

REDEMPTION

EMBRACING THE POWER, GRACE AND LOVE OF

JESUS CHRIST

MINI TESTIMONY OF REVEREND
DR. JAMES PAUL HUMPHRIES



TITLE: Redemption – Embracing the Power, Grace and Love of Jesus Christ

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Author: Dr. James Paul Humphries

Editors: Lorn Bergstresser

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Box 20569
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Phone 1-204-424-5414

E-mail: projectlambs@gmail.com

website: www.projectlambs.com

Facebook: ProjectLAMBSInternational

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Dedicated:

TO

Pastor Glenn Breitkreuz and to the Christian Fellowship Assembly in Grand Prairie Alberta, where the vision of this book was birthed forth by a request from the Pastor to come and give a testimony to the people. This resulted in the opening of my eyes to God's redemptive power over my life.

TO

Irene who showed me so much grace and love, and who mentored and equipped me into who I am in Christ Jesus today.

TO

Hkaw Win who showed me so much of the "love of God" and has helped me to walk and become the discipler for Jesus Christ worldwide.

TO

My children and grandchildren who I leave this testimony to of how the hand of Jesus Christ has guided your father and grandpa for over the last 65 years, taking me from a life of destruction to one that has been full of His grace, mercy and love. I pray that my pilgrimage and testimony will be a light and help to you as you search out the divine presence and anointing of His Holy Spirit for your life's journey.

TO

All the people that have been part of my redemptive journey. You have been used by Christ Jesus to make me and mold me into who I am by being special channels of the Holy Spirit of Christ. Plus, thank you to the church body who did not reject

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me, but gave me room to mature to the place where Christ could use me to bear fruit for His glory.

Finally, I encourage all believers to keep on keeping on for Jesus Christ. To take off the blinders and to open up the doors of one's heart, so that the Holy Spirit can be let out as a river of sweet water to all that you come into contact with each day: "when-ever and where-ever."

Fellow servant in Christ Jesus,

James Paul (JIMMERS the EVANGELIST.)

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Preface:

The power of a testimony. We see this in the New Testament in John 4 concerning the woman at the well. Jesus speaks into her heart; she then goes into her village and all the people came out and turn their lives over to Christ.

Those who are disciples of Christ Jesus and have truly made Him Lord of their lives will have a testimony that tells of God's wonderful grace and love. These individual testimonies that God has given to us, demonstrate the fruit of Jesus Christ Who has empowered us with His Spirit.

Our testimony is made up of unique parts that God has put together, showing Who He is, both in us and through us. Our testimonies are weapons that God can use to destroy the strongholds of Satan. We should never underestimate the power of one's testimony. A testimony spoken in love and grace can, and will, break the chains that bind others to this lost world.

The title of this book has five major parts to it that I pray will help us to see why we should be always ready to give a testimony for our Lord Jesus Christ.

His Redemption: The act of being saved from error or evil; deliverance, ransom, salvation. Redemption, Christ's amazing gift of love through his sacrifice, saves us from the penalty of our wicked ways. This word is linked closely to the word salvation. In faith, whoever chooses to believe in Christ's redemptive sacrifice, will be saved.

As I look back, I can truly see the redemptive power of Christ in my life. In the eyes of many people I had very little value and in many ways the world itself had even rejected me. But somehow, I knew in my heart, deep down inside there must be something more to this world than what I was experiencing.

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It wasn't until I came to a place to accepting Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour that I began to experience the redemptive love, grace and mercy from God being poured forth from His heart into my heart.

His Power: Force or authority; having influence or control over another person's actions or behaviours. God is all-powerful. The Holy Spirit comes into disciples with power and authority, giving them the ability to overcome the strongholds of this world and the sins in their lives.

Just a short time later, God began to move me into a deeper understanding of the reality of His presence with me. He knew that I would not be able to overcome the challenges in my life alone. I needed to walk in a deeper level of commitment, moving from a life of self-will or world-focus to God-will and God-focus. I needed to allow His Holy Spirit to fill my heart and to become my teacher, comforter and companion. It would be through the redemptive power of the Holy Spirit that the chains and cords that had bound so much of my life, would be broken.

