

Hudson Taylor, the pioneer minister of the Gospel in China, wrote of his spiritual struggles: “I thought that holiness, practical holiness, was to be gradually attained by a diligent use of the means of grace. There was nothing I so much desired as holiness, nothing I so much needed; but far from in any measure attaining it, the more I strove after it, the more it eluded my grasp, until hope itself almost died out, and I began to think that — perhaps to make heaven the sweeter — G-d would not give it down here. I do not think that I was striving to attain it in my own strength. I knew I was powerless. I told the L-rd so, and asked Him to give me help and strength.”

As I watched the CBN [Pat Robertson] broadcast of my testimony (now on our website at <http://www.afii.org/pgoble.wmv>) I thought of how important one’s testimony truly is, for we overcome the devil by the word of our testimony (Rev 12:11).

G-d’s testimony against us is meant to point out our sin in order to lead us to the Savior (Gal 3:24). Here it is, the Ten Commandments:

לא תרצח	אנכי יי
לא תנאף	לא יהי
לא תגנב	לא תשא
לא תענה	זכור את
לא תחמד	כבוד את

As you will see in my testimony below, I broke the first two by being an idolater. Here is a transcript in case you don’t have a computer fast enough to watch the video at <http://www.afii.org/pgoble.wmv>

Pat Robertson’s tv narrator: Even as a young boy, Phil Goble knew what he wanted to become...an accomplished actor. So he made this ambition the God of his life, at the sacrifice of something far more significant. Cheryl Ann Gardner has Phil’s story.

Cheryl Ann Gardner: For some people these [Broadway, New York] streets symbolize the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The glamor of stardom has caused many to set their sites on acting from the time

they're very young. For Phil Goble who remembers when he first wanted to be an actor, pursuit of an acting career would become much more than just a glamorous lifestyle.

Phil Goble: I was eight years old. I was at my brother's junior high school play. He played Tom Sawyer. I lived in Oakland City, Indiana, a small town. I knew right then and there that I wanted to be an actor. And I had a stage door mother who was a Christian and she got me my tap dancing lessons and my voice lessons and everything, and I started memorizing Shakespeare

CAG: While his mother's Christian faith impressed Phil to the point of nominal conversion, it didn't quite measure up to the other love of his life, acting. And this is probably why...

PG: I was baptized when I was 12 years old, in a Baptist Church. But the thing is, I didn't really study the Bible, and so my Christianity didn't really get a chance to grab.

CAG: By his early twenties, Phil had graduated from Indiana University with a Master's in Drama and a singular reason for living.

PG: Acting had become a great idol to me. And I had my own religion, which was my acting career. I basically lost all faith in Jesus when I was in the university, and I thought of him as a nice, dead prophet.

CAG: By the time Phil was 25, he had moved out to California and was starting to realize his dream.

PG: I did some tv comedy shows, I did regional theatre, summer stock, I did a lot of commercials, I must have done 35 or 40 commercials, and I was starting to make a nice living as an actor. I was living in Beverly Hills...

CAG: But material wealth and recognition strangely enough don't always bring the gratification one might think. For Phil it became increasingly clear that he was empty and life had lost meaning. One day while Phil looked through a library book on actors, he realized something that surprised him.

PG: I saw all these pictures of all these actors in the early 1900's and I didn't know any of them. All the "stars" were "has been" nobodies. But I always thought that, you know, your acting career, there was some tangible fame or fortune...something to it, worth sacrificing, so to speak, your soul on the altar of Broadway. But when I saw that really, it was just a profession, and a forgettable one at that, not something that you could ground your existence on, I began to really see that my idol was being shattered.

CAG: And even though he had lost any faith in Christ's true resurrection from the dead, after meeting and befriending a young atheist named Paul, Phil was strangely and gently nudged to the reality of his need to know more about the Bible.

PG: And whenever we talked about Jesus, I had sort of a sentimental feeling about Jesus, but he hated him. He saw him as a charlatan and the whole idea of Christianity was a terrible rip-off and Jesus was a real malevolent figure. And I thought, "Well, he can't be THAT bad..." Maybe I should read the Bible and find out what Jesus is all about.

CAG: Phil's quandry with that became more pronounced when he picked up an old man on the streets of Hollywood, who claimed to be a writer and had forgotten where he lived. When they finally found the run-down hotel where the man resided, the old man showed Phil the only piece of writing he still had after so many years. The words Phil read hit him right between the eyes...

