

The Living Testimony of Moses

Hebrews 11:23-29—"By faith Moses being born, was hid three months by his parents, because they saw the child beautiful; and they did not fear the injunction of the king. By faith Moses, when he had become great, refused to be called son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction along with the people of God than to have the temporary pleasure of sin; esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, for he had respect to the recompense (reward). By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he persevered, as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he celebrated the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, that the destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as through dry land; of which the Egyptians having made trial were swallowed up.

Let's pray:

Lord, we always thank You for Your Word. Without Your Word what do we have? But because of Your Word the Holy Spirit is able to take it and make it alive and cause it to do a work in us that we could never otherwise experience. So as we read this Word, as we share some thoughts on this Word, we ask that the Holy Spirit would once again breathe upon it, that the Word would be made flesh in us, that it would have such transforming power that we would respond to it, and that we would see You as we never have. Lord, Your words are Spirit and life, not ours. Speak, Lord, we wait upon You, and we ask You to open Your Word to us this morning as we are gathered. In Your precious name. Amen.

I have been thinking about these seven verses, and they have been reverberating in my heart for the last few months. As I thought about them, and this is the gist of what I want to share, God willing if He would help and make it clear, is the testimony of Moses. Now if you think I am sharing about the testimony of Moses, you have missed my point. Even though I would like to borrow from the testimony of Moses, I would like to really share on the testimony God is looking for in His people as illustrated in the life of Moses. Now that is too long of a title to put on the website, so let's leave it at the testimony of Moses, and if you miss the point I will apologize again.

This is the burden that the Lord has laid on my heart. I think there is something wonderful in these seven verses, something precious and full in these seven verses, and when we look at them, we have to conclude that God did an amazing work in Moses. You have to conclude that. So much is written about Moses in the Word of God. This to me is one of those Holy Spirit's summaries of a life that God has done a work in. The New Testament often does that.

Think of David. Of course, David was this man after God's own heart we know from I Samuel 13:14. We know that, and yet when it comes to the New Testament, the Holy Spirit to me at least seems to sum it up all in one verse, Acts 13:36, and I love it in the New American Standard. It says, "For David after he served the purpose of God in his generation fell asleep and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay."

The second half of that verse is not the important part. I do not want to get into David's decaying, but I believe the first part of that verse is incredibly relevant. The Holy Spirit took out

from David's life and brought that singular focus into view, and that singular focus is that he served the purpose of God in his generation. Now do you think for a moment that verse is just about David? It is not! This is the testimony that God is looking for in all of His people.

I think about Abraham. You will agree, I think, when I tell you that Abraham is a very important man in the Scriptures. As a matter of fact, it says something extraordinary about Abraham in both Romans and Galatians. It says that he was the father of faith, and it goes so far as to say that he is our father. Now some of you, strictly speaking, might have trouble with that because God is our Father. But there is a message here, a deliberate message from the Holy Spirit: "I did something in this man's life to show you, My people, what I can do." So he is the beginning, the father of faith, and that is the summary of the Holy Spirit. It says about him in Acts 7:2 which is another one of those wonderful little verses that captures a whole life in a phrase.

It says, "The glory of God appeared to Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran."

This is the Holy Spirit's summary of a life that the God of glory appeared to. Brothers and sisters, if you are going to have a living testimony, something must happen to you. It might not be as dynamic as what happened to Abraham, but it has to be just as real. The God of glory must appear to you. You must have your own experience of the God of glory, and if you do, then you will have a living testimony. Just think about what happened. It transformed this idol worshiper into the father of faith, the father of all the people of God, in a sense, if you understand the context. Isn't that wonderful! May the Lord have such a summery about your life and my life. May it not be just a blank page, but at the end, may the Holy Spirit be able to say what God did in our life. This is pretty important.

Now Moses in particular is the Old Testament. Now you might think that is too strong of a word, but I do not think so. When you look at the Bible, David's name is second place and is mentioned 971 times. Now this is research; I did not count it. Seventh place is Abraham with 263. Moses is third place with 803. Now you might wonder who is first in the Bible that is mentioned. Jesus is mentioned over 1,200 plus times in the Bible. And when you think about how amazing that is, it is only in the New Testament because the name Jesus is not mentioned in the Old Testament. Abraham, David and Moses had the whole of the Bible in the Old Testament, and it is much larger than the New Testament. Yet that name which is above every name is, and always will be, first place in God's heart. Not only is it technically true in the number of mentions, it is true as far as a testimony of God.

