible, known to all open eyes, to all creation in heaven and earth. The power of God entered the dead seed that had fallen to the ground, embraced it with power and might, raised it from the dead, and brought it to heaven. Until now, this testimony of God's power is so clear that even unbelievers do not argue about it, because everyone agrees that **only God can raise man from the dead**. Oh...and this is your God and mine.

What a magnificent testimony of Jesus about God, about His power and greatness. He showed that God's weakness is stronger than man, sin and death. It was only through weakness that God's power shone through and prevailed.

*1 Corinthians 1:25* For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Now it is not the Word in the Father's lips that saves you, but the living Word as the person Jesus Christ, because He was sent to reach you. When you receive this testimony, the saving power of God that used to create constellations and move mountains, flows into your life, but now it saves you and leads you to the Father who is waiting in heaven.

*1 Corinthians 1:18* For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved **it is the power of God**.

Jesus's testimony of God's power will grow stronger and brighter in you every day. How? It is a word about the cross. This word is not only for the first day you receive the message of salvation, but for every day. From here starts the boundless power of God—the same that moves mountains, the same that sets the planets in universe, and the same that raised Jesus from the dead. Now this power is in you.

The word about the cross is intended for everyday life - a word about God's strength, which looks for what is weak and small, which looks for perfect weakness, looks for someone who entrusts his weakness into God's hands, so that His strength can also be shown by the power of God. What is weak, small, and dead, God's power lifts, strengthens, makes it grow and revives.

Like Jesus on earth, we too carry within ourselves the inexhaustible power of God and are led by His Spirit in a way that is incomprehensible and contrary to human nature. It leads us to His cross, to His weakness, so that His strength may be testified.

*2 Corinthians 13:4* For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. **Likewise, we are weak in him**, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you.

Open your weakness to God and He will surround it with His strength. It is strange, but we easily entrust our advantages, strength and pluses into God's hands and pray fervently: "God, use me, take this." However, we hide the weakest places, the most painful wounds so deeply that no one, not even God, will touch them. We often tremble and are afraid to trust Him with what is weak, because we are ashamed and uncomfortable to bare our whole heart to Him and let Him touch our weakness and deepest wound.

Do not be afraid of the power of God, which will enter the most secret place in you, into the deepest wound, into the promise of God, which you put in the corner of your heart, into your trembling hands, which hold the wounded heart. Do not be afraid of the Lord, surrender what is weak to Him, trust in Him because He will bind up your wound, heal your heart, embrace your weakness with His strength and raise it high as a weapon with

which He will show His power. Only in His hands your weakness will turn into strength and the power of God.

Apostle Paul saw and experienced this in his life. The Lord testified to Paul that he should not be afraid to give his weakness to Him and to trust in the Lord, because it was with this weakness in the hands of God that the churches were blessed, because then the power of God, finding an open door in Paul's weakness, lifted him up and a tremendous power poured out to others. Although Paul seemed weak, the others became strong.

*2 Corinthians 12:9* But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for **my power is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

Realizing this, Paul opened the door fully for God's power to take all his weakness and insignificance into His hands and use it as a weapon. We want to be strong so much that we begin to strive for it on our own. When we face problems in life and begin to resist God's Spirit, which guides us and wants to immerse us in His weakness, we often struggle, we confess our strength out loud with faith, we look for a way out of the situation, we try to say out loud all the positive "confessions of faith", we keep ourselves and smile, however the situation does not change. Then we don't notice the way out that God's Spirit has prepared, because it's the only way out that we don't like - to submit and open our weakness to God's power, surrender into His hands and allow ourselves to be led to His cross, where God's power awaits. This power waits for your perfect weakness to reveal untold strength to others. Often, we label these as trials where we need to stand up, but all the Holy Spirit wants is to yield to His leading, so contrary to human nature - to make way for Him in our weakness.

At such moments we are pressed on all sides looking for reasons and errors, wrong confessions, and sorrowing over our weak character. But how great is the power of God at work in us, for without any earthquake or sign from the heavens, without even a halo, somehow, we walk and rise and are saved and not crushed. Although we still look weak, we are invincible.

