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Sharing Your Testimony

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith.

~ Philemon 6

As a believer we are called to be an ambassador for the Lord, as Paul says, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20). This means we are God's representatives to the world around us, and that our God-given task is to share the message of new life to those around us. Baptism was your first means to do this, in that you showed the picture of what Christ has done in your heart. Now we are called to move beyond this and be able to share our faith with others.

The best and most effective way is to simply tell the truth of what God has done in your life, or give your testimony. Jesus did the same regarding His Heavenly Father (John 1:7), as did John the Baptist (John 1:34) and the apostles regarding Christ Himself. (Acts 4:33)

Note how this task is for all who know Christ as their Saviour.

- Acts 10:42; 2 Timothy 1:8; 1 John 4:14

Your testimony consists of three parts; how you used to live and think, what brought you to salvation, and how your life has changed since your salvation. Never embellish your testimony, just tell the truth, for there are many people who are living now just as you once lived.

Paul's Testimony

Read Paul's testimony in Galatians 1:11-24 and Romans 7:7-12 and notice how he simply shared the story of his awareness of sin and conversion.

Read Acts 26 to read of Paul telling his story.

1. Acts 26: 4-11 Before
2. Acts 26:12-18 How
3. Acts 26:19-23 After

Forming Your Testimony

Your answers to the following questions will help to form your testimony

1. Before: your life before you knew Christ

- Where were you spiritually before receiving Christ, and how did that affect you – your feelings, attitudes, action, and relationships?
- In what ways was God drawing you to Christ?

2. How: your conversion

- What motivated you to invite Christ to be your Lord and Saviour?
- Specifically, how did you receive Christ and His forgiveness?
- If a church played a part in your conversion, tell how you came in contact with that church and who or what you remember from your first visits.

3. After: your new walk with Christ

- How did your life begin to change after you trusted Christ?
- What other benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian?
- Finish this sentence: "My prayer is...."

Remember

- The focus should be to bring glory to God!
- Being saved from hell, given eternal life and enabled through the Holy Spirit to live life to the full is worth talking about!
- God's power working in and through you is never boring!

Helpful Hints

- Talk it over with a friend casually, it helps to identify unnecessary information
- Start with your background and parents, they were very influential
- Be honest about yourself
- Think about particular people or events that were landmarks in your faith
- Quote Scripture which is important at the time
- Bring in the Gospel!
- Focus on how Jesus has changed your life in a practical way
- Focus on how God has done it, not us!
- Think about your identity in God now
- Mention troubles and trials you have experienced, overcome and learned from with God's help
- Think about recent ways in which God has worked and answered prayer
- Mention how you hope to continue for the future

Talk or Write out Your Testimony

Your personal experience with Christ will probably fall into one of the following three formats. Use the answers to the questions from forming your testimony and choose one of the following formats that best describe you to help you verbally communicate or write out your testimony.

Format 1: Adult Conversion.

You trusted Christ as an adult. You have a distinct before, how, and after.

Format 2: Early Conversion, Adult Full Commitment.

You made a decision for Christ as a child, but your life was characterized by spiritual immaturity- a lifestyle similar to that of a non-Christian-until you made a later commitment of your life to Christ. Evaluate whether your early conversion was genuine. If not, use Format 1.

Format 3: Early Conversion, Consistent Growth.

You probably grew up with Christian parents and have a strong church background. You have very little before.



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