

Lucifer's Perjury

By Natalie Warner

"By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world."
(1 John 4:2-3 NASB)

The word "testimony" is prevalent in Scripture. On one hand, some verses speak of physical testimony – we testify with our mouths of someone's innocence or guilt, to speak truth or expose lies – and on the other, some speak of spiritual testimony – that of our consciences and sins testifying against us. Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines "testimony" as "a solemn declaration or affirmation made for the purpose of establishing or proving some fact." In other words, the testimony of an individual validates or proves a given fact. In a court situation, the witness giving testimony does so under oath – being thus bound by law to tell the truth. If the witness gives false testimony (lying), they commit perjury, an offence of the law. Perjury is defined as "the act or crime of willfully making a false oath, when lawfully administered" (Webster's 1828 Dictionary).

In this world, we have two spiritual testimonies about the existence of man, the place of man on this earth, and the responsibility of man. One testimony is that of Lucifer, the angel who rebelled against God's holiness, and one testimony is that of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. These two testimonies, however, are in conflict with each other, and logic states that if two things are in opposition to each other, they both cannot be true. One, then, is true and the other is perjury.

So what is the testimony of Lucifer? From the first lie until the last, Lucifer has said that *"I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High"* (Isaiah 14:13-14). He promised the same dream to mankind through the serpent in the garden: *"The serpent said to the woman, 'You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil'"* (Genesis 3:4-5). Lucifer's desire is to usurp God's authority, and he deceives humanity by offering them the same temptation of "do what you will." With this false testimony, *"the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God"* (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Lucifer's testimony is perjury. For though he knows the truth, he deceives those on the earth. Jesus Christ told the unbelieving Jews the devil has no truth in him: *"Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies'"* (John 8:42-44). John wrote a warning in the first of his epistles: *"Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning"* (1 John 3:7-8a).

However, the testimony of Jesus Christ is in stark contrast to that of Lucifer. According to the testimony of Christ, our sins testify against ourselves, and this testimony damns us to eternal

separation from God. We *know* from the testimony of the disciples, Jesus Christ Himself, and the Spirit who testifies with our spirits that the Father loves His creation so much so that He sent His only begotten Son to earth to *die* for us (John 3:16). Scripture testifies that God is very involved in His creation. In fact, in Christ all things hold together! We also know from John that *“the Word [Jesus Christ] became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, “He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.”’ For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him”* (John 1:14-18).

When the Pharisees challenged His testimony in John 8:14-16, Jesus answered, *“Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone.”* The Father testified of His Son when John the Baptist baptized Him in the Jordan River. Jesus said in John 5:30-32, *“If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true. There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true.”* A little later, He said, *“But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish – the very works that I do – testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me. And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form”* (John 5:36-37). Jesus Christ’s testimony is TRUTH. God testifies to His Son.

Even Lucifer’s demons know Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and though they testify against Him, they tremble at His name. James wrote, *“You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder”* (James 2:19). In his Gospel account, Mark said of Jesus, *“And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was”* (Mark 1:34). Luke recorded also that *“demons also were coming out of many, shouting, ‘You are the Son of God!’ But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ”* (Luke 4:41). Even the demons tremble before Christ and yet He did not need their declaring Him to be the Son of God to prove He is TRUTH, for God and the Spirit testify to Him.

God created us as spiritual beings, and He has not left us alone to figure out which testimony is true. Before Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, He promised a Helper – the Spirit of truth – for the Believers: *“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you”* (John 14:16-17). Jesus also said, *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you”* (vs. 26).

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit testifies to the truth. Romans 8:16-17 declares that *“the Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”* The writer of Hebrews stated: *“For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us...”* (Hebrews 10:14-15a). John also testified in 1 John that *“this is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with*

the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth” (1 John 5:6). The Spirit moved men to testify to what they’d seen and heard from Jesus Christ, too. Luke, for instance, wrote at the beginning of his account, “It seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught” (Luke 1:3-4).

Scripture says we might *know* Him. This knowing isn’t just head knowledge – it’s deep understanding brought about by a relationship in faith and the Spirit of truth. Proverbs 1:7 says, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* Isaiah 43:9-11 says, *“All the nations have gathered together so that the peoples may be assembled. Who among them can declare this and proclaim to us the former things? Let them present their witnesses that they may be justified or let them hear and say, ‘It is true.’ ‘You are My witnesses,’ declares the LORD, ‘And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me. I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no savior besides Me.”* When Jesus prayed before being betrayed by Judas, He prayed, *“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent”* and that *“the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”* He also prayed, *“....I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them”* (John 17:3, 23b, 26).

Lucifer’s perjury is not limited to the early days in the Garden or the temptations he tried with Jesus Christ in the desert. Lucifer is still actively testifying against the Savior of the world, deceiving the world with his perjury. Paul wrote so rightly in Ephesians 6:12, *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”* The forces of wickedness testify of Lucifer and against Christ, thus blinding the minds of the unbeliever. But, Jesus Christ testified of Himself, the Father testified of His Son, and the Spirit testifies of Him to us, and this is the only TRUE testimony. This true testimony is in opposition to Lucifer’s, *“for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?”* (2 Corinthians 6: 14b-15) As Believers, we need to be on the alert in this world and not be deceived by the many false testimonies of Lucifer. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, and we need Him to guide us and open our eyes to the only TRUTH, which is Jesus Christ.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

(1 John 4:1-6)