*2 Corinthians 4:8-9* We are **hard pressed** on every side, but not crushed; **perplexed**, but not in despair; **persecuted**, but not abandoned; **struck down**, but not destroyed.

Where does that power come from? Is it from the fact that the last drops of patience are accumulated, or from the fact that you almost manage to endure and survive? No. It is from God who is still at work using the hidden seed in the body of Christ on the cross—the word about the cross. This is such a clear testimony of God's power that no one can think that it comes from our earthen vessels because they see us weak. But there is a hidden and invisible way through which the boundless power of salvation flows - this is our weakness. Then you can exclaim, as the apostle Paul exclaims, that you are only strong when you appear, remain, and are weak.

*2 Corinthians 12:10* That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For **when I am weak, then I am strong.**

### **Strength and weakness in us**

Jesus testified by His life, death and resurrection that the power of God is for the salvation of others. Although He was crucified because of weakness, yet the mighty power of salvation is now at work in us. Weakness was at work in Him, and strength in us. This

wonderful work of God's power is still not understood by many, because God's power is always directed to the salvation of others, the strengthening of others, the blessing of others, while we want to see it in ourselves - showing and revealing our strength. That is why until now, even among Christians, it is so difficult to understand, who is strong and who is weak.

What is a strong Christian, how to know and see it? Perhaps you imagine that the strong is the one through whom the Spirit of God works powerfully, through whom the Lord heals the sick and casts out demons, performs signs and wonders. But it is written in His word that ALL who believe will be accompanied by these signs, both strong and weak. Then, perhaps, the strong one is the one who knows His word, knows Hebrew and Greek, can quote the Bible by heart, can wisely counter any argument. But His word does not say that such a Christian is stronger. What is a strong Christian?

If you saw a strong man lifting a heavy weight and another standing next to him who couldn't lift it, you would say that the one who lifts the heavier weight is stronger. Also, in the spiritual world. One who lifts the weak person is stronger.

*Romans 15:1* We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

God's word reveals a wonderful secret - what strength is given to you and how to develop it. It is given to serve others and lift up the weak. You will not know that you are strong, if you do not carry others' burdens. The strength of God is given to lift up the weaker one, but not to be proud, to bear him, to comfort him, to clothe him, to encourage him, and to show him all the love and attention that Christ has for you. Christ testified to this strength.

Jesus walked for three years with His disciples, who were so different, often misunderstanding, arguing, angry, surprised, full of fear and immeasurable courage, with great initiative and withdrawal, jealous, seeking honour for themselves and caring for the poor. Jesus did not rebuke them, reject them, or even force them to pray. Only after a long period of time, His disciples, impatient, asked Jesus to teach them to pray. Jesus walked and was with them all the time regardless of their faults, arguments, differences and character. If the Lord were to guide spiritual progress, the level of faith and knowledge, twelve different churches would be established. Peter could have established a church that emphasized the strength of faith and many in that church would walk on water. James and John could have established a community whose members would strive to be as close as possible to Jesus, to His throne - from the left and from the right. They would laugh and not accept Peter's community, consider it smaller because it is a community whose leader denied Jesus. The communities of other disciples would not accept and consider the churches of John and James proud, because they boldly and openly sought the glory for themselves. When we look at their characters, we see how different they are. But they were all united by Christ, who accepted and was with them. No matter what happened, no matter what great differences and confessions of faith the disciples went through, Jesus did not leave them. Jesus patiently carried them. Being stronger, He ministered to them and publicly showed who needed this strength. He accepted them and stayed with them all the time - living, dying and being resurrected. Therefore, the strength of Jesus was poured into His disciples, so that they too could serve others with the same strength and accept everyone, regardless of character and existing differences.

