



HOW TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have." | Peter 3:15

One of the most effective tools you have for sharing your faith is your testimony – the story of how Jesus Christ transformed your life.

When the Apostle Paul stood before King Agrippa (Acts 26), he spoke simply, logically, and clearly about his life before salvation, how he met Christ, and what his life was like after conversion. Paul's testimony takes three or four minutes to read aloud.

Learning how to tell others your story in the same manner will be important as our church grows. The choice of the right words, the flow of your story, and knowing how to begin and end are important.

The purpose of preparing a testimony is not to memorize it and say it verbatim, but to help you put into words some of the important and interesting details of your own conversion experience. A testimony serves primarily as a "door opener," not a "convincing tool." Many people are not ready to be convinced they need Christ, but can often be led to talk about the gospel after hearing a personal testimony.

Paul's Model

Paul's testimony in Acts 26 is a biblical model you can follow in writing your own personal testimony.

LEAD IN VERSES 2-3

BEFORE VERSES 4-11

HOW VERSES 12-20

AFTER VERSES 21-23

CLOSE VERSES 24-29

Here are some suggestions for developing the Before, How, and After sections of your personal testimony.

BEFORE

Many people's actions spring out of their unsatisfied deep inner needs. What were one or two of your unsatisfied, deep inner needs before you came to know Jesus Christ? Some examples of inner needs are:

Lack of peace	No meaning to life
Fear of death	No real friends
Something missing	Desire to be in control
Lack of security	No motivation
Lack of purpose	Loneliness
Lack of Significance	

Non-Christians are usually trying to satisfy their deep inner needs through unsatisfactory solutions. In the past, what unsatisfactory solutions did you use to attempt to meet those deep inner needs? As you develop your testimony, list positive, as well as negative solutions you may have tried. Some examples are:

Marriage/family	Education
Work	Hobbies/entertainment
Drugs/alcohol	Sex
Sports/fitness	Wrong friends
Money	

HOW

1. Describe the circumstances that caused you to consider Christ as the solution to your deep inner needs. Identify the events that led to your conversion. In some cases this may have taken place over a period of time.
2. State specifically the steps you took to become a Christian. If there is a particular passage of Scripture that applied here, you may want to use it. Usually, you will simply paraphrase it.
3. Include the gospel clearly and briefly. The gospel includes: All have sinned; Sin's penalty; Christ paid the penalty; You must receive Christ.

AFTER

Share how Christ met or is meeting your deep inner needs. In the BEFORE you expressed your needs and how you tried unsuccessfully to meet them. You now want to firefly show the difference that Christ has made in your life.

Conclude with a statement like this: "But the greatest benefit is that I know for certain I have eternal life." The person you are talking with will tend to comment on the last thing you say. Often it is natural to move from the testimony into a clear presentation of the gospel.

Use the Testimony Worksheet on the back to help you in formalizing your short testimony.

TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

INTRODUCE YOURSELF:

YOUR LIFE BEFORE BECOMING A CHRISTIAN:

HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN:

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN – THE IMPACT ON YOUR LIFE:

HOW OTHERS CAN HAVE A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE (THE PLAN OF SALVATION IN YOUR WORDS):

GIVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHER TO MAKE A DECISION FOR CHRIST: