Testimony

Luke 21:7-19  (Jesus is saying in the midst of all the persecution the disciples will suffer, there will be opportunity for ‘Testimony.’  Testimony is important to Jesus.
7 So they asked Him, saying, "Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?"
8 And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.
9 But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately."
10 Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
11 And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.
12 But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake.
13 But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.
14 Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer;
15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.
16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.
17 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.
18 But not a hair of your head shall be lost.
19 By your patience possess your souls.

Heb 11:1-6  (Paul writes how ‘Faith’ practiced produces a ‘Good Testimony,’ or a ‘witness of righteousness,’ and it is God Himself testifying.)
1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.
3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.
4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.
5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.
6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Heb 11:30-40  (Paul expounds on many that suffered, died, were even sawn in two, yet received a ‘Good Testimony’ because of their faith.)
30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.
31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had
received the spies with peace.
32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and
Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:
33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the
mouths of lions,
34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made
strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
35 Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting
deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.
36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.
37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They
wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented--
38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and
caves of the earth.
39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,
40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from
us.

Heb 12:1-2  (Paul again, is telling believers that they are ‘Surrounded by a great cloud of
witnesses. People are watching our faith, whether great or small. And God wants to use our
faith as a ‘Testimony.’ Shouldn’t we be about a ‘great faith’ and a ‘great testimony’?)
1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside
every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that
is set before us,
2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him
endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1 John 5:10-13  (Our ‘Testimony’ is strong - God has given us eternal life, that life is in Jesus)
10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God
has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.
11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.
12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may
know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of
God.

Rev 12:10-11  (We can see by these verses, that we ‘overcome’ by three things. What are the
three things?)
10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of
our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused
them before our God day and night, has been cast down.
11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and
they did not love their lives to the death.

Summary: Our ‘Testimony’ is so very important. It comes from God, glorifies God, and
ensures we will spend eternity with Him if we practice our faith, therefore building a wonderful ‘Testimony’ that pleases God.