Colossians 1:18: "And he is the head of the body, the assembly; who is the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, that he might have the first place in all things."

That is God's intention. That is always His intention. That is God's testimony. I do not know if you sense something of what the burden is, but today we will look at Moses' testimony in the Word of God. You have to understand that if we are going to have a living testimony. You have to understand Moses' testimony in what he did. Only then will you fully understand testimony. And you will have to understand Moses in what he saw. Moses saw something. Abraham saw something. David saw something, and it changed them forever. And for us to have living

testimony we are going to have to see something that changes us forever. That is the short version of the message.

Moses' Testimony in the Word of God

When you think of Moses, consider how much is written about Moses in the Word of God. It is amazing to me. It is voluminous, as we might say. He has a significant place in the Word of God; there is no question about it. Moses himself wrote the Pentateuch. By the way, I looked that word up because I felt for years I was mispronouncing it. We often say that you can always trust the internet; everything is true on the internet. But I love those websites that have Biblical pronunciations because I feel like most of my time in eternity will be apologizing to those saints of how I slain their names over the years; so it is helpful.

The Pentateuch is the first five books of Moses. We would not have the Bible, there would not be the Word of God without Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. This is called by the Jewish people the Torah. What a volume it is to show us who God is, what His intentions are, and what He is after. It is the basis of the whole Old Testament, and without it there would be no Word of God. It is the basis of the New Testament as well. You have to remember, we think we are so clever because we have the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. Thirteen of these were written by the Apostle Paul, almost half, and the Old Testament is the basis of the New Testament. We would not have the New Testament without the Old Testament, and I give it to brothers and sisters who lived in the 1st century because they only had the Old Testament. However, all of those writers drew and heard the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and were able to pen the New Testament on the basis of God's revelation in the Old Testament. That is how important the Word of God is. I hope you appreciate it. So this is a very important point about Moses' testimony in the Word of God. The Word of God gives an extraordinary place to Moses and his testimony. It says several things, and I just want to hit upon these things, and maybe it will give you a further impression of where I am headed.

The Man of God

In the Bible Moses was called "The Man of God." It is very significant. Can you imagine? Suppose for a moment that you were called the man of God. You would go to "My Imprint" and have a sweat shirt made that said: "Jerry, the man of God." You would wear it to the gym and everybody would see it and say, "Oh, look at him!" Moses, what an extraordinary thing! It says it seventy-eight times in seventy-two verses that Moses is the man of God. Can you think of a greater testimony than that? It is hard to imagine. Your epitaph, the way people remember you on your tombstone that says, "Man of God," you would be satisfied. But this is exactly what is in the Word of God about Moses. He was the man of God.

Now it is not only about Moses, but He is looking for you and for me, brothers and sisters, to be the man of God. Don't get all up in the air with me and say that is a sexist term. I do not want to even go there. I love what is says in Galatians, "There is neither male nor female in Christ Jesus, we are all bondmen." We are all men of God, so do not get upset. In this politically correct environment, you are to be a man of God; I am to be a man of God. That is the testimony first of all that the Lord is looking for.

The specific verse in Galatians 3:28 says, "There is no Jew nor Greek; there is no bondman or freeman; there is no male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Oh, what a living testimony it is!

I will just give you a few examples because if I were to read to you seventy-eight examples, you would all fall asleep, and you would leave sooner than later. But listen to what it says in Deuteronomy 33:1:

"And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death." How wonderful! Moses, the man of God!

And it says this in Joshua 14:6: "Then the children of Judah came near to Joshua in Gilgal, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, 'Thou knowest the word that Jehovah spoke to Moses the man of God, concerning me and thee, in Kadesh-barnea.'"

This was the summary of this man's life. Wouldn't you want this to be the summary of your life? That is the whole purpose of our lives in the Lord Jesus. I think it is quite powerful. As a matter of fact, Psalm 90 is Moses' Psalm. It says in the title, "A Prayer of Moses, the man of God." How wonderful! I believe this is significant. I believe this is of extreme importance. The one thing that God wants to do in my life and in your life is that in the end we would be men and women of God; even children of God, even sons of God, but men of God.

