

Testify #4 '25
Acts 12:18-24
Who's word do you want?

- I. **Testify:** Who's word do you want? Testify about the times when God has answered prayer. moves *They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;* ^{Rev. 12:11} *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* ^{Heb. 4:12} *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ^{Jn. 1:1} *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall," ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.* ^{1 Pet. 1:23-25}
- II. **Read Scripture**
- III. *In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. ¹⁹ After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed. Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. ²⁰ He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. After securing the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply. ²¹ On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. ²² They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." ²³ Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. ²⁴ But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.* ^{Acts 12:18-24}
- IV. ¹⁹ a thorough search made for him they looked everywhere. They aren't very smart, if u want to find a Christian escape the best place to look is where the Christians are.
- V. he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed. Now, we know it wasn't their fault. The world's word is who are we going to blame. What did Jesus die for, forgiveness. *Who's word do u want?* All he has to do is say the word and the guards are dead. Someone has to pay the price. There is a penalty the needs to be paid and someone is going to pay it. This is what God knows. Why we need the cross. We know that there is a penalty. God knows. We know a price needs to be paid. So Jesus paid it. Commit adultery Jesus paid it...
- VI. they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply: They can't quarrel too much because he controls the food, they r dependent on the king's country. This is why our allegiance needs to be to God ^{1st}. God's word is how we fight. the sword of the Spirit, is the word of God. ^{Eph. 6:17} The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one. ^{Acts 4:26} All they have to do is say the word and the food is gone. The kings do not want to share your allegiance with God. There is coercion in their planning. Jesus on the other hand has no limitations with no resources. Doesn't cost Him anything to fill boat with fish.
- VII. ²¹ wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address: Fanfare. Dress. clothes make man. The throne creates identity. People cheer. He is in charge, important, in control, he is power! Undisputed, probably has a belt; welter wait champion. Distinguished, he has made it, he is God. Bunch of blather. God's word *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* ^{Heb. 4:12}
- VIII. ²² This is the voice of a god, not of a man: It changed, the voices, they were angry with Herod now they are calling Him God. Why? he gave them food. Too often this is our God, whoever solves our problem. Anti-Christ will rise to power for this reason; Adolf solved the problems. Who cares how? He's God. Jesus fed 5000 Watch out for people who use God until they can become god. Or they use God until they scan abolish god. Why? The issue for us is who's word will control us? Who will we give authority? Who will we follow? Feed us we will give you more power. Prophet, God's man, better if we no have democracy.
- IX. ²³ Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died: We better praise God and not ourselves. The world of God

is what saves us, eternal, spoke and planets formed, *you have been born again, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever."* ¹ 1 Pet. 1:23-25 It is clear what God wants and what He does not want. The devil wanted to be god. Ultimately that is the goal of each person, to be their own god. That is why we have to surrender our "will" to God. *Not my will but your will be done.* We the devil tried to be God kicked him out, Pharaoh thought he was god, died eaten by worms, Ceasar thought he was God, died eaten by worms; Everybody except Jesus, Elijah, Moses...Herod went a little faster than most people but the end is the same.

- X. ²⁴ *But the word of God continued to spread and flourish:* The word of God flourishes because people find freedom from the tyranny of the world. Flourishes because it's alive, active, it penetrates...the word of God flourishes because it is the creative force of the universe. Jesus. *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* Col. 1:15-17
- XI. Why should you want God's word and not the word of the world?
- XII. **Because the word of the world is condemnation, God's word is salvation:** Herod condemns the guards. Someone has to pay the price. When it comes to God's word, Jesus paid the price. It doesn't mean we are good people, it means we are saved people, saved from our decisions, guilt, wrong doing. We are condemned until we are saved. Saved from our condemnation. We try so hard to claim our id as good, acceptable, can't be judged cause unique to me. Cat's, Dogs...
 - a. **Because the word of the world is condemnation, God's word is salvation:** Christians should be the most grateful people. *Almost car accident.* Everyday we survive a car accident, terminal illness, Buddha can only clean up our act, focuses on behavior and trying to be better. Jesus changes not just what we do but what we are. When we become some different then we act differently.
- XIII. **Because the word of the world is scarcity, God's word is Plenty:** God is overflow, abundance, Can't help it, *In him is life, that life was the light of all mankind.* Jn. 1:4 Plenty, when Eden is pictured they have all they need, no worries, fear, anxiety, plenty for *every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on 000 hills.* Ps. 50:10 New heaven extravagance... World is scarcity: those who have take too much, greed; law of the jungle, kill or be killed. Strong dominate weak.
 - a. **Because the word of the world is scarcity, God's word is Plenty:** When Jesus wants some fish boom they run into the net, Peter can't even believe it. Hungry feed 5000, Manna, Quail by the million. Even earth, there is plenty of food on earth, plenty of water, God has provided all that is needed. We just haven't figured out how to share.
 - i. **Word of world is scarcity, God's word plenty:** God gives us the formula. *Give, and it will be given to u. good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap.* Lk. 6:38 *You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.* (Jas. 4:2 NIV) We need to saved from the way we are.
- XIV. **Because the word of the world is punish, God's word is flourish:** God's word is like seed, planted in good soil, it produces, not just 10x, 20x, 30, 100x fold. God flourishes: the oceans are teaming with life, how many kinds of birds, crickets, dogs, cats; even in our broken plant; w/o the full it causes us to flourish:
 - a. **Because the word of the world is punish, God's word is flourish:**