*Romans 15:7* **Accept one another**, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Apostle Paul communicated and visited such different churches, where there was an unequal level of faith and knowledge: in one

place, spiritual gifts worked abundantly, in others not, in some churches there was a shortage, in others - an excess, in one place they received him with an open heart, in another they closed the door. But he loved them all as those who belonged to Christ. He did not try to separate the more spiritual from the "carnal", but accepted everyone as Christ accepted him. Paul did not order a quick unification of knowledge, level of belief, or the elimination of other differences. He only asked, begged on his knees and urged them to grow in love and accept one another. Often the only thing we need is acceptance. Accept without closing your heart, accept as Christ accepted you. Remember how Christ accepted you and what you were then - spiritual, full of knowledge? Any amount of His attention, love, care, recognition and grace has enveloped you. Therefore, Paul himself set an example. Many now would not even associate with the Corinthian church, where the sins were greater than the Gentiles, where there was, according to Paul, so much carnality. However, he not only did not turn away from them, but on the contrary - showed great attention and concern for them.

*Romans 14:1* **Accept** the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.

To accept means to be and to go together, to go together to the end, to the throne of Christ, so that both living and dying, and suffering and reigning, we would be together. This strength of Jesus brings you closer not only to His heart, but also opens the way to the hearts of others.

What a wonderful way to the power of God that Christ has shown us. It is simple and plain, it leads you to where the power of God awaits you.





## 10 CHAPTER

### The Testimony and Proclamation

**W**hat a wonderful testimony of God, His heart, mercy, love and forgiveness, salvation, justice and fellowship Jesus has opened for us. He does not call you to retell the story of His life to others, or to confirm what happened, to tell others what to do or what not to do. He offers much more than a story, a narrative, or a precept. He offers His real life - to become His witness.

The testimony of Jesus is not what you say, but what you BECOME. The Lord wants you not to witness, but to become a witness. As such, you are empowered by the Holy Spirit who lives in you and who keeps in your heart the testimony of your Savior and Lord, growing and strengthening you every day.

*Acts 1:8* But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Often, when we want to testify about Jesus, we choose words, we think about how to tell, how to express ourselves and counter endless arguments and objections, how to correctly arrange our thoughts according to the word of God, how not to get nervous and scared when speaking, how to convince and "convert". Then all our attention turns to what we are telling. However, the Lord told His disciples and encouraged them not to worry and think about what and how to tell, because the Holy Spirit Himself will put the words and speak through their lips.

*Mark 13:11* Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, **do not worry beforehand about what to say.**

Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

Those words of testimony come from the life that is in you, from the testimony of Jesus that grows and shines, because what matters is not what you say, but who you are. That is why the apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians rejoices at the strengthening testimony of Christ in them.

1 Corinthians 1:6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.

This does not mean that they still doubted that Christ was the Messiah, that He was the Son of God, or that He had saved them. But that real and active testimony of Christ became visible, solid and bearing fruit in others.

In his letter, the apostle Peter encourages us to be ready to give an answer about the hope that lives in us.

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

But to who this answer should be given and who will ask us that question? Observing your life, those around you desire to see a real and authentic testimony of Jesus - a testimony about God as He is. Someone around you will wonder and ask you – “Where does the love of Jesus, His patience, sacrifice, mercy and hope of eternal life come from in your life?” Their eyes want to see the testimony of Jesus—the testimony of His grace when we care for others, the testimony of His love when we sacrifice, bear the burdens of others, the testimony of His strength when we are weak but

strengthening others, the testimony of His riches when we share, a testimony of His humility when we value others more than ourselves. Their hearts are thirsty to see the testimony of Jesus, although so often we only repeat the story without getting the question, because without seeing the testimony of Jesus in us, there is nothing to ask about. Then the testimony becomes a story without a question, peddling an empty dogma, like signing without a melody.

