



# The ENCOURAGER

FEBRUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY  
1575 W. STATE ROUTE 571 • TIPP CITY, OH 45371 • 937-669-3090 • CFFM.ORG

## The Power of a Testimony

**C**ome and hear, all of you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. ~Psalm 66:16 NIV

One of the simplest and most powerful ways faith is shared is through testimony. A testimony is not a speech, a performance, or a perfect story. It is an honest account of how God has worked in your life, through real circumstances.

They show us his goodness, faithfulness, mercy, and grace.

**Psalm 34:8 (NIV), "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."**

You cannot "taste and see" for someone else. Those words describe personal experience. When we share our testimony, we are saying, "I have seen God work. I have experienced his goodness." And when others hear that, something stirs inside them. They begin to believe that what God has done before, he can do again.

**"I am the Lord I do not change." Malachi 3:6**

The word "testimony" begins with the word "test." Challenges, hardships, and uncertainty often come before the story we tell. When difficulties arise, it is natural to ask, "Why is this happening?" or "Why me?" Trials are not evidence of God's *absence*; they often reveal his clear *presence* as we see in scripture.

Testimonies matter because they remind us that faith is not just something we believe ... it is something we live. When someone says, "This is what God has done for me," then scripture moves from the page into our everyday life, and we can see, hear, and relate to it.

We often do not understand the ways of God and his kingdom. As faith-filled believers, we still have unanswered questions. God is not obligated to fit into our expectations. He is still good, even when we don't have explanations. Our role is not to manage outcomes, but to remain faithful witnesses.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

This is why testimony matters so deeply. It shifts the focus *from results to relationship*. It says God is still God, even when life is hard.

Every story matters. Some testimonies are dramatic and immediate; others unfold slowly over years. Many involve healing or restoration while others are about new-found peace, financial turnaround, or a renewed trust in God. None are insignificant. What may feel ordinary to one person may be exactly what someone else needs to hear.

The purpose of a testimony is not to draw attention to ourselves, but to glorify God and point others to Jesus.

**John 15:27, "And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning."**

Jesus spoke these words as a call to all who follow him. Testimony is not reserved for leaders or those who feel especially confident in their faith. It belongs to anyone who has walked with Christ, even with our imperfections. We testify because we know him, not because we have all the answers.

Testimonies also serve a powerful role in encouraging others, especially during times of trouble.

**2 Corinthians 1:4 (NIV), "God, comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."**

When we share how God has met us in times of fear, loss, or uncertainty, we offer comfort that is both genuine and relatable. He often uses what we have walked through to strengthen someone else who is walking a similar path.

In this way, testimonies also spread the message of God's mercy.

**"Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."**

**Mark 5:19 (NIV)**

This instruction reminds us that testimony usually begins close to home within families, friendships, workplaces, and communities. It does not require perfect wording or a polished presentation. It simply requires honesty and willingness. People may disagree about beliefs, but they are often open to hearing how God has made a difference in someone's life.

**Revelation 12:11 (NIV), "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."**

This verse reminds us that spoken testimony carries spiritual weight. When believers share what God has done, faith is strengthened, and discouragement loses its grip.

Testimony declares that darkness does not have the final word and that God's work continues.

Testimonies also build strong, connected communities. When people of different ages and backgrounds share openly, walls come down. Faith becomes shared rather than private. Younger generations learn from those who have walked with God longer, and older generations are encouraged by the faith and honesty of those coming behind them.

**Acts 4:33 (NIV), "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all."**

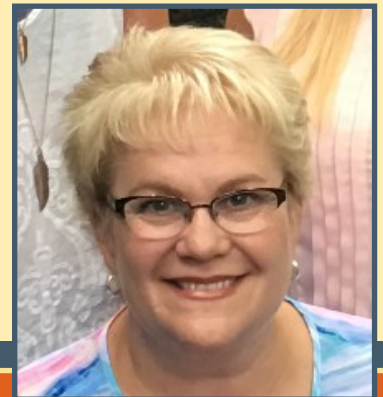
The question is not whether you have a testimony, but whether you are willing to share it.

When we do, we become carriers of hope. And hope, once shared, has the power to change lives.

If you would like to hear some real-life testimonies, we invite you to listen to our Sunday Morning Fellowship teaching from January 11, 2026, entitled "Testify," at [cfft.org](http://cfft.org).

*Tonia Shroyer*

Lead Pastor  
CFFM, Tipp City, Ohio



**MEET JESUS ~ BE RESTORED ~ GROW**

**... a family church bringing Jesus to the world!**

We are building forward with a fresh vision where every person who encounters Christian Family Fellowship will have an invitation to "meet Jesus, be restored, and grow."  
We are on target with our mission as "a family church bringing Jesus to the world."

