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## **How the Power of God (Love) Changed My Life**

A Testimony of My Life in Christ

- A. I Corinthians 13:1, 7&8a, 13
- B. I John 4:16-19
- C. I Corinthians 2:2-4
- D. Acts 26:16-18
- E. **My determined purpose is to testify of Jesus, nothing but Jesus! Today the Spirit of the Lord has instructed me to testify of the life that Jesus delivered me into. Yes, I have been delivered out of many things. I've been born again for 30 years. But I'm on the victory side. The most glorious part of my testimony is the wonderful life that He has delivered me INTO. Hallelujah!**

### **Definitions:**

**Testimony:** To affirm or declare solemnly for the purpose of establishing fact, to bear witness, to support the truth. It leads to evidence. Testimony differs from evidence. Testimony is the declaration of a witness; evidence is the effect of that testimony on the mind or in the degree of light it affords. Testimony gives weight to something it affirms. Testimony can be by preaching, speaking or proclaiming or it can be by writing. Testimony is the "fruit" that comes forth and shows, either good and much or bad and little...fruit.

- F. **Testimony can be for good and much** or bad and little. Examples could be:
  1. **Life testifies – Death testifies:** Creation is a testimony of life, Decay and corruption testify of death.
  2. **Faith testifies – Fear testifies:** Hope & trust in good things vs. hope and trust in negative or bad things.
  3. **Righteousness testifies – Sin testifies:** Confidence and surety in our right-standing with God which draws us closer to Him vs. a shrinking away from God for fear of punishment.
  4. **Love testifies – Hate testifies:** Evidence of trust and peace vs. evidence of Fear, confusion, abuse.
  5. **Truth testifies – Deception and lies testify:** Openness and light vs. confusion and error.
  6. **Hope testifies – hopelessness testifies:** A desire to overcome vs. a desire to give up and die.
- C. **A testimony is also: An overcoming Law of the Spirit**

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1. Revelation 19:10 says that they overcame by the blood of the lamb and the Word of their testimony. The definition of testimony in that scripture passage says this: *The vital breath, the inspiration of all inspired preaching and interpretation of The Divine will and purpose including both mine and yours.*
  2. Ps 19: 7 *The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.* The evidence of the testimony that is from God is that the simple are made wise.
  3. I Corinthians 14:24-25 *But if all prophecy (inspired preaching and teaching, interpreting the divine will and purpose) and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: and thus the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.*
  4. Acts 10:34-38 No respecter of persons, Hoe God anointed Jesus of Nazareth...Announcing the good news of the Gospel of peace, by Jesus Christ who is Lord of all...
- D. I am giving testimony today about God (Love) and how He has changed my life. Jesus gave testimony of who the Father was, and we give testimony of Who He is! Hallelujah! Jesus prayer to the Father was in John 17: 20 neither do I pray for these alone but for those who come to know me through their words and teaching..., where Jesus asks for the fullness of all that He was and is be in us...Col 2:9-10 the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and you are IN HIM....**
- E. **God is love:** I John 4: 16-17 –19 Love that transforms, love that changes and renews, love that gives new life!

The Testimony of How Love Changed My Life  
by Pastor Sherry Gregory

When I try to think of all the reasons that I love God, the first thing that comes to mind is the personal experience of being born again at the age of 17. What an experience! Something happened to me when I stood up in the Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas Texas, that changed my life forever! (2 Corinthians 5:17-21, new creation) Then how God brought me out of not knowing who I am in Christ into knowing who I am in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 2:14-16 a sweet fragrance)! Through all that I have experienced, God has always seen to it that His plan caused me to have victory in spite of myself. I have always desired to serve Him with a pure heart, and so though I made some very major and dangerous mistakes, He saw me through! I've come through to the other side of all of them, so that I could do the things He has called me to do as a minister of God (Ephesians 2:10 we are His handiwork).

God has brought me into a life of wonderful adventure and joy! It seems that every since I really decided to live for Him completely, the excitement has not stopped! When I took the step of faith to separate myself and my daughter, from dangerous people and live for Jesus as I knew I had been called to do when I was 17 and first saved, my life changed completely!

I moved to Illinois to live in a Cabin on my parent's property there, and as I searched for a good Word-based church, I met my husband, Bob. At that time, he had already been Ordained and had a teaching ministry in that church. A woman had prophesied to me before I moved that I would marry a preacher. But I did not want to accept that, though in my heart that is always what I had wanted (2 Corinthians 6:14-16 be not unequally yoked).