The Servant of the Lord

Secondly, it says about Moses another extraordinary testimony: Moses, the servant of the Lord. How about that! As a matter of fact, it even goes further than that. God says, "Moses, My servant." How tremendous! When I saw that, I trembled. I thought, Lord, is that true of us? We say it many times. Gunther, My servant. In the end will the testimony be: Anna My servant! I believe all the working of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is to bring us to that determined end. I think that is absolutely important.

One person wrote this: "Moses, the servant of God, is only mentioned of five people in the Bible who are called that." Amazing, isn't it! But I believe that is to illustrate, not to limit. We think, "Oh well, Brother Kaung was a man of God, a servant of the Lord." We think so and so is a servant of the Lord, but I will never be a servant of the Lord. Did you know that that is God's intention for your life, and in the end it is the testimony that He is looking for in you? I believe that is what is illustrated in these five.

It says also in Scripture in Joshua (KJV) 1:1-2a: "Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass that the Lord spoke unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses, my servant is dead;"

What a remarkable thing! I am not selling books, by the way, but I am going to mention it only because my message is only one message, and it is very focused, but it is not full. I do not want to give you the impression that we are doing a full study on Moses. Brother Kaung, in 1982, April and May, forty years ago, gave messages on Moses, "The Servant of God." They were profound. I remember hearing them, and I thought even then in my limited understanding, "Lord, this is what You want in Your people."

These messages are still available, and I have enjoyed going back and hearing Brother Kaung's passion in the spoken word, not just the written word. It has been put in a book, and because I am not going to cover this as thorough as you might want, you ought to get this book. As a matter of fact, I prepared almost this whole message, the whole outline, all the thoughts, and I remembered Dora handing me this some time ago. So I eventually read it, and I want to encourage you to read it: "Moses, the Servant of God." Brother Kaung deals with this matter in a much more thorough detailed way. Thank the Lord. It tells us that Moses was not only the man of God, he was also the servant of the Lord. What a testimony! And I believe we need to see that, and it needs to be what God works out in us.

He said, "Moses is called 'the servant of the Lord', and 'Moses My servant', more than anyone else in the Old Testament." Pretty remarkable, isn't it? Don't you think maybe we need to spend a little time meditating about what it was in Moses that He was doing? What is it? Why do we need to pay attention to it? It was not just God's desire for one, or five, or 144,000 in Revelation to overcome. It is God's desire for all of us. That is the testimony He wants in the end.

Faithful in All My House

The Bible goes on to say other things. It calls Moses faithful in all my house. That steps up the testimony. Suppose the Lord said of you, "You are faithful in all My house." What an extraordinary statement to be made about a person. But yet that is the record, the testimony in the Word of God.

You remember Miriam the prophetess, Moses' sister, Moses owed a lot to his sister. Moses was put in an ark of bulrushes as a baby by his mother, and as it drifted down the Nile, it was Miriam, the older sister who walked in the reeds and watched it. When the maidens of Pharaoh's daughter saw it and took it to her, Miriam was the one who intervened and said, "Should I get you a nursemaid?" It happened to be Moses' mother. Can you imagine! This is the sovereignty of God. Miriam was his older sister whom he loved. Aaron, who was the first high priest in the Old Testament, was his older brother whom he loved. And they challenged him and turned on him. They said something to Moses about the Cushite woman who was his wife, but the basic thrust of the argument was, "Does God speak only to you?" They challenged him, and it was in that context that God spoke up and defended him. It says something wonderful after that incident, so important in this Scripture, "Not so My servant, Moses. He is faithful in all My house." What a thing to be said about you! What a thing that could be said about me if we allow the Holy Spirit to do His work. These three things alone are outstanding.

Now I do appreciate the writer of Hebrews, and that is the only phrase I can come up with. One day I might have to apologize to people who insisted to me who the writer of Hebrews is. But nevertheless, that anonymous and anointed writer of Hebrews picked up on this testimony of God about Moses.

In Hebrews 3:5 he said, "And Moses (this is how the Holy Spirit captures things) indeed (it does not say that in the Old Testament) and Moses indeed was faithful in all His house, as a ministering servant, for a testimony of the things to be spoken after;"

This is the explanation, and this propelled a lot of my burden for a testimony of things spoken after. It was to create a living testimony in the man, one that we need, one that we must have to be called the man of God and the servant of the Lord. "Indeed," I was so captured by that word. You remember what it says in I Corinthians 4:1-2 about being stewards of the mystery. Paul was talking about us being the apostle's stewards of the mystery, and the Darby Version uses "servants of Christ" and says, "What is required of a stewards is to be faithful." That is all that is required.

