

Personal Testimony

Dawson Trotman

I. Childhood.

A. As a child, He stole money from his mother's bank. He bought candy and ate himself sick with it. The crime was repeated for ten more years.

B. As a superior student in high school, Trotman stole from the student treasury.

1. The heart is deceitful.

2. There is a desire for thrills conflicting with a desire to be someone.

C. Trotman becomes a Scout.

1. The values were only on the outside.

D. Trotman joined the church.

1. He did not know Christ.

2. But he partook in Christian clubs and was a leader.

II. After high school.

A. The speaker never had alcohol in high school, but when he graduated he became an alcoholic.

1. Two months after he turned twenty, the speaker was arrested.

2. His mother told him that she was praying for him, but she said that she would die if he ever went to jail.

3. Trotman was afraid to go to jail and asked God to get him out of this situation.

- a. More disconcerting was the fact that he had already asked God to save him in a previous situation.

- b. The police officer saw him pray, and let him sober up before he released him on the condition that it would never happen again.

B. Trotman joined the church

1. Originally there was no one there who had any answers for him.

2. A church lady was praying for Trotman every day.

3. Trotman began attending "Young Peoples," a Christian group, and memorized verses for a contest.

- a. Trotman helped his team win by continuing to memorize verses.
- b. With all those verses in storage, the Holy Spirit brought a verse to his memory about everlasting life.
- c. Later, the Spirit brought John 1:12 to his mind and he experienced the new birth. Trotman reacted against the use of Jesus' name in vain at work and began to clean up his own language, by remembering that anything that he asked of God, he would receive. (John 13) This was the beginning of his Christian life.

III. The Christian life.

A. Trotman refused to take ladies out again.

1. He told his lady friends what happened to him, gave them the Gospel of John and one of them received Christ.

B. God's faithfulness was made known to him in a particular struggle that re-occurred in Trotman's life in the beginning of his walk with Jesus.

1. Any temptation that you have is common among other men as well.
2. God gives us a sufficient amount of strength to overcome any temptation.
3. If you do not have victory over it, you are saying that you really do not want to get rid of it.
4. The price is too great to hold on to sins, but it does not keep you from heaven.
5. "Trifles make perfection, but perfection is no trifle" - Michelangelo.

C. God wanted Trotman to display Him in his workplace.

1. The speaker says that he was a coward for Christ having to work up a lot of strength to witness in the workplace.
2. He worked up the courage to share his testimony to his fellow workers.
3. Two hundred people showed up to hear him speak.
4. The disciples did not pray for an opportunity to share Christ, they prayed for boldness to do it.

D. Continued development.

1. Trotman sinned and wondered if he could ever be used again; God was quick to remind him about the power of his forgiveness. When God forgives, he does it immediately.

2. The speaker began memorizing verses.
 - a. The Word of God has an answer for every excuse.
 - b. You cannot hide behind a hypocrite. You have to be smaller than an object to hide behind it.

IV. Discipleship.

A. Teaching men to say "I will."

1. Too many Christians are just waiting for the next Bible conference to energize them again.
2. Trotman led a man to Christ and disciplined him in a way that he would raise up another man that would say, "I will."
3. When things began to look tough, he praised God - stumbling blocks became stepping stones.
 - a. Any man who ever accomplished anything for God did not do it because he was intelligent, but because he was faithful.
 - b. No one is too old to accomplish the task.
 - c. God can use anyone.

Application questions.

1. What is one of the most outstanding things in your opinion about Trotman's testimony? In what ways can you relate to him? Explain.

2. By what means did the speaker experience the "New Birth?" Why is this important? Why was this also important as he began to grow in Christ?

3. Why did Trotman tell his disciple twice that he would not give his right arm to live the kind of life that Trotman was living? How can you reproduce men and women who will say "I will?" What will you do, even this week, to become a disciple maker?