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I had chosen wrongly in the past, and I knew I must choose correctly only by the spirit in my new life. (2 Corinthians 5:16, *Look at no-one merely after the flesh any longer...READ*)

In December of 1995 I was married to Bob and we began to pray for God's direction for this "new creature in Christ" that we had become by being married. After establishing "Advance Ministries", which was the first part of the vision that God had put in my husband's heart, we began to pray about attending Bible school together as a new couple in Christ. In 2 Timothy 2:15, the Word says, *study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth...* We prayed about which Bible School to attend together. We considered only three, Jerry Savelle's J.S.M.I., Rhema Bible School, or Oral Roberts University, and after prayer and seeking the Lord's plan, we received specific direction to attend Jerry Savelle Bible Institute and School of World Evangelism.

Brother Jerry Savelle is Brother Kenneth Copeland's very closest ministry partner with exception to his wife Gloria. We knew that Brother Jerry was totally non-compromised and that his school would carry total integrity and honor, and that we could also glean from being in an area where KCM was. When Brother Jerry opened his school of World Evangelism, Brother Copeland got into agreement with Brother Jerry and Ms. Carolyn Savelle. Both of these ministers of God will testify that the two families do almost everything together. Though my husband had already been operating in the ministry as a Pastor and teacher ordained by the Full Gospel Church in Olney, IL, we felt it especially important to get our new life together started with a very special focus from God. The Lord told Bob and I to go to JSMI, to learn about and to consecrate our specific part of Jesus' ministry. As the scripture says in Proverbs 18:16, ***A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men***, we knew that we were being placed in divine appointment and association with men and women of God who had first-hand experience at living the faith life the right way, and we were determined to do it right.

Though Bob had been on a ladder to being vice president of Champion Laboratories, a great career, when the Lord told us to pack up everything we had and move to Fort Worth, Texas, we knew we had to be obedient. He gave more than ample notice to the company, and they assured him that he would have a position waiting for him if and when we ever came back. It is so important that we not get flighty as Christians. Though sometimes a step of faith is quite bold and may seem to be crazy to others, we will always have great peace and it will always match up with the Word of God. We should never behave or live in a way that defames the name of Jesus. It is of utmost importance that we operate in great integrity and honor in everything that we do. Mark 10:29-30 (If one has given up and left houses, brothers, sisters, mothers...100 fold, now...)

When we had been accepted into JSMI, we began to arrange for jobs, and an apartment, long distance. God's favor was on us with every step. I was able to secure a part-time position at a Christian daycare, and we were able to lease an apartment there also, sight unseen no less! We then planned to drive straight through 16 hours and move in to a place we had never seen before, trusting God and His leading. We felt like kids on an "Adventure of Faith," as in the title of Brother Jerry's magazine, as Bob, Bevin and myself drove away in a Ryder truck packed with all of our worldly belongings headed for Bible school. We would never be the same again! Acts 26: 16-18 ( READ) When we arrived, we were pleased to find that our

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apartment was beautiful, and when we visited JSMI, we were welcomed with warmth. We were given favor in everything; miracles began to be everyday occurrence for us. One day we were given a landscape job of pulling weeds and raking, then mulching, by the woman at the daycare that had hired me long distance (again sight unseen). After an 8-hour day of work, she handed us a check for \$500.00 for our 8-hour day! She said that she wanted to sow seed into what God was doing in our lives. This helped to pay part of our first tuition and books, but we were still short by \$500.00, on the day of enrollment. We and a brother in Christ who had traveled to JSMI from China to attend school, named Peter Ng, cried and prayed together waiting for a miracle of financial blessing that day. By 5:00 PM, we received a call telling us that had the rest of our money had been given to us by God himself. Our registration was paid for! Thus our walk of faith began and has not ended. God fulfilling every need and every desire along the way! We had to believe God for the monthly tuition, our rent and everything and He brought to us every penny we needed and much more. We never lacked for anything. We had some lean times as we did not make as much money as Bob had made before, but we always had abundant food, and provision for every detail of our lives. I Corinthians 15:57-58 READ

JSMI, or now re-named Heritage of Faith Christian Center, and no longer a ministry school as it was back when Bob and I attended was an astounding and exceptionally wonderful school for “ministers to be.” One of the unique qualities is that close association with other ministers who walk by faith and by the leading of God’s Holy Spirit, and not just by the world’s ways. We were privileged to be taught by many famous ministers of God, throughout that first year taught our classes. We had Brother Jerry and Ms. Carolyn Savelle, Brother Copeland, Sister Gloria Copeland, Pastors George and Terri Pearsons, Pastors Allan and Beverly Shook, Happy and Jeanie Caldwell, Jessie & Cathy Duplantis, Dennis and Vicky Burke, Miles Monroe, Keith Moore, Creflo Dollar, Pastor Steve Landa, Todd and Julie Powers, who were the deans of JSMI, and Rhema graduates themselves. There were so many others who have graduated from ORU, Rhema, or JSMI and gone on to minister the Word powerfully. The unique thing about JSMI was that every day, we had such a strong impartation of the anointing from so many proven and well-noted faith ministers and speakers. We grew in the Lord so fast! We were so full of the Lord’s presence daily, what a fantastic experience! Matthew 10:41 (receive a prophet in the name of a prophet, Hebrews 6:12 (who through faith and patience are attaining the promises).