You remember the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 about the one who God gave five talents and the one God gave two talents, and the one that God gave one talent. Then there was the conclusion about the dealing. The five traded and got five more talents, so he had ten. The one who had two talents traded and did business and gained two more talents to have four. You remember, I am sure, about the one talent person who buried and hid his talent because he thought God, his Master, was a hard Man, and He was requiring too much of him.

In the end the response is the same to the one with the five talents or the two talents. Let me say to you, you will not be Moses. You might have five talents, you might have two talents, you might only have one talent, but whether you have five or two or one, God is looking for the same thing in all three, and if He finds it, the reward is great.

We often share this in verse 21 when people pass: "Well done." As a matter of fact, in the English Version the Well is capitalized. "Well done!" He needed to say it with emphasis. But then it says: "Thou good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things." He is looking for those who are faithful in little (Darby). I believe this testimony in the Word about Moses, who was faithful in all God's house, is precisely what the Lord is looking for in His people today. And in the end your reward will be based on that one thing. Were you faithful? Think of it! It is sobering.

I do not believe Matthew 25 is about salvation; I think it is about the kingdom and reward. You do not lose your salvation; you cannot lose your salvation. You holiness people, I love you dearly, but you have not been able to convince me yet that anyone can lose their salvation. It is the grace of God and the free gift of God, and you will never lose it, but you can lose your reward. You could miss out on the kingdom, the 1,000 year kingdom. You could miss the first resurrection that is in Revelation 20:4-6. All that He is looking for is faithfulness, one who is faithful. In the little things, he said, "Be faithful." That is the testimony God is looking for. It is precious.

God Spoke Directly to Moses

Another thing about Moses is that God spoke directly to him. What a testimony! Miriam and Aaron got all stirred up about this, and God had His answer to them. He said, "Not so, my servant Moses: He is faithful in all my house. Mouth to mouth do I speak to him openly," (see Numbers 12:7-8) Now I know some of your versions say, "Face to face I speak to him." That is a powerful testimony! Then He went on to say, "and not in riddles; and the form of Jehovah doth he behold." How precious!

Now brothers and sisters, there used to be a day when you said, "God spoke to me," and they would lock you up and put you in Western State in the mental institution. But we believers

know that God speaks to us. We know it from the anointing and the unction that is from the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. We know it when the Word of God, which is ink on the page, becomes a living revelation by the Holy Spirit. We know it when we worship and pray, and His presence, His promised presence is so real. We know it when we are with brothers and sisters. This is the testimony that we are to have—God speaks to us. How precious! I believe these things are of tremendous value for us to understand.

The meekest of All Men

Finally, and this is important, Moses was the most humble person. Just for a moment let me play with you and myself. If it was said of you, man of God, servant of the Lord, faithful in all my house, I speak to you face to face, could you be humble? If even an iota of one of those things was said about me, my head would be so big it would not fit in this building. It would be like one of those helium balloons tied to a basket and swelled to a degree that no one could imagine. I would probably tell everybody. But it is an extraordinary testimony. It says, “He was the meekest of all men upon the face of the earth.” Have you ever thought about that? I think that is incredible. If any human being ever in creation had a right to be proud, a justifiable right to be proud, it was Moses. But it says that he was the humblest of all men. This is all in that same incident in which Miriam and Aaron challenged him. “I speak to him face to face, and he will behold the form of God.” What a testimony!

Brothers and sisters, in this context, Brother Kaung brought this out, and I have heard it for years. I must remember it from years ago when he first said it. He said, “When it comes to God, Moses would always defend God.” You remember when he came down from the mountain, his face shining with glory, and he saw the rebellion of the people of God, he took the tablets of stone and cast them down and broke them. When it came to defending God, he was a lion, but when it came to defending himself, he was silent. He never did that. I think our first reaction would be, somebody said something to me, and I want to defend myself immediately. But I learned the testimony that God is looking for from this man of God; he never defended himself. It is remarkable! It is a remarkable testimony in the Word of God.

