

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"WITNESS"

"You are my witnesses, declares the LORD, and My servant whom I have chosen; so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He. Before Me, no god was formed, nor there one after me." Isaiah 43:10

It is a wonderful truth that individuals who believe in God have been chosen to know, believe, and understand that God is real. Whether people are believers or not, this coronavirus pandemic has challenged everyone to consider who they believe in and what their real priorities are. Although individuals may worship idols, the One True and Living God declares in this verse that no idol, no little god, can be compared to Him. Believers are the LORD's witnesses. Witnesses play a very important role in our world. As we witness horrific killings of black men and women played out before our eyes, we must appreciate the various witnesses of these incidents who have come forward. However, we know that some witnesses are truthful, and some are liars. As Christians, we want to be truthful witnesses. In St. Matthew 18:15-17, Jesus taught about conflict resolution in the church and the important role that witnesses play. Verse 15: ***"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over."*** Verse 16: ***"But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."*** In verse 17, the next step is to go to the church, but the hope at this point is that these witnesses can help resolve the matter.

Act 1: 8: The writer describes a great promise from Jesus to the early church. ***"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."*** In 2020, we who are believers, are blessed to be witnesses that Jesus spoke the truth. Today, there are witnesses of the gospel all over this world. Hebrews 12:1 gives us some great advice on how to be an effective witness. ***"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*** An old song of the church asks this timely question: ***"Will you be a witness for my Lord?"***

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
We thank you for the great cloud of witnesses we have seen in our lives. We thank you for Your servants, those who came before us, our parents, grandparents, neighbors, teachers, pastors, church members, and others who were such wonderful witnesses of Your love and faithfulness. Please bless us to be effective witnesses for such a time as this. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

How will you respond to today's message?
