

# TESTIFY

MAGAZINE

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May 2026



Scan Me!



*Bishop O T Whittaker*

Marked By Grace, Kept By God

# IN THIS EDITION

Issue 1  
May 2026

## MARKED BY GRACE, KEPT BY GOD!



At just five years old, I admired my father deeply. Every Saturday morning at exactly 08h00, I would wake up, take my little red New Testament Bible and a toy microphone, stand in the corner of our yard, and begin preaching.

Week after week, without fail, I would “minister” to an invisible congregation. Years later, my parents discovered that there were actually people watching me from a distance. What seemed like childhood play was, in fact,

part of God’s preparation for ministry. Even at that young age, whenever adults asked me what I wanted to become when I grew up, my answer was always the same:

“I want to be a missionary to Ethiopia.”

At the time, I was very skinny and had protruding ribs, something that made me extremely self-conscious as a child. In my mind, I looked like the starving Ethiopian children often shown on television. I carried deep insecurity about my body, never realizing that what I considered a weakness would later become a prophetic sign connected to my calling.

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**TESTIFY MAGAZINE (TELLING PEOPLE'S STORIES - AFFIRMING GOD IS ALIVE!)**

# BISHOP O T WHITTAKER

**MARKED BY GRACE, KEPT BY GOD!**



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## MY TESTIMONY

### Marked By Grace, Kept By God

By faith, many people expect a testimony to begin with rebellion, brokenness, addiction, or a dramatic rescue from a destructive lifestyle. In the generation I grew up in, radical testimonies were often celebrated more than quiet faithfulness. Those of us raised in pastoral homes sometimes felt as though our stories were not “powerful enough” because we had not experienced the extremes of the world.

Yet I have come to realize that God writes testimonies differently for every person. Some testimonies are about being rescued from darkness, while others are about being preserved through grace. Mine is a story of God’s hand upon my life from a very young age.

### A Little Boy With A Red Bible

At just five years old, I admired my father deeply. Every Saturday morning at exactly 08h00, I would wake up, take my little red New Testament Bible and a toy microphone, stand in the corner of our yard, and begin preaching.

Week after week, without fail, I would “minister” to an invisible congregation. Years later, my parents discovered that there were actually people watching me from a distance. What seemed like childhood play was, in fact, part of God’s preparation for ministry.

Even at that young age, whenever adults asked me what I wanted to become when I grew up, my answer was always the same:

***“I want to be a missionary to Ethiopia.”***

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At the time, I was very skinny and had protruding ribs, something that made me extremely self-conscious as a child. In my mind, I looked like the starving Ethiopian children often shown on television. I carried deep insecurity about my body, never realizing that what I considered a weakness would later become a prophetic sign connected to my calling.

## **The Prophetic Reminder**

Years later, during my matric days, the Lord kept reminding me not to worry about my protruding ribs because they were a reminder of my mission and calling; and that the day I set foot on Ethiopian soil, they would gradually disappear. At the time, I could hardly comprehend what that meant.

Then in the year 2000, I landed in Ethiopia and spent six months ministering there. It was one of the most beautiful and life-changing seasons of my life. I was so focused on ministry that I never even noticed what was happening physically. When I returned home after those six months, something unusual happened. One day, I casually walked around the house not wearing a T-shirt— something I almost never did because of my insecurity. Mothers notice things others miss, and my mother immediately observed that my behaviour was strange, and now my protruding ribs were no longer visible. In that moment, I remembered the prophetic word spoken years before. God had marked my life long before I fully understood His plan.

## **Salvation Beyond The Expectations Of People**

Being raised as a pastor's child did not automatically make me saved. I still needed a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. For me, that encounter came at the age of ten after a powerful sermon preached by

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the late Pastor Africa. I still remember the tears rolling down my face as church leaders prayed with me and led me to the Lord. But sadly, not everyone celebrated my salvation.

Because I was saved during a time when dramatic testimonies were glorified, some people looked down on my experience. I was told I was “too young” to truly know God. Others suggested I should first go “experience the world” so that I could come back with a better testimony. Some even challenged me to see how long my salvation would last.

Ironically, my greatest struggle was not the world— it was the negativity within the church itself. Yet through it all, my parents stood firmly beside me. Their encouragement and support helped keep me grounded in my faith when criticism could easily have pushed me away.

## **The Weight Of Being A PK**

Life as a pastor’s child came with constant scrutiny. It often felt as though some people felt that they had the ministry of making my life a misery and were dedicated to that. Every decision, every mistake, and every passion was examined under a microscope.