We not only were being taught the basic bible principles, and practical leadership training, but were having the anointing of God imparted in great measure daily!

After a year of training we were hired as staff members at JSMI International Headquarters, in Crowley, TX. We lived in Fort Worth, and now had become an actual part of an international ministry staff, which in the following year lead to full licensing and Ordination by Jerry Savelle Ministries International! I was hired in the Customer Service dept., Bob in the Prison Ministry dept. We were of about 50 other employees in the whole earth, who had been chosen to be on staff at that international office (the headquarters over several offices in other countries).

At JSMI, I became very proficient on the computer and in secretarial and accounting skills. I was involved in answering calls and taking orders, receiving donation monies by mail, as well as international monies and tape and book orders, and reconciling deposits for three

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different accounts (from general funds to international bank accounts), and writing letters to our JSMI partners. Bob was in charge of ministering (by mail through Brother Jerry's correspondence course) to inmates over all 50 states, and training Bible school students in an internship program.). We were getting hands on ministry training, with an international ministry of great renown, and having the distinct honor of a lifetime! As time progressed, I was promoted to Assistant to the Director of Publications who was then Brother Jerry & Ms Carolyn's daughter, Terry Savelle Foy, and then again to full-time minister in the JSMI Prayer department, under Mrs. Joyce McCroskey. After another change in my duties, I worked with a fantastic woman of God, who was in charge of all of the house keeping and maintenance of the guest houses and both ministry buildings. The part I loved the most was the constant fellowship with those of like precious faith and the ability to pray whenever the Holy Spirit inspired us, to talk freely of our faith and share experiences on a daily basis to encourage each other.

Another wonderful experience while employed at JSMI was that I was put in charge of caring for all of the tropical plants in all areas of the ministry and in the Savelle's home (because of previous experience and study in horticulture) and at the School and in the Headquarters buildings. This required me to be out of the prayer department 1 & ½ days per week. What an honor and a thrill to get to know our mentors, and see them in their private lives somewhat as well as in the ministry on a daily basis when they were not out of town ministering. By the time that we left JSMI, I had also learned the details of preparing for incoming quest speaker ministers by helping in the housekeeping department. I cleaned and prepared the quest houses for visiting ministers, helped purchase groceries and stock the shelves, cabinets, and refrigerators.

Now that we have our own Church and our ministry has expanded, I am so thankful to God for allowing me to train under such excellence in ministry. Yes I do follow after those who by faith and patience are attaining the promises! ( Heb 6:12) Yes God truly trained us in many details of conducting an international ministry! What an honor God has given to Bob and I and our daughter Bevin!

There were so many manifestations of Gods favor and answers to desires of our hearts that came to pass on a daily basis for us, that it would take much longer for me to tell of them all. But in our time at JSMI, we both met and had close dealings with many famous ministers and on hands training from them. Hands laid on and anointing imparted by them!

We served as Youth Pastors and established a new prison/jail ministry department at Faith Christian Fellowship of Fort Worth under Pastors Allan and Beverly Shook (Pastor Beverly has now gone home to be with the Lord, and Pastor Allan married Kim. She is also a wonderful woman of God and a very powerful minister. We were faithful members (went through membership classes) at Eagle Mountain International Church (EMIC) which is the church right on Kenneth Copeland Ministries property, that Kenneth Copeland's daughter and son-in-law, George and Terri Pearsons pastor. That is a church that is made up of ministers, a church were ministers go to be ministered to from all over the world. We were also operating at that time in our own ministry that we had founded before we moved to Fort Worth, Advance Ministries. Through Advance Ministries, we had a very active and successful Prison and Jail Ministry to local jails and prisons in the Fort Worth/Dallas metroplex.

