



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“MAKING IT PERSONAL”

(Part 4 of Relationship Series)

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God is a personal God. He wants to be personal with us: to have the power of personal testimony and confession of who He is. Moreover, Jesus makes a very personal encounter by breaking invisible barriers with extraordinary people. When we are renewed, we develop our relationship with God. There is power in our testimony of what Christ has done in our lives. Thus, we should share and testify to lead others to Jesus.

1. Personal Experience

There are many stories of personal experiences with Jesus - the truth that changed lives.

- 1.1 The Pentecost experience (Acts 2). 120 men and women had legitimate experiences in the upper room when tongues of fire came to rest on their heads; they began to speak in tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance. Boldly, Peter started to quote scriptures, proclaiming, and preaching to the crowd about their experience (Acts 2:17-18). After they were clothed by the power from on high, the apostles went to proclaim and preach not only in Jerusalem but as far as Judea, Samaria, and to the remote places.
- 1.2 The Samaritan woman in the well was considered to be the first evangelist. Jesus took time to explain to her about the living water. She shared her encounter with Jesus with her people, which led to their conversion (Jn. 4).
- 1.3 Zacchaeus, the tax collector, had a personal experience when Jesus asked to dine with him (Lk. 19:10).
- 1.4 Peter was called by Jesus to be fishers of men (Lk. 5:11).

1.5 We have our own experience after renewal. We started to know Him and made small changes each day.

2. When we encounter Jesus, we will:

- 2.1 Have a life-changing experience (2 Cor. 5:17). Our life changes because of what Jesus does for us. When we are in Christ, we are a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun.
- 2.2 Leave everything. The Lord can only control the areas of our lives that we will surrender to Him. We should walk and be guided in the Spirit. In the Scriptures:
 - Peter and the fishermen left their boats and nets and followed Jesus (Lk. 5:11)
 - Zacchaeus left his tax-collecting business when he met Jesus (Lk. 19:10)
 - The Samaritan woman, full of the living water, left her water jar in the well and began to testify about Jesus (Jn. 4).
- 2.3 Witness for Jesus and testify. We are called to be witnesses of Christ (Acts 1:8). We can introduce Jesus by the way we live and by telling our stories to other people.

Conclusion:

As charismatics, we place great importance on personal experience. We should be bold enough to share how the Holy Spirit is touching us and what the Lord is doing for us. Indeed, we should experience a life change when we testify.

Reflection:

1. What are the changes that happened to you after renewal?
2. What is it that you are thirsty for in your life?

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