As a teenager, the pressure affected me deeply. Although I still loved Jesus with all my heart, I began developing resentment toward the church. The disappointment and criticism eventually led me into a season of rebellion. But God once again used people to redirect my life. I remember men like Bro. Joey Arends and the late Jacky Probert, who would faithfully collect me every Saturday afternoon for

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evangelistic outreach. They took me under their wing, invested in me, and helped reignite my confidence in God and ministry. Their influence became part of God’s restoration process in my life. Around that same time, I also developed a strong passion for music ministry. Yet even there, resistance followed me. Because my parents were leaders in the church, some people accused us of trying to make ministry a “family business.” Though I continued serving, it was rarely without opposition.

## **When God Provides**

After matriculating, I was finally ready to pursue my calling and attend Bible School. Our ministry had a strong history of financially supporting students who felt called into ministry, so naturally I believed the church would assist me as well.

But when my turn came, the church board decided they could not support me financially. I was devastated. I remember completing the Bible School application forms and quietly placing them inside my drawer, believing the fees were completely impossible for my family to afford. Then God intervened. One day, a man who is now currently an assistant pastor in our ministry; from the Tong family unexpectedly visited our home and asked my parents to call me. He told me to bring the Bible School forms hidden in my drawer—forms my parents did not even know existed.

Then he spoke words I will never forget:

“The Lord sent me to you. Don’t worry about the fees.”

“Your responsibility is to study; I will make sure everything is paid.”

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And just like that, God once again proved Himself faithful. The rest is history.

## **The Key Takeaways From My Testimony**

### **1. Everyone Has A Testimony**

Not every testimony includes visible scars, addiction, or rebellion. Some testimonies are testimonies of preservation, grace, and God's keeping power. Someone once told me:

"Your testimony is powerful because you don't carry regrets and scars from the world." Young man. Young woman. Never allow anyone to minimize your testimony. Your story matters because God is in it.

### **2. God Leaves Reminders Of His Calling**

For me, it was my protruding ribs— something I once hated but later understood as part of God's divine reminder over my life. God often leaves signs, burdens, passions, or experiences that continually point us back to His purpose. The question is:

What reminder has God placed in your life?

### **3. People's Rejection Is Not God's Rejection**

One of the greatest lessons I learned is this: Never confuse people's actions with God's heart. People may reject, criticize, misunderstand, or oppose you. But that does not mean God has abandoned you. People do what people do. But God always does what God does.

### **4. Where God Calls, He Provides**

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Every major step in my journey seemed impossible at first. Yet every time, God made a way through unexpected people and unexpected moments.

**When God calls you, He also commits Himself to sustaining you.**

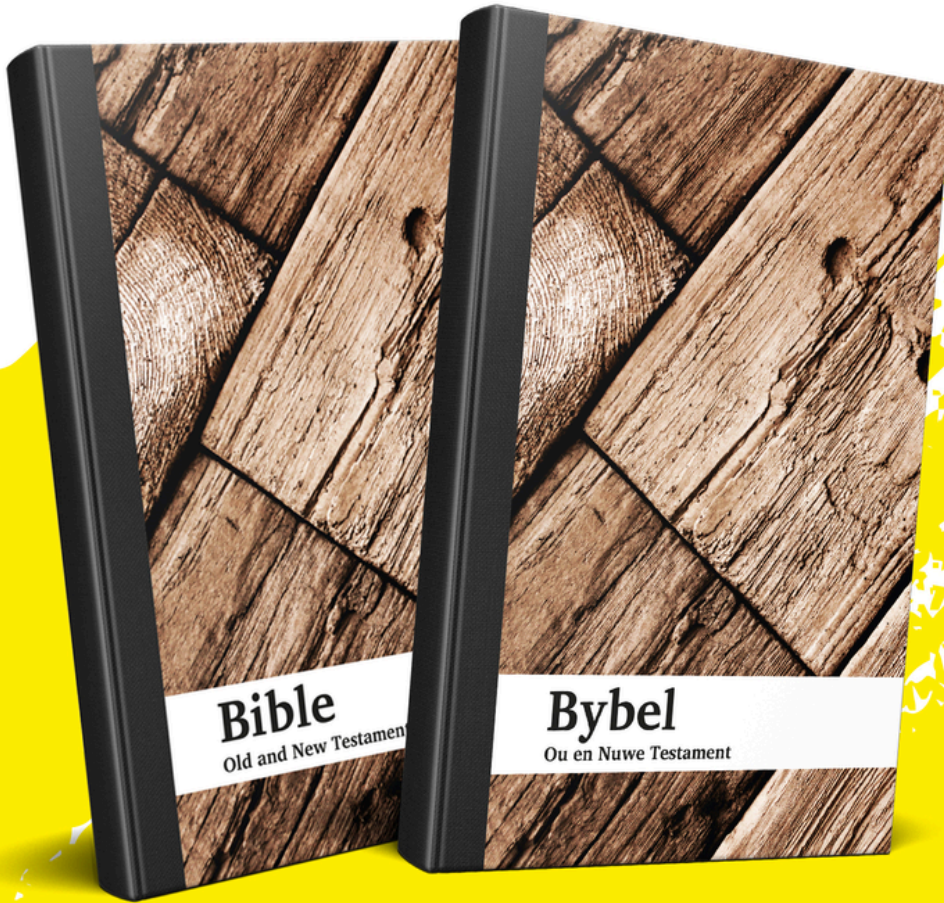
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**Because the God who calls is also the God who provides.**