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Some other manifestations of God's favor included, being given a fairly new car free and clear, being given a complete wardrobe of nice, expensive clothes (about three closets full), being given \$5000.00, at the right times, on two different occasions, as a result of two different answers to prayer. The Lord gave us a complete household of furniture (nice furniture) such as two bedroom suites (with the sheets and comforters to match included), lamps included, three leather couches with end tables and lamps, a beautiful glass dining room table and chairs to match. God is a good God and he gets pleasure in seeing his children prosper! Psalm 35:27 says, ***Let those who favor my righteous cause and have pleasure in my uprightness shout for joy and be glad and say continually, let the Lord be magnified, who takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.***

When we got instruction from the Lord in 1998 to take the "Strength of Faith" to the Midwest, we had learned by living in the midst of such a powerful group of ministers and leaders, how to walk out our lives by faith for real in our everyday lives, and how to get results from our prayers. We had always been willing to do anything that God wanted us to do, but we were at a time of intense increase in our ministry (Advance Ministries). Everything had begun to explode and increase so much that we had begun to train others to help us with it. So it was not an easy thing to do, but we knew we had to be obedient to what the Lord had told us to do. We prayed about what to do with Advance Ministries prison ministry program that we had developed, and the Lord showed us who to put in charge of it. We were told that we were to maintain Advance Ministries in Texas so, we left Advance Ministries with a couple that we had gone to school with who had become mature and loyal friends. Under the instruction of the Holy Ghost we trained them, and set the work in their hands. Brother Allan and Sister Shirley Eldridge managed and grew that prison and jail ministry to quite a success in the years that followed.

Bob had gone to Brother Jerry to get advice and see what he had to say about what we believed to be the leading of God to move and start a church. Brother Jerry had become such a dear mentor, we needed to be absolutely sure that we were doing the right thing. It was about 6 months before we felt the Lord had told us to leave, but Brother Jerry is such an honorable man, we simply could not do anything without first getting his blessing. We got Brother Jerry's blessing, in fact he told Bob that we were "being promoted" by the Lord. We were honored so greatly by the Savelles. We are in close contact with them on a daily to weekly basis even to this day and plan to stay vitally connected always. We were sent out by EMIC by Pastors George and Terri Pearsons. We got permission to use the name "Mount Eagle International Church" as was our first incorporated ministry name in Indiana (since then we have had it legally changed to Embassy Of Christ, Inc).

Pastor Stan Nixon, Senior Associate Pastor, at EMIC during that time, prayed over us that last Sunday in December of 1999. Then as before, we were given money to move with, a couple who are dear friends, George and Brenda Ballans, drove with us on our trip, and paid for all of the moving van fees. And as before, we packed up with everything we owned, and we moved into a townhouse that we had never seen, this time settling in Evansville, IN.

We held our first church service in a garage bay of Mobile Tell Radio, on January 2, 2000. To this day, our church has a motto, "Advance the Kingdom of God", and "No More Church as Usual." We have had such great favor in so many areas, and God is so Good!

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At the first writing of this testimony, we were blessed to lease the sanctuary in the Evansville Christian Life Center. What a wonderful experience we had renting from them, holding services in that old and stately building, tearing down the traditional constraints of “religion” with the purpose of freeing the Body of Christ so that they truly understand who they are IN CHRIST. When we approached them with the idea, they told us that they had been praying for a church to come in. We did not advertise because we only desired the church to increase by way of the Holy Ghost. We have had a main focus to always seek to do the will of the Father only, in the tri-state area, with a focus of a passion for God and a passion for souls.

Since moving to Evansville, we have been asked by Dr. Savelle to be Presidents Cabinet members. This is an elite group of Ordained ministers who serve on Brother Jerry’s Missions Board. This actually takes a personal invitation. Every President’s Cabinet member must be invited to be on this missions board and has to meet the highest of criteria. We have been honored by God first and by our mentor and big brother in the Lord, Brother Jerry Savelle.

15 years have passed since the summer that we moved to Fort Worth, and every year has grown richer. Yes, there have been challenges. The road has not been completely smooth. We could have given up many times, and there were times when we wanted to...it got tough! But, through it all we can say that the Lord has never left us, He has been faithful to fulfill His promises to us. We are healthy, happy and moving forward into His perfect will more and more every day.

Sometimes when I look back on it all I wonder how a girl who grew up in the United Methodist Church, as great as that experience was, in a middle class family near D.C. could have arrived at this place doing this that the Lord Himself has called me to do? I always knew that I was “unusual, unique, not fitting the mold or the status quo”, and now I know why, and I also know without a shadow of a doubt that “The best is yet to come”, Hallelujah! I realize that he called Bob & I both, as well as daughter Bevin, before the foundations of the world, to be and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. LOVE (God) has truly changed my life!

What have you desired to see come to pass in your life that you have not yet stepped out in faith about? With our God, there is nothing that is impossible. Hebrews 11:6, Mt 17:20, Mt 19:26, I Thess 5:23, Mt 9:35-38 Lord of the Harvest!

If you have any questions, need prayer or guidance about what you believe God has called you to do in your life, give us a call, email us or come to visit us.

We love you, and the Lord does too!

Pastor Sherry

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