[www.cfft.org](http://www.cfft.org)

***I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. ~Philemon 1:6 (NIV)***



**CFFM—TIPP CITY**  
**HOLIDAY CELEBRATION ~ 12/2025**



**Ladies can have fun during  
 Men's Conferences, too! ~ 10/2025**



CFF's  
**Tonia Shroyer** was  
 invited to pray a  
 blessing over the  
 Tipp City Chamber  
 of Commerce  
 at their Annual  
 Holiday Gala  
 12/2025

**How to Offer Financial  
 Support to CFFM**

- 1) Through our **website**, [www.cffm.org/giving](http://www.cffm.org/giving)  
 (one-time or recurring gift)
- 2) By **regular mail** to CFFM,  
 1575 W. State Route 571, Tipp City, OH 45371 (check/  
 money order)
- 3) By CFFM **donation envelopes** available from our main  
 office



**~ THANK YOU! ~**

... for your prayers, encouragement, input and  
 financial support that make all our ministry  
 services possible, cultivating a healthy spiritual family.



**JOIN US FOR WEEKLY  
 CFF TUESDAY ZOOM FELLOWSHIPS! / 7 PM (EST)**  
 CONTACT SARAH MULLENS OR KEVIN GUIGOU FOR THE LINK











Jesus said in John 10:27 (KJV), “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them; and they follow me.” We can hear the voice of Jesus, he does know us, and he will say enough for us to understand so we can move ahead together with him. (Song of Solomon 2:12, TPT)

As we interact with Jesus in the spirit by writing our ideas, reflections, and experiences, an abandonment of self is found, and Jesus meets us there. Journaling is simply writing regularly. Writing together with Jesus regularly is journaling together with him.

Habakkuk 2:2 (ESV) directs, “And the LORD answered me: ‘Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.’”

Write down whatever the Lord is saying to you in great detail. Why? To share it with others, yes, but who is the first one to hear it? The writer! They get a front seat to the present happenings of the Lord!

Often a sparkling revelation comes to us as we are living life. Too often, we recognize its wonder but fail to write its greatness down because we think we’ll remember it. But we don’t. Learn to grab those gems and write them down asap! Small pocket journals and cell phones are great for on-the-go note taking.

In Psalm 45 we see how the writer prepares himself to record a royal event for the king. We join in this first-person perspective of a wedding through the eyes of the writer.

Psalm 45:1 (AMP)

My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my psalm to the King. My tongue is like the pen of a skillful writer.

The writer puts himself in position to receive the details. He anticipates expressing his personal eyewitness account of the Lord’s goodness. He’s prepared with his tools to observe and record the event well. In his excitement, he approaches the paper with free-flowing words. The eager words from his heart are addressed to the king and they become a song.

As skillful writers, we too align ourselves to receive from the Lord. We put the cat out of the room, we put our butt in the chair, we take journal in hand and allow the ink to flow. Identify the distractions and ensure privacy with the Lord for a successful experience. Be eager!

Proverbs 3:6 (AMPC)

In all your ways know, recognize, *and* acknowledge Him, and He will direct *and* make straight *and* plain your paths.

We lean into the Lord to know him. We recognize and acknowledge him. We give ourselves permission to write his words. He meets us in words to direct us, words that enable us to move forward. And we hunger for the Lord’s response.

As we write, we cross the threshold between shallow words into a deep bathing of honesty and exploration. We write until we go limp into the companionship of Jesus. Lean in. He knows the way. Simply follow him and write what he has to say.

When we fully abandon ourselves to the page, the world’s concerns fade away. The conversation between us and the Lord turns into a flow of words like a river. We let it flow for as long as we can go.

Address the Lord. Speak to him on the page. What do we have overflowing in our hearts to say to him? Adoration? Praise? Questions? Crying out? Songs? What of mathematical equations or scientific notation? Doodles or plans for a house? It

