

I REFUSE

We are beginning a brand new series this week.

I truly believe that this series will not only ignite a passion for the Lord in your life I also believe that it will begin a movement of evangelism in the Hudson Valley.

The series Title is.... Can anyone guess? I REFUSE

This idea came to me while I was at a Pastors Conference in NJ this summer.

The speaker made a statement that leaped in my spirit when He said it... It was a small part of his message and I can't really remember anything he said that night except this statement.

You are a Christian Today because someone refused to let the gospel die with them.

Someone else in this world will hear the gospel because you refuse to let it die with you.

So thats the premise of this series... I refuse to let my beliefs die with me. I will share my faith.

And I began to think of a way or a tool in which we could use in order to share our faith more easily.

Thus the birth of I Refuse.

Turn in your Bibles to John 1:1-9

1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. 6 God sent a man, John,

7 to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. 8 John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. 9 The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:1-9

I love that part... God sent a man, John.

God sent _____ put your name in the blank.

God sent you to REACH your circle of influence. To reach your family, your co-workers, your friends...

God sent you... To Do What?

Tell your story... Share your testimony...

Why do you believe in Jesus?

Why do you attend church?

Why are you banking your eternity on this belief system being right?

If this is right... Do we need to be doing what the Bible says?

God SENT YOU...

Wayne Francis said in his sermon during Summer Conference that:
"Your friends don't read the Bible... They read YOU"

John 1 tells us here that everyone MIGHT believe... Because of John's Testimony.

Because of his story... **Your story is anointed for your audience.**

Here is a Word that the Lord has given this church through the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

4 Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you [and approved of you as My chosen instrument], And before you were born I consecrated you [to Myself as My own]; I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

6 Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, For I am [only] a young man."

7 But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am [only] a young man,' Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.

8 "Do not be afraid of them [or their hostile faces], For I am with you [always] to protect you *and* deliver you," says the Lord.

9 Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Behold (hear Me), I have put My words in your mouth.

10 "See, I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, To uproot and break down, To destroy and to overthrow, To build and to plant." Jeremiah 1:4-10

Here God says I have appointed you THIS day... This season... This generation God has appointed you... Chose you, Created you NOW...

And He put HIS words in your mouth... To go share it...

But why NOW... why the urgency...?

Because I truly believe that Christians at large are being defeated everyday by the enemy because they don't know or share their own testimony.

Look at this Word from John in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 12:10,11

"Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom (dominion, reign) of our God, and the authority of His Christ have come; for the [e]accuser of our [believing] brothers and sisters has been thrown down [at last], he who accuses them *and* keeps bringing charges [of sinful behavior] against them before our God day and night. **11** And they overcame *and* conquered him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, Revelation 12:10,11

This tells us right here...

In order to overcome the accuser. the one who brings charges against you because of your past...

To defeat Him... This is Done by the sacrifice that Jesus made... His blood...

That's God's responsibility but that alone won't stop the enemy from accusing you and reminding you of your failures...

The WORD of your Testimony is the weapon you use to overcome his accusations.

Its the power of your testimony...

Now look at this...

People will Believe in Jesus because of your testimony... You will overcome the enemy by your testimony...

How powerful is your story?

Refuse to stop telling your testimony... write it down, practice it, share with friends and family... Let others know WHY you are a Christian.

There are 3 steps to I refuse...

Pray

Give

Invite