Do you think his older sister, who was responsible for him getting to where he was, and the high priest, Aaron, saying these things about him, surely he would defend himself, but he left it with God. There are many times I have foolishly defended myself. What a waste! My advice to you is leave it with God. If He is creating His testimony in you, He will take care of it. You do not worry about it.

Well, here is a word of encouragement, and I mean this very seriously. This is what I took away from this. Maybe you will say, “Moses could do that, but it will never be true of me. It will never be true of you.” It was not true of Moses. It was not true of Moses. God had to make it so. He is in the transforming business; He is in the making business. You remember when the high calling of God came to Moses to be the deliverer of his people out of Egypt. He was in Egypt and the rockstar (as we say today) of Egypt. It says, “All the people loved him.” That is what the Word of God says. He was a prince in the court of Pharaoh destined to be the heir apparent of Pharaoh. Can you imagine a Hebrew having such a position! That was what Moses said.

Then you get to the point when he realized his calling, and he tried to take matters into his own hands. He saw the Egyptian, a task master, who was oppressing his Hebrew brother. It must have been all those moments that his mother Jochebed told him as she nursed him about his calling. The Holy Spirit must have made it alive and stored those things in his heart. Then he tried to do it himself, and he slew the Egyptian. He was a powerful man apparently. He was one of those guys you find at the gym, very powerful. He did it with his bare hands, and he stuffed him in the sand. He thought he was so wise and could do so many things.

The next day he saw two Hebrew brothers quarreling, so he came up to them, thinking he was ready to be the servant of God. He was ready to be the man of God. Now he thinks, "I know my calling; I can do it." So he went up and talked to them about reconciling and peace, and one Hebrew said, "Who made you judge and Lord over us?" What a statement! "Will you kill me the way you killed the Egyptian?" And the whole story was out, and Moses fled in fear to Midian. And it was in the deserts of Midian that this testimony was wrought in Moses.

Let me put it in stronger terms. Moses was a complete failure! You think that is too strong. That is what the Word of God says. God took him apart to do a work in him in the deserts of Midian. He found his wife Zipporah, and he became his father-in-law's shepherd with a few sheep in the deserts of Midian. It is hard enough to work for your father-in-law, but to take care of his few measly sheep? You remember the phrase in the Old Testament that talks about Moses in Egypt. "He became exceedingly great." Isn't that remarkable! Here is this guy taken out of Egypt where he was just about to be the heir of Pharaoh, all of the treasures of Egypt were his, and then he was taken to the deserts of Midian where he tended his father-in-law's sheep. Can you imagine!? They would say to him: "Who do you work for?" "I work for my father-in-law keeping a few sheep." Sometimes I wonder if Moses didn't tell the sheep, "Do you know who I am? I am the prince of Pharaoh; I have learned in all the learnings and wisdom of Egypt. I became very great; listen to me." I can imagine his sheep looking up at him and saying, "Baa." God took him there for a reason.

If you are going to have a testimony, a living testimony, God has to take you into a place where He can deal with you, where He can transform you, where He can conform you to the image of the Lord Jesus. That is where the testimony was made; not in Egypt. Moses could never do it. You can never do it. Only God can do it. Only the Holy Spirit can do it, and He will make it His aim to transform you from what you are in your natural to what you are in Christ Jesus. That is the testimony of Moses.

This great man became a great failure. He gave up; he thought it was over. "I had better learn to like sheep. I better learn to enjoy the deserts of Midian because my life is over." Hardly was it over. God brought him that infamous day to the burning bush (Exodus 3) and there he saw a sight he had beheld many times before in the desert. There was an old thorn-bush, an old bramble bush, dried up, a waste, of little value, could not do anything, rolling, tumbling and burning up in an instant. But in this scene, Moses talks about the sight which caught his eye because what he saw at that moment was a fire inside of this old dried up thorn bush. And it burned brightly, but the thorn-bush was not consumed. And there was revealed the secret of testimony. It is not you, it never will be you. It is not Moses; it never was intended to be Moses. It is to be the fire of God

in you. God did not give him too much explanation. He just said, "Moses, I AM." That is our testimony. Do you get it? Brothers and sisters, we have to see this. If we do not we will serve God in our own strength. We will serve God with our own wisdom. We will serve God with our own knowledge. But when you see the secret, you are done, and your dependence on yourself is done.