PG: And it said, "What can any man do, really and ultimately, but love God?" And, I saw that, 60 years from then, if I didn't have God, I wouldn't have anything. And for the first time in my life I understood what it means to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" [Deut.6:5] because He's really all you have; everything else you lose.

CAG: As Phil finally began to take time to read the Bible, he came to the hardest but most significant decision of his life.

PG: And I could see all the sin in my life. I could see all the idolatry and selfishness of my life, and I began to feel a great remorse. I wanted God to forgive me, and I wanted to present my life to Him and say, "Okay, Lord, it's now totally yours. You can do whatever you want. Whatever you want me to do. If you want me to give up my acting career and go into the ministry and be a preacher, I'll do that, whatever.

CAG: What Phil did was share his newfound faith in Christ with everyone around him. Living in Hollywood, that consisted primarily of the Jewish population. Today he's responsible for starting several Messianic Congregations in Hollywood and New York City, and heads up the Artists For Israel group, a training ground for Christians to learn how to share the Gospel in dramatic fashion. Also Phil's love for the Bible grew, and out of his study of the life of Paul the Apostle, emerged first a book and then a play, a presentation that Phil has repeated before rapt audiences for over 15 years.

PG: (as Paul the Apostle in a scene from THE RABBI FROM TARSUS) "Yes, like King David's harps in the Temple O I had a dream last night, Luke, about the song I taught Silas at Philippi fifteen years ago,

and about the earthquake when God rescued from prison....then I woke up...in prison again!"

CAG: The glamor and glitter of stardom has thankfully faded into the distance for Phil. Acting is no longer an idol but just a means to a greater end. His belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ has changed his priorities forever. And it's pretty conceivable, at the end of Phil's life, he will have no regrets.

PG: The people that I've touched, the lives that have been changed in my life since I have known the Lord, are so much better than anything I could have had as a secular entertainer. Because even if you do very well, what is an academy award or some kind of award like that compared to seeing thousands of people come to the Lord. So I feel that God really...I thank the Lord that I gave my life to Him, because I would really have wasted my whole life if I hadn't let the Lord take it and shape it and use it as He saw fit.

Here is a presentation of Moshiach's Testimony, the Gospel, to ultra-Orthodox Jews.

Adonoi echad, Elohei Kedushah HaMeshuleshet (one L-rd, G-d of threefold Holiness - - Hashem and the Holy Moshiach who is the Devar Hashem and the Ruach HaKodesh) is the one true G-d.

Without kedushah (holiness) no man will see G-d, but I am [carnal](#), sold [under](#) sin, [and](#) in my [lower](#) nature, [even](#) if it is [Jewish](#), there is no good thing, only spiritual blindness and an evil heart of unbelief.

The carnal nature is sinful and without faith it is impossible to please Hashem, Whose justice requires onesh (punishment), with kaparah al chet (blood [atonement](#) for sin) by means of a khalifah (an exchange) and a temurah (a substitute), and Whose kedushah requires hamatah (mortification) and hitkhdshut (regeneration).

Just as [Abraham](#) believed Hashem and Abraham's emunah was [credited](#) to him as [tzedeq](#) olamim, so having been [justified](#) by [faith](#) in Moshiach's kaparah talui al etz (Messiah's blood atonement hanging on the tree), we have shalom in relation to Elohei Kedushah HaMeshuleshet (the G-d of the threefold holiness) who blesses us with the berachah hameshuleshet (threefold blessing, Bamidbar [6:24-26](#), see Shacharit for Shabbat).

Each day we reckon [ourselves](#) talui al etz ([hanging](#) on the tree) and [dead](#) with [our](#) Holy [Moshiach](#) (Moshiach Hakodesh) to chet (sin) and at the same time with Moshiach [Tzidkeinu](#) we reckon ourselves alive with our Holy Moshiach to righteousness.

For the [torah](#) (Yirmeyah 31:[32]33) of the Ruach Hakodesh (Yechezkel [36:27](#)) that gives Chayim (Life) has set me free from the vicious cycle of sin and death.

If you receive Moshiach Hakodesh and make the eidus tovah with your mouth and believe in your heart that Hashem raised him from the dead, you shall be delivered from [Gehinnom](#) unto everlasting Yeshu'at Elokeinu.