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**Psalm 1 vers 3 sê :**

*“En hy sal wees soos 'n boom wat  
geplant is by waterstrome, wat sy vrugte gee  
op sy tyd en waarvan die blare nie verwelk nie;  
en alles wat hy doen, voer hy voorspoedig uit.”*



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FACTA NON VERBA

# THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

## SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS!

HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS  
CHRIST?

## THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

### Romans 3:23 ESV

**"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"**

The abovementioned verse is an extremely well used verse and many people know it and can even quote it off by heart, but the significance of it is the reality that every single person needs to contemplate.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Personal Saviour yet or are thinking about it, you have to start here. The reality of your sin problem cancels and disqualifies you from the very presence of God and this bars you from eternal Life. Your choices are simple here, either an eternity with God or an Eternity without God. I would think that the logical answer would be an Eternity with God. Why? Well let's look at this:

### 2 Thessalonians 1:9

**"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might"**

**NASB**

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This is the reality of a choice that omits Jesus as your Personal Saviour -

- = **Everlasting Punishment**
- = **Destruction**
- = **Shut Out**
- = **No Godly Presence**
- = **And no Glory at all**

This is not something to take lightly and by the way this is not scaring you into making a false decision, God is love, thus we as His followers are love, this means if I say I have the love of God, it is my duty to tell you the truth and point you into the right direction.

So in looking at the sin problem and the reality of this, what is the answer then? Let's look at this:

**John 14:6**

**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

**NASB**

What a wonderful solution to an immense problem, God has made a way and in making the way He has also made it very clear that this is the only answer to the problem. You have to accept Jesus His Son in order to obtain Eternal Life and ward off all the destruction and other bad things spoken about in the previous Bible verse.

It also makes it very clear that this can only be done through JESUS CHRIST His Son, there is no other way to salvation or Eternal life other than through Jesus, NONE!

Let's look at this too:

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### **John 1:12-13**

**"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."**

**NASB**

Wow! Just look at this, not only do we get Eternal Life but we become Children of God. The impact of this is massive as it speaks to the fact that we now belong to the family of God and receive the benefits of being part of a family, and not just any family but a royal family (1 Peter 2 vs 9).

So in looking and understanding all of this, How do you accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour?

### **Romans 10 vs 9-10**

**"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."**

**NASB**

Let me just make one point very clear before we look at the above verses, your salvation cannot be obtained by good works, you cannot go to Heaven or be part of God's family because you are a good person, or you do good deeds, No! The Bible makes it clear, if you want to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour then it gets done on the basis of two things. These two things are critical because it will also help you on your work with the Lord and attain righteousness and a life pleasing to God.

**Firstly, you have to confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, this is very important because by your confession God will know and people in the world will know. This is significant because one does not hide a light under a bowl. Everyone must see and hear that you are a child of God.**

# BELIEF

And secondly you must believe in your heart, with your whole being and understanding that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive and is your only Saviour.

So if you have read all of this and the Holy Spirit is directing you to accept Jesus as your Personal Saviour please pray the prayer on the next page, God loves you so much.



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ACCEPTING JESUS IS EVERYTHING!

# PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Dear Lord Jesus,

I understand that I am a sinner and in need of desperate saving, The Bible tells me clearly that the only answer is for me to confess with my mouth and believe in my heart. I am now confessing with my mouth that I am accepting You as my Personal Saviour and believing in my heart that you are alive and well and dwelling within me. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of other Believers and allow me please to follow in your footsteps. Amen!

Wow! Congratulations if you have just prayed this prayer, and know that you are now part of the family of the Kingdom of God. Please tell someone about your decision, pray all the time and read and study your Bible. Find a Holy Ghost, Bible preaching church and join.

Please let us know if you have made this decision and allow us to point you in the right direction.

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