One of the first messages I gave as a young man was a message called, "Delivered to Dependence." I did not know altogether what I was saying, but it was real to me. I had realized that this is the testimony God is after in you and me as illustrated in the life of Moses. You notice when you read that story the absence of confidence. He told Moses to go. "I cannot go; what will I say?" He even stuttered and stammered. This great man of Egypt no longer had the confidence and eloquence that he had in all the learning and wisdom of Egypt. Something happened. His confidence was now in the God who was in him, not the old dried-up good for nothing thorn-bush.

Now I realize I do not fit into a politically correct world. I know that very well. I know we are supposed to be telling everybody about self-esteem. I get that; the world tells us that. But that is not how God makes us. You always did built yourself up. Be all that you can be. Moses discovered the secret.

I believe this is the point. This is the testimony: the Word made flesh in us. That's it. In John 1:14 do you think that is just speaking about the Lord? In the first verse of John 1 it says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Verse 14: And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us, and we beheld His glory as of the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

I think that is testimony, the Word made flesh. That is what happened in Midian in Moses, and that is what needs to happen in your life.

Moses' Testimony in What He Did

The second point is Moses' testimony in what he did. I think this is important. When you read those seven verses in Hebrews chapter 11 there are three words that stand out. They are remarkable words. The first is "refused." The second is "choosing." The third is "esteeming." And Moses actually responded to the work of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit was wise enough to give us the recipe of how one responds to the work of the Holy Spirit and how one is transformed and made, and it is in these words. He refused—past tense by the way. Not only did he refuse, choosing is the second important word, and finally esteeming is a very important word. This is what Moses did. Now I hesitate to say what Moses did, but I want to use it to make a point. Really, if you think about it, it is not what Moses did; it is what God did and Moses' response to it. That is the secret. Just respond as the Lord is doing His work in you. It says, "By faith." It says it five times in those seven verses, "by faith." That is a phrase that is used all through Hebrews 11. "By faith."

Do you think it is your faith? It is never your faith. It is the faith of God. Do you remember in Galatians 2:20 how Paul realized his great revelation was, "I am crucified with Christ." He was a dead man, just like Moses, and not good for anything. "Nevertheless I live," (I live because Christ

lives in me; it is the fire in the bush. That was his secret, that was the fire.) “And the life that I now live, (a different life) is by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.” It is not your faith; it is not my faith.

He refused to be called “son of Pharaoh’s daughter.” Something dawned on him. He was called to be a son of God. He was called, and brothers and sisters, there is a step that we need to take in the Holy Spirit. We need to refuse. We need to drive a stake; we need to take a stand. I do not know when that will be for you, but it was after forty years of trying with Moses. One day it is going to dawn on you that you have a special calling on your life to be called a son of God. And it is all of His work that is going to make you a son of God. And the first thing, the most important thing you can do is refuse. You refuse this world. You remember Paul said to the Galatian Church in Galatian 6:14: “The world is crucified to me, and I am crucified to this world.” It no longer had a place in Moses. He was no longer called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He refused that calling. It is remarkable! Have you come to that place? Have you seen that nothing in this world is for you? Have you seen it? Have you really seen it. I think this is the beginning of transformative testimony. He was not born for Egypt; he refused Egypt. It is past tense. It is because he drove a stake. But it was not only that, he did something else.

Choosing—that is the word. Have you noticed choosing and esteeming are in the present tense. Now you know by this time with English I do not know what I am talking about, but I think it is the present perfect tense as some brothers have said. He is continually choosing. That is what we need to do. We often go to people with the Gospel, and I appreciate ones who went down for the Gospel time, and we say, “Choose Christ.” One of the brilliant things Brother Kaung said in those four messages is, “We do not choose God; God chooses us.” Did you know that? God chose Moses, but it was not until later he really realized it. But there is a choice we have to make. There is an agreeing with the Holy Spirit. There is a choosing you are faced with every day. It is present perfect. It is your daily experience in gaining that living testimony. The question is, are you doing that?

