

## Witnessing the Risen Lord

([Daniel 12:1-3](#), [Acts 2:22-36](#), [John 20:1-18](#))

A burning candle need not tell that I am a candle because everyone recognizes it by the light it gives. In the same way every one recognizes that we are His people by seeing the light of the gospel, our families and churches give. Those who live by holding on to the word of life in the present day dark perverted generation shine like stars([Phil 2:16](#), [Dan 12:3](#))

Daniel in today's Old Testament lesson, Peter in today's epistle lesson and John in today's gospel lesson are bright stars in the firmament of salvation.

You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God (Is [43:12](#)). " You are the witnesses of these things" said God the Son ([Luke 24:48](#)). God the Holy Spirit is ready to make us witnesses unto the ends of the world. This is the central lesson of today's message.

### **The Old Testament lesson: [Daniel 12:1-13](#) Daniel, God's Beloved**

From the life of Daniel we can learn how one can be a witness to the Lord occupying highest positions in the society. Daniel was in the highest offices in the kingdoms of Babylon and Persia. The fear of the Lord that Daniel had was the key to his rise to those highest positions. Daniel's life illustrates that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom ([Prov 1:7](#)). Daniel had exceedingly great wisdom and knowledge only because of the fear of the Lord. He even dared to go into the Lion's den rather than bowing down to an idol. By His courage and boldness he displayed he became the living witness in his day that the king declared there was no other God except the God of Daniel ([Dan 6:1-28](#)). The king accepted that the God of Daniel was the living God and there was no end to His dominion. Daniel never said a word to the king; his life spoke.

Therefore we too need not fear any Lions that come across us threatening to destroy Christianity. What we have to do is to continually serve the Lord and live like Daniel. Then God also closes the mouths of all the Lions who come roaring at us. Because Daniel knew the true God he was strong and could do great things ([Dan 11; 31](#)). He could tell the dreams a person dreamt and also interpret those

dreams. He prophesied regarding the future. A great promise was given to Daniel regarding the resurrection of the living.

Daniel's life spoke more powerfully than his words. Daniel was His beloved yet God didn't reveal certain things even to Daniel. But Daniel wasn't bothered about them but always rested in the sovereignty of God. Wherever Daniel was He proved that the God whom He was serving was the only true God by His life and prophecies. Like Daniel who was God's beloved, Peter in today's Epistle lesson had become the rock which God can use to build His church.

### **The Epistle lesson [Acts 2:22-36](#): Peter the rock**

God purposed to build his church on Peter's faith that Jesus was the son of the living God( Mathew [16:18](#)). We too can become mighty witnesses for the Lord like Peter if we do what Peter has done. What did he do? First he responded to the call of Jesus when it came to him by following Jesus leaving everything. Then as he followed Jesus, and learnt life's lessons from Him we see how Peter had been transformed into strong rock. That doesn't mean Peter had no setbacks. Many times he stumbled. He even should have drowned once but for the Lord. Another time he was drowning in the sea of disappointment. But every time the Lord was there to help him .Peter was also very slow to learn certain spiritual lessons. He was very slow to learn that Jesus would become the Son of the living God only by dying and rising from the dead.

After meeting the risen Lord who before he was ascended taught him along with others how things concerning Him in the Law, Prophets, Psalms were fulfilled, and receiving the spirit that the Lord had given them , Peter could understand God's plan of salvation .He wrote two letters to make it known to everyone.

Peter chose to-day's scripture portion of [Psalm 16](#) to explain to the people who were mocking the work of God on the day of Pentecost. He declared to them that Jesus whom they had crucified had risen and was exalted to the right hand of the Father for which fact he and his friends were witnesses. That day three thousand people were converted after hearing Peter preaching boldly.

In this way Peter had become the rock on which the Lord had started to build His church. The third person who is giving witness concerning the risen Lord is Jesus' beloved disciple John in today's Gospel lesson.

**The Gospel lesson: [John 20; 1-18](#)  
John the beloved disciple of Jesus**

When his master John the Baptist told about Jesus as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world John was one of the early disciples to follow Jesus. Following Jesus he saw Him as the only begotten of the Father, the word of life that which was from the beginning. Having heard, seen and looked upon and touched Jesus John wrote the Gospel and the three letters and the book of Revelation. In his gospel he reports how Mary Magdalene has seen the empty tomb on the day of Resurrection. He also gives an account of how he and Peter also have also gone and saw the empty tomb.

In this way John wrote his gospel and letters testifying to the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to him. The key word in his gospel is eternal life. Nobody who has experienced this life eternal like John can keep quiet without testifying to this fact.

So we find Daniel, Peter and John not only lived as witnesses to their Lord while they lived on earth but even after they left this world they left a blazing track of the light of the glorious gospel through their writings .

They were indeed the wise shining like the brightness of the firmament. We always know which way they went by the light they left behind said Dr.Dale E.Turner in the parable "The lamp lighter" told by him. Let me give it to you as quoted by Dr.Zig Ziglar in his book **"Up, Up, Up saying in the down, down world"**

*"Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts-and we are never ever the same.*

*Sir Harry Lauder, the Scottish humorist and singer, loved to tell about an old lamp lighter in the village where he lived as a boy. Each evening as dusk came, the old man would make his rounds with his ladder and his light. He would put the ladder against the lamp post, climb up and light the lamp, step back down, pick up the ladder, and proceed to the next lamp.*

*"After awhile," said Sir Harry, "he would be down the street and out of sight. But I could always tell which way he had gone from the lamps he had lighted and the glow he left behind."*

*Life's highest tribute would be to live in such a way as to deserve the words, "I could always tell which way he went by the light he left behind."*

Like the lamp lighter, each one of us leaves a trail wherever we go. Our responsibility-and surely our objective- is to leave trail .When we leave a good trail, and not only will our life be good, but so will the lives of those who follow. Nobody can do this without being lighted by Jesus and without holding on to the word of light. That is what is witnessing to the risen Lord. May we be all like Daniel bold, like Peter and John concerned for others' salvation! God bless you!

**Life Application:**

**"I am my neighbor's Bible:**

**He reads me when we meet,**

**Today he reads me in my house,**

**Tomorrow in the street;**

**He may be relative of friend,**

**Or slight acquaintance be;**

**He may not even know my name,**

**Yet reading me"**

**-Anonymous**

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