His Grace: Favour, blessing, adornment, blessing, mercy; express gratitude, give thanks. The concept of grace came to the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; the heavenly Father extended grace to mankind through sending His Son as our Redeemer; Christ brought us a way whereby all mankind could be saved; it is also said that we live in the age of grace, a time determined by the Father during which mankind will have to choose whom they will serve; following that comes the day of judgment.

God uses people. It wasn't long after I was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit that I met Irene. She was a beautiful young lady in Christ Jesus. At the time of meeting her, I did not

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realize that God was going to use her, not only to become my wife, but also through our time together, teach me about the grace of God and how He forgives our sins. Day in and day out, even when I felt so unworthy to be called a Christian, Irene exemplified the redemptive power of the grace of God to me. Because of her grace and love, the spirit of rejection was broken in my life.

His Love: Definitions of love include having affection, to want, desire, or wish for; an intense feeling (emotion) of affection for something or someone. The Greeks had many words for love. (There are four that are commonly used; stergo, family affection; eros, sexual love; philia, meaning friendship or brotherly love and agape, God's unconditional love). For the disciple, the most important "love word" is the word "agape"; this illustrates the way God expresses His affection towards mankind. God's love is a one-way love with no strings attached. This was the Father's motive for sending His Son to this lost and sinful world. We are given a free choice to receive His love gift, or to turn away and go in another direction. Often man desires more selfish love than Godly love.

It was later in my life and after Irene's homegoing that God would bring another person, named Hkaw Win, to show me the great depths of God's love. She was a Kachin from the country of Myanmar. It seemed that, to the very depth of her being, she knew how much God loved her and how much He also loved me. Hkaw Win has, each day, been a banner of love that has been held high in our home. She has shown to me the redemptive power of love – no strings attached - that God gives to people each day.

His Name - Jesus Christ: Means: Saviour / Messiah. It was prophesied that a Messiah (anointed one) would come into the world, and that He would save His people. For disciples,

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Jesus Christ is the one Who enters our hearts and guides and leads us here on this earth; He will one day come back as King of kings, to take us with Him to heaven. (Romans 5:15)

I am grateful, so grateful, for the day I met Jesus Christ. I have been blessed to see Him as my Saviour, Messiah, King and Lord. On the day of my redemption God allowed me to see Him in a magnificent way, a way that I never thought would be possible. I did see Him high and lifted up and that He was the One Who would never leave me nor forsake me. This new redemptive journey did have a cost, but to me the cost seems so small in comparison of what He did for me on the cross of Calvary. I knew that if I was going to receive the fullness of His redemption I would have to die to my self-will and the desires of this world and to give myself over completely to Him as my Lord and King. Each day as I kneel before Him, He fills me with life that has purpose and value.

To conclude, these five-word pictures have been the building blocks of my life and each day I experience them repeatedly. This book that you have in your hand is a tapestry of ten unique pictures that only make up a small part of a larger picture of what Christ Jesus has done. He has been the Creator of a new creation in Him. Even when one faces the challenging times, His redemptive power is at work.

You will also see throughout my testimony how God has used different people to chisel off the rough edges and to walk with me at various times, especially when I needed some pruning or discipline in Christ Jesus. I am so thankful for His church where I could be a part of His body ministry, helping and being a servant to those in the church as well as out to the farthest parts of the world.

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Our prayer is that these chapters will encourage and give hope to you as a reader and help you to continue to move forward, not in your own strength and power, but in His redemptive strength and power. All we must do is commit our lives to His will each day. Our God given-testimony, when spoken from the heart, will bring much praise to our Heavenly Father and will be used by Him to further the growth of His Kingdom worldwide.

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Introduction:

“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty: ... But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption – that as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.” And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. ... and my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in wisdom of men but in the power of God.” 1 Cor 1:26-27, 30-31; 1 Cor 2:1, 4-5 NKJB

To me this Scripture has been a foundational stone for my life. I believe God is calling people, and that these Scriptures show to us the kind of people that God is calling into His service. God is not interested in the wisdom of man or in man's righteous or in how noble a person may be. Paul tells us in this passage that God is calling the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. He is taking that which man and woman would reject and using them for His glory and honor. We are called to walk and live in Christ Jesus, not in ourselves. We are called to live a life that is under the direction of His righteousness and that, as we walk with Him, being open to confess our shortcomings to Him, Christ will continue to walk with us down a road of sanctification made possible by His redemptive power.