I think that choosing is a response first of all. To me it solves the whole dilemma. How many arguments and discussions has there been about predestination and free will? How many have there been? Predestination is God’s choosing you. Choosing is free will; it is response. You realize that God chose me, and I choose Him. I think this wonderful hymn we often sing at baptism is, “I have decided to follow Jesus.” That is choosing to me. It says, “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.” What a statement that is! “The world behind me, the cross before me. Though none go with me.” Here is the challenge to the testimony being worked out. When we see ones who are close to us, sometimes even turning against us, are you willing to choose to the point that you say, “Though none go with me, I still will follow.” I think that is the second word. It solves the problem of sovereignty and free will. It is a response. It does not begin with you; it begins with God, but once you realize it, you have to come into a connection with it and make it your daily on-going choice. Yes, you do choose God in a sense, but only because He chose you first. It is like that verse in John’s Epistle, “We love God because He first loved us.” That is choosing.

The last word is esteeming. What a word! Do you understand esteeming means to value something; it is the highest prize? Moses no longer looked at the treasures of Egypt which were immense and which were at his disposal. The Egyptians are still discovering remarkable treasures, unbelievable treasures from that vast empire. He did not esteem those as the true riches anymore. Something had happened, and he would rather suffer with the people of God.

Hebrews 11:26: "Esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt." That is a full verse. Is that your testimony? I think it was the Apostle Paul's testimony. Do you remember the letter he wrote to the Philippians in which he shared the deep things in his heart? He explained to them in Philippians 3, talking about all that he had. You talk about a rock star! I am sorry if that offends you, but among the Hebrew people he had it all. Then something happened. He saw the excellency of the knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and it turned him upside down. No longer was it the riches of the treasures of Egypt like Moses; it was the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. And he said because of that I have lost everything, but it was not a loss to him, and he said, "I counted it but dung." That is what God wants you to do. In the final analysis it is esteeming. Where is your value?

I do not realize how quickly I got to seventy-one years old. Where did it go? The temporary pleasures of Egypt. Where did it go? But I realize this. The treasures, reward and recompense are beyond anything you could ever have imagined. Remember what the Scriptures say, "It has not even entered into the heart of His people what God has prepared for those who love Him" (see I Corinthians 2:9).

Esteeming—what do you value? I believe if that testimony is going to be worked out in you, you are going to have to drive a stake. You are going to once and for all say, "I am no longer part of this world. I am a sojourner, refused. You are going to begin to choose and respond to the One who has chosen you. And you will discover, like Paul, where the real riches are. Those three words have so gripped me for these few months. I have been rethinking about them, and I cannot let them go.

Moses' Testimony in What He saw

Finally, we will consider Moses' testimony in what he saw. The secret is held to the end. It says in that wonderful passage in v. 27: "for he persevered, as seeing Him who is invisible." What a secret! Brothers and sisters, we often talk about vision, and we should, but we need to know what the vision is. And the vision is seeing Him; it will explain to you the church. Don't get so hung up on the church; the church is all fulfilled in Him; it will explain your life. Moses' secret and his testimony was that he saw Him who is invisible, and because he saw Him who is invisible, he was able to endure to the end. That was his secret. Do you want a secret? That is a secret. I think that is so tremendous. Think about it.

Moses was hated by Egypt once he made his choice. They wanted to drown him and the whole nation of Israel in the Red Sea, in a watery grave. He was even hated and despised by those whom God so greatly delivered from the bondage of Egypt. "Why did you bring us out here to die. We want the leeks and the onions and the sweet smelling things that are from Egypt; let us go back." They rebelled again and again, murmured again and again. What things he endured!

And then for his dear sister to come to him, the prophetess, and say, "Who are you?" And for his brother the high priest to come to him and say, "Does God only speak to you?" What he went through! How incalculable the suffering, but he had a secret. That secret enabled him go through everything. He saw Him who is invisible! That is what we need. That is the vision you need. That is how the testimony will be made real. The testimony of the word being made flesh in us. That is what has to happen; the testimony of our response. We understand Moses' response in these three words. The testimony of what he saw. What he saw made everything possible, and therefore we have this great testimony of this man of God. Here is the question: Is this just Moses' testimony? Don't you think there is a reason? It is in the Scripture so full, so thorough. It has to be. Remember what it says: "For a testimony to be spoken after." It is for us. It is for us; that is the testimony He is looking for. May the Lord do His work.

Father, we know when it comes to spiritual things, we cannot express fully what is in Your heart, but we are thankful You have not left us alone; you have given us the Holy Spirit. How we pray that the Holy Spirit will do what You want to do, to make us to be a people of testimony, a people of a living testimony, a people who know their God and have seen Him and understand the work He is doing and respond to it. Let us be those people. We ask this in Jesus' precious name. Amen.