

Windows of Witness (Corrie Ten Boom)

Reference - *"The Hiding Place"*, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. (Used by Permission)

"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20

As we continue to view the testimonies of individuals who have surrendered their lives in service to God, may our Lord draw us closer to Himself through the example of their lives.

Corrie Ten Boom, born in 1892 in the Netherlands, was a devoted Christian lady who was providentially used of God during World War II, and whose story has exhorted the people of God for decades.

Corrie Ten Boom's father, Casper continued a weekly prayer service with his family that had been taught to him by his father. The Lord had given the Ten Boom family a burden to pray, not only for their family, and those around them, but specifically for the Jewish people. Beginning in 1844, this weekly prayer meeting continued for 100 years in the Ten Boom family, until February 28, 1944.

During World War II, the Ten Boom family had exhibited their Christian faith by making their home into a "hiding place", a refuge, for Jewish people being hunted by the Nazis. They would hide as many as 7 individuals at a time, and even more for temporary spans until other safe houses could be found for them. It is estimated the Ten Boom family and their nearby friends saved the lives of over 800 Jews. On February 28, 1944, Corrie, her sister Betsie, her brother Willem, and father Casper, (along with others) were handled roughly by the Nazi secret police, arrested and imprisoned. Shortly after being separated and imprisoned, Corrie began trying to discover the whereabouts of her other family members. She received word that "Betsie Ten Boom is in cell 312. She says to tell you that God is good." Even the harsh circumstances of the concentration camps could not steal the joy and love in their hearts.

Corrie and Betsie spent over 10 months in concentration camps, the last being Ravensbruck near Berlin, Germany. Life there was almost unbearable, but their conversation was always centered on reaching others with God's love, even the Nazi guards. Nearing death, Betsie told Corrie "(We) must tell people what we have learned here. We must tell them that there is no pit so deep that He (God) is not deeper still." Corrie's, *The Hiding Place*, shouts this testimony!

While Betsie, Casper and other family members died in Nazi prisons, Corrie survived. One week before all women her age were to be executed Corrie was released on a clerical error, to which she insisted, "God does not have problems. Only plans." She devoted the remainder of her life doing her best to "tell people" about the mercy and grace of our Lord. Although circumstances had often been less than favorable, and opposite her plan, she was always reminded, "There are no 'ifs' in God's kingdom...His timing is perfect. His will is our hiding place." Corrie Ten Boom died on April 15, 1983 on her 91st Birthday.

The testimony she leaves behind is an encouragement for us all to surrender our lives to God!

~ Pastor Tim Hodge