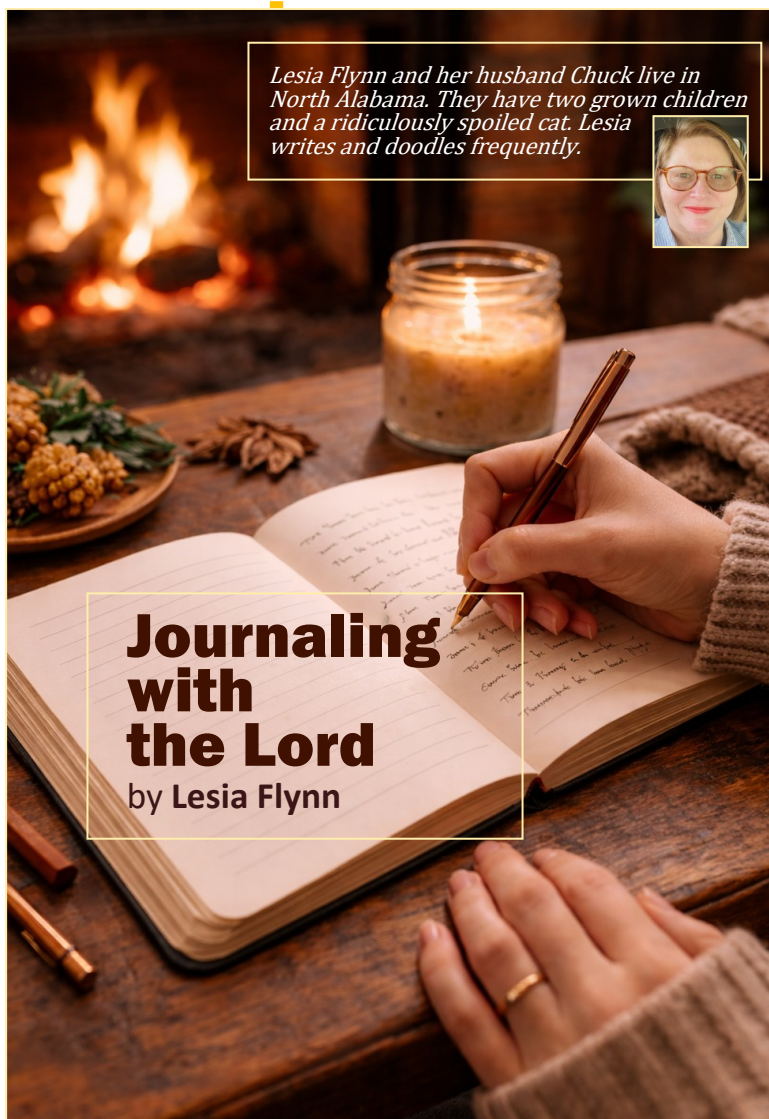
doesn’t matter. Just flow with it. The Lord will guide.

John 8:6 (KJV)

This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down [willingness], and with his finger wrote on the ground [writing tools], as though he heard them not [abandoned himself into spirit flow with the Father].

Jesus transferred himself in the spirit of his mind to another place where his accusers could not go. He wrote on the ground to examine the thoughts between him and the Father. There, Jesus found the best response for his accusers. Writing can unravel a complicated subject.

So, what is journaling with the Lord? It is private time, a follower of the Lord together with the Lord, conversing and sharing, asking, and caring. It’s a love affair! Let’s prepare our hearts, grab our writing tools, and get busy journaling and watching for the Lord’s answers! Jesus is waiting to have personal, interactive conversations with each of us today, and every day!



*Lesia Flynn and her husband Chuck live in North Alabama. They have two grown children and a ridiculously spoiled cat. Lesia writes and doodles frequently.*



## Journaling with the Lord

by Lesia Flynn



***This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight." 1 Timothy 1:18***

This study moves through Paul's opening order to Timothy and the hidden power that backs it. We start with the command that Timothy must shut down false voices in Ephesus. Paul treats this order like a family heirloom, something to guard and pass on unchanged by a set of prophecies spoken at Timothy's ordination. The command and prophecy, interestingly, make "doctrine" the battlefield, Satan the unseen enemy, and Timothy stands as the soldier-pastor. At every step, we ask how remembering God's prior word refreshes resolve when opposition bites. By tracing this chain—**command, prophecy, combat**—we will see why sound teaching, spiritual gifts, and enduring grit must hold together if the gospel is to advance.

Paul opens his letter by ordering Timothy to stop false teachers in Ephesus. After briefly recalling God's mercy to him, Paul repeats the order in verse 18. Timothy carries a sacred duty, and God has already pledged help through earlier prophecies. The command to preserve healthy teaching for the church is passed to Timothy, like a parent passing on an heirloom or a son receiving an inheritance. Timothy must hold it, guard it from damage, and carry it forward when opposition rises.