If you received a letter stating that the state exempts you from taxes and writes off all previous debts, in addition, it will pay you an allowance every month from now on, provide you with free living space and food. Without understanding such a naive, good and simple message, the only thing you will pay attention to is whether the letter is original and who signed it. Only this will determine whether you will accept the content of this letter. So, it is with the testimony of Jesus. It is not what you tell that is important to the listeners, but who signed your story and whether you can see the original in you. They are looking for an authentic and original stamp and footprint, not mistakes in our stories. Only the Holy Spirit can engrave that mark - a true mark of Christ's character and the sign "I am in you". As you speak, the eyes of those around you will wonder, asking: "Someone touched this person's heart, someone left a stamp on it." Once they see the stamp, they will start reading the letter as well.

*2 Corinthians 3:3* **You show that you are a letter from Christ**, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

In his letters to the churches, the apostle Paul often rejoices that their love and faith have become visible and known, so that he no longer needs to teach and preach. The letter of Christ has become VISIBLE in those believers, that is why it is read - not read in a

conference or assembly, but read from close, when your heart comes so close to another that you can read the letters imprinted by the Spirit of God.

When we read about the life of the apostle Paul, we notice how wonderful and fruitful his life was, how clearly and powerfully the testimony of Christ was visible in him. He was called to witness and preach the good news.

*Acts 22:15* **You will be his witness** to all people of what you have seen and heard.

In these words, the Spirit of God reveals to Paul that he will be a witness, and that is why he will preach the Gospel. Advertisement without certificate is for information and reference only. Paul was not called only to testify, but he BECAME a witness, that is why he preached. Paul's preaching was authentic, realistic, and attracting others to Christ, but not to himself. In his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul shares the simplest way of preaching the word of God, which is not a method, a principle or "7 steps to successful evangelism", but a sharing of life. Paul was a witness and shared with others not only the Gospel, but also his life.

*1 Thessalonians 2:8* so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God **but our lives as well.**

That is why God considered Paul worthy because he followed in the footsteps of Jesus. Jesus not only preached the news of the kingdom of heaven, healed the sick, cast out demons, taught, performed miracles, but also shared His life - giving it for us. Jesus did it out of love, testifying Himself that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for others. In Paul's ministry, this self-sacrifice and sharing of life with others opened the door for the work of God's Spirit.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Preaching without testimony is like presenting the Gospel without life, so the Spirit of God leads us to preach life.

The Spirit of God brings us to the weak, that we may strengthen him, He shows us the unloved, that we may warm his heart, He brings us to the poor, that we may enrich him. Therefore, do not be surprised if there are those on your path who need not information, but life.

Often, we think that a person needs a miracle to believe, so we seek and desire to see and show them many signs and wonders. It seems to us as the fastest and most efficient way. Without realizing it, we begin to preach miracles without substance, hoping that they will lead to Jesus. However, in the Gospel Jesus showed that miracles without knowledge and without life capture attention only for a short time. Knowing only His strength, but not His heart, you will be disappointed. A large crowd saw how Jesus multiplied the bread, so they followed Him, but it did not last long. Also, a large crowd came to Jerusalem to seek and see Jesus, because they had heard about His miracle when Lazarus was raised from the dead. But in the end, they hated Him.

*John 12:17-18* Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, **went out to meet him.**

Miracles and signs are meant to confirm the message that the Lord is preaching. The miracles turn your eyes to Jesus and step back

leaving you alone before Him so that you may receive Jesus into your heart out of love. The miracles serve as markers to show where your heart shall be, they point the way and seal the message of grace.

*Acts 14:3* So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, **who confirmed the message of his grace** by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

But God gives wonderful grace to hearts that love Him. When you cling to Him and serve out of love, when you surrender to Him unconditionally and forever, then you see the miracles that are possible to see only by knowing His heart. Mary Magdalene followed and served Jesus out of love, even after His death she did not stop living for Him. She was the first and only one to see the resurrected Jesus, who had not yet ascended to the Father. This indescribable but silent miracle is, as it were, a response to the beating of a loving heart.

## EPILOGUE

### **So, what is God like?**

I also wanted to know the answer to this question. There were so many answers, and so different, that I didn't want to believe any of them. How to choose the right answer and get caught in such a confusion of doctrines, norms, experiences, morals, religions, teachings and scares, how not to get lost in these tracks and labyrinths, how to get a personal testimony of God, if He can testify? With no answers, I was left with dreams that only God could do it.

