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I am certain that, at one point or another in your life, you would need the services of a skilled professional – maybe a cook, hairdresser, or plumber. I am also certain that when you are searching, you would not just be looking for *anyone*; you would want someone who is good, capable, and proven. One sure way you can find such good professionals would be by reference, that is, from someone who has experienced their services and can show evidence of a job well done. Now, that evidence is what builds your confidence to hire that individual. Let's relate this to our faith.

As believers, we have chosen to devote our lives to the Kingdom of God. That means our time, our resources, and our entire being are aligned towards Him. Naturally, questions arise: "If I give my life fully to God, what will happen to me? What will I lose? Are there any real benefits?" To settle these questions, God gives us something precious: **Testimonials**. He invites us to look at the lives of those who once stood where we stand now, so we can see the pattern of His faithfulness and loving-kindness. Scripture tells us that "*by the testimony of two or three witnesses, truth is established*" (2 Cor. 13:1)

The Lord Himself points to the first witness in Isaiah 51:2 "*Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bore you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.*" See how their lives turned out because they trusted Him? You see the results of surrender? Blessings and increase! When you commit to the Father and trust Him, **you never lose**. The evidence



is clear. Glory to God!

Also, consider David. When God found him, he was just a shepherd boy. A relationship, a commitment to do all the counsel of God, and some years later, who did he become? King over all Israel and Judah! (2 Samuel 5:4). Can you say a commitment to do all the counsel of God hurts? Absolutely not.

These witnesses exist so that you can stand in confidence and declare: **If God fulfilled His promise in their lives, He would do the same in mine.** In Psalm 37:25, the psalmist testifies saying "*I have been young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his descendants begging bread.*" It has never happened, not once, that a person who walked with God was abandoned, stranded, or disappointed. Let this truth strengthen your soul!



Yes, you will face challenges and your journey with God will require discipline and obedience. But if you keep your eyes on Him, and on the testimonies of those who have walked with Him, you will weather every storm.

Just like hiring a skilled professional with proven results brings confidence, looking at God's "testimonial record" strengthens our trust. His plans for you are always good, never evil, to give you an expected end. Truly, you can trust Him.

Dear beloved, do not hesitate to fully surrender yourself to the Lord in this new year. *Taste and see that the Lord is good!* Grace to your heart. Amen!

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