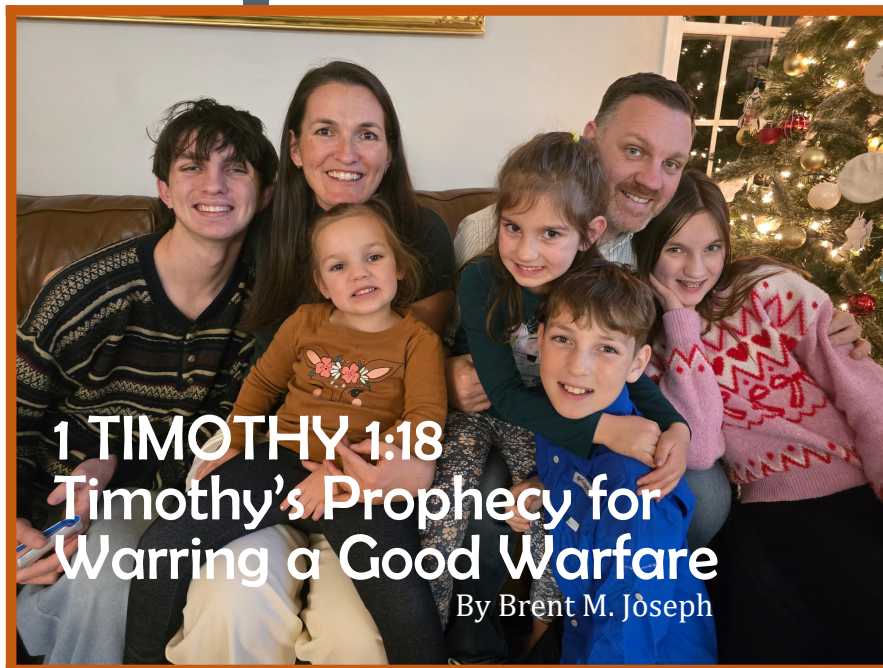
Paul explains why he reminds Timothy of the earlier prophecies: they are meant to help him "fight the good fight." The picture is military imagery. Timothy is a soldier, and his whole ministry is a long campaign, not a quick skirmish. The fight takes place on the field of teaching. False ideas creep in; Timothy must confront them and shield the church, because behind bad teaching lurks the work of Satan. Paul calls this fight "good." That single word lifts the struggle above everyday quarrels. Timothy's battle lines up with God's greater plan to spread the gospel and de-

feat evil. When Timothy defends sound teaching, he joins a cosmic war where God is the final victor. His work, therefore, has weight and dignity.

In this war, the earlier prophecies are both marching orders and a supply line. They remind Timothy that God himself chose him for this task and will give strength to finish it. Each time opposition grows fierce, those words can steady his grip on truth and push him forward. Paul links the command, the prophecies, and the ongoing fight into one chain. If Timothy forgets any link, the mission weakens; if he holds them together, the gospel keeps moving forward. The earlier prophecies are Timothy's fuel. Each time he recalls them, they give three gifts: **direction, courage, and**

**promise.** They chart what God wants, steady his heart against critics, and guarantee that the giver of the word will also give strength. That trio keeps the engine of his ministry running when other supplies run dry.

When Timothy faces public error or private doubt, he replays that commissioning moment. He remembers the elders' hands on his head, the church praying, and the sense



of God's nearness. Hearing the Spirit again, he steps back into the fray, sure that he is still under orders and under protection.

Paul welds commission and prophecy so they stay together. The church needs both. Neglect prophecy and faith cools; chase prophecy without doctrine and chaos erupts. Genuine Spirit speech drives leaders into Scripture, makes them bolder for truth, and gentler with people. Wise pastors test every claim, keep the true, and let it feed steady endurance. Command, prophecy, and conflict form one chain. Break a link and the mission stalls; hold them together and God's soldier keeps the gospel safe until victory comes. In that strength, the church finds safety, and the lost hear clear truth.

Paul's charge to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:18 hinges on two linked realities. *First*, Timothy stewards a sacred command: protect the Ephesian church from false teaching, gripping the gospel like an heirloom passed from father to son. *Second*, earlier Spirit-given prophecies fuel that duty. Spoken at Timothy's commissioning, they name him God's chosen servant, promise lifelong backing, and fortify his courage. Together, command and prophecy arm Timothy for a "good fight," a prolonged doctrinal war where Satan hides behind error. Each recall of those words delivers direction, nerve, and divine supply, keeping the mission on course. Break the chain and ministry stalls; hold it fast and the gospel advances with clarity and safety, while believers gain stability and outsiders hear clear truth.



**Brent Joseph** is a PhD candidate and lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, with his wife and five children. He is currently working on multiple publications for release in 2026, is still deeply involved in international missions in Muslim-majority contexts, and is learning and growing in grace with each passing day.





1575 W. State Route 571  
Tipp City OH 45371  
Phone 937-669-3090  
Fax 937-669-4087  
WWW.CFFM.ORG

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 005  
TIPP CITY, OH  
**Presorted Standard**

*To Current Occupant Or:*

**S**eventy men from 14 states gathered for a powerful time of faith, friendship, and renewal. The weekend included heartfelt sharing, worship, communion, music, and plenty of laughter. Participants met around a campfire, inside Tipp's historic roller mill, and at a skateboard church, a country club banquet coffeehouse, and the CFF Fellowship Center. Instead of a series of long lectures, they gathered as brothers teaching, praying, and encouraging one another to rekindle God's vision for their lives. As Jesus once "sent out the seventy," these men left refreshed and ready for great days ahead in service to the Lord.



## CFF MEN'S DISCOVERY WEEKEND

*Energizing Your Vision!* OCTOBER 2025 / Tipp City, Ohio