But when I heard the message about Jesus, about the Son of God who died for me, who is real, true, working and showing what God is like, I received His personal testimony that no one can deny, change or steal. I received it within, as an irrefutable proof of His existence, as a way out of a tangled labyrinth. How the heart rejoiced when it found out that there is God and when it saw Jesus Christ. This experience that God is and that He is as Jesus Christ is, was wonderful and vivid, as vivid as the birth of a new man. From then on, my path to knowing Him began.

I wanted so much to see and experience His works, miracles, and workings that I lost everything and longed for His power, spiritual gifts, and a real miraculous life. And I have seen that in my life and in the lives of others. At that time, if someone asked me what was my most memorable day, what was the greatest experience of God that I had and what was the closest and most real touch with Christ that happened in my life, I did not hesitate to remember the baptism of the Holy Spirit, when He came down and filled me with other tongues and, when I felt His power circulating throughout my body. Oh, what a baptism it was, what an experience it was,

leaving not the slightest doubt about His presence, power and works. I also remembered all the prophecies and visions that God had spoken about His promises and plans. Oh, how they strengthened me, making me even more eager to serve Him in the power of the Spirit. I also remembered the gifts of the Spirit, which I sought so much and which He granted. Oh, what grace and power it was. I watched His power and miracles in my life and in the lives of others, and I ran after Him. I marvelled at the healings, the incredible "coincidences," the miraculous provision, and the workings of God. Oh, how wonderful it was, how heartwarming it was.

But there came a day that overtook me without signs and wonders, without conferences and meetings, when I was left alone with a little knowledge of God, the God who alone has power, gifts, healings and miracles. At that time, sin and darkness came back into my life, when, stumbling and not knowing who was the one whose strength I longed for, I turned back and left Jesus. I knew that He died for me, that He forgives and is merciful, just and loving. I knew it, but I didn't recognize it.

Could His works, power, signs, blessings, and gifts that my heart longed for keep me close to Jesus? Could this force forgive me and give me the thirst or the slightest desire to go back? Therefore, for many years I lived the way one lives after running away from home: rebelliously, independently, without the desire, strength and hope to return.

Can a weak and exhausted man fall into a deep hole, get out and dig himself out? Can a hard and empty heart be filled again with the thirst and strength to return to God? I really couldn't.



However, the day came when the grace of God opened up and filled my heart with the desire to say just one word - "forgive me". That word changed everything, instantly washing away the dirt and removing a huge burden of guilt and condemnation. He revived the hope and faith and gave me the strength to look at Jesus who died for me, who is faithful and merciful. Then I accepted the greatest treasure, the greatest jewel that I carry to this day - God's forgiveness. It is so real and visible that it is impossible not to notice it. No miracle happened that day, no earth shook, I was not even healed of anything, no servant of God preached or exhorted me, no prophecy or exhortation sounded in my heart. Without seeking I found, without asking I received. He found me and pulled me out. One word was enough - "forgive me" and untold riches of His mercy and grace entered my heart.

And today, when I look back and think, which day is the most beautiful, which knowledge and experience of God is the most precious and strongest? I remember with wonder and gratitude God's power and miracles, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, prophecies and healings, but not a single day can compare to the riches that came down from heaven the day I said - "forgive me". This is the greatest miracle of God, because He opened and showed not His strength and works, but His heart. He is indeed faithful, loving and merciful. I haven't just read about it - I know. Therefore, now I would like to tell you not about His works, but about His heart.

So, what is He like? He is wonderful...

*Isaiah 9:6* For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful** Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

# **The Testimony of Jesus**

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If you want to purchase this book, please contact:

Phone: +370 616 06869

Email: [jotikslas@gmail.com](mailto:jotikslas@gmail.com)

Website: [www.jotikslas.lt](http://www.jotikslas.lt)