

Sharing Your Testimony

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Homework Review and Introduction

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

1 Peter 2: 9-10

Outline this morning:

1. Share your testimony with words
2. Adorn your testimony with your life

Share your testimony with words

Two ways that you can share your testimony with words

- How did Christ save you?
- What is Christ doing in your life today?

One possible structure to your testimony

- Share about your life BEFORE CHRIST
- Share WHAT CHRIST DID to save you
- Share about your life AFTER CHRIST or IN CHRIST

Example: Acts 22: 1-15

- What was Paul's life like before Christ?
- What did Christ do in Paul's life?
- What was Paul's life like in Christ?

Homework – get the core of your testimony down. Try for 2 minutes.

Another way we testify: What God is doing today

- Not just about one decision. It's a life of discipleship.
- The whole of our life is now in Christ

Share your testimony and be mindful of the **words and illustrations** we use

- What might be some words/illustrations we would be tempted to use that a non-believer may have no idea about?
- How might you say it differently?

Share your testimony and be mindful of the **times we live in**

- God must reveal Himself – and all praise to Him, He does! Go to the Word.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. John 14: 6

- So we want to ensure that we incorporate the gospel truth within our own story of God's work in our life (second lesson in the series)
 - God
 - Man
 - Christ
 - What will your response be?

Adorn your testimony with your life

Titus 2: 9 – 11.

Adorn your testimony with your life: All your other word.

- What else do you talk about?
- What do you mostly talk about?
- What words do you use?

Adorn your testimony with your life: Your decisions and choices

- Delight
- Devotion

Conclusion and Homework

PERSONAL TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

1. **My life before I trusted Christ** (*the purpose of this question is not to glorify your sinful past. It is simply to help people understand the state of your life before Christ*).

A. What ultimately caused you to be broken over your sin and to consider Christ and eternal things?

2. **How I came to faith in Christ** (*please explain how you learned about the gospel, what the gospel message is, and how you responded to it*).

A. When and how did you become aware of the person and work of Christ?

B. What is the message of the gospel that saved you?

C. How did you respond to the gospel message?

3. **My life since I trusted Christ** (*please describe how Christ has changed your life*).

PREPARING A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

One of the greatest privileges you have is presenting the Good News of Jesus Christ to others. You need to be prepared to give your testimony to others (*based on I Peter 3:15*).

The Apostle Paul provided a good example for you to follow when he gave his testimony of conversion before King Agrippa in *Acts 26:1-23*.

Life Before Conversion (Acts 26:4-11)

A religious life but opposed to God

Conversion (Acts 26:12-18)

A recognition of a need for Christ and a commitment to Christ

Life After Conversion (Acts 26:19-23)

A changed life and a witness for Christ

Few believers have as dramatic a testimony as Paul, but all believers can follow the same general outline: *Life Before Conversion, Conversion, Life After Conversion*.

To implant this testimony outline firmly in your mind, you should develop a "ten second" testimony that forms the basis for a more complete testimony. For example:

(Life Before Conversion) There was a time in my life when I was hopeless and confused; *(Conversion)* then I had an encounter with Jesus Christ that changed my life. *(Life After Conversion)* Ever since then, I have had a purpose for living.

Another example would be: *(Life Before Conversion)* I always thought I wasn't that bad and would go to heaven no matter what. *(Conversion)* However, God had a different plan to which I responded. *(After Conversion)* I know now I'll go to heaven.

Life before conversion: Try to use descriptive words that a non-believer will understand which would characterize your life prior to knowing Christ (*examples: selfish, no meaning, guilty, troubled, without hope, full of anxiety, always trying to be #1, etc.*).

Conversion: Then describe your conversion in terms that a non-believer will readily understand. Phrases such as "got saved" or "had my sins covered by the blood" or "knelt at Calvary," while meaningful to believers, will probably not be understood by a non-believer. You might describe your conversion experience with phrases such as: "I discovered God loved me" or "I realized Jesus was God's Son" or "Someone told me that God had a plan for my life."

Life after conversion: Use words familiar to a non-believer to describe your life now (*examples: I stopped worrying. I found peace. My guilt is gone. I have found the only way to real living*).

Remember to keep your "ten second" testimony simple without going into detail. Details are reserved for your "expanded testimony" to be developed in future lessons. Examples of "expanded testimonies" are given on Page 2 of Supplement 4.

TEN SECOND ... THIRTY SECOND ... SIXTY SECOND TESTIMONIES (EXAMPLES)

Example of a ten-second testimony:

- (before)* "There was a time in my life when I had no lasting peace and joy, but someone told me that was because I didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- (conversion)* After my relationship with God was established,
- (after)* I discovered the reality of true peace and joy."

The above ten-second testimony expanded into a thirty-second testimony:

- (before)* "When I was younger, I couldn't find lasting peace and joy in anything or anyone. My friends and activities could not fill that emptiness in my life."
- (conversion)* "One day, a friend of mine told me how Jesus had died so that my life could have meaning and direction. I then realized that I was a sinner in need of God's forgiveness. So I asked God to forgive me, and genuinely believed in Jesus as my Savior, receiving Him into my life."
- (after)* "Since turning my life over to Jesus, I have discovered that the Bible provides all the answers I need. No matter what comes along, God's peace and joy are mine forever."

The above thirty-second testimony expanded into a sixty-second testimony:

- (before)* "When I was younger, I couldn't find lasting peace or joy in anything or anyone. Even though my friends and I always were on the move, it seemed there should be more to life than what I was experiencing. My friends even agreed with that."
- (conversion)* "One day, a friend and I were talking about some problems I was having; and he explained that my biggest problem was not having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He showed me that no one was perfect, which means that all have sinned, as the Bible says in Romans 3:23. And, I learned that the Bible, in Romans 6:23, says my sins had earned a definite wage for me, which was death. However, God didn't leave me in that position. Jesus died for me so my sins could be forgiven, and I could enjoy a relationship with God and receive His gift of eternal life."
- "All I had to do was to believe genuinely that Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins and that He rose from the dead so I could have a new life. My next step of commitment was to ask Him to forgive me of my sins. My prayer was simple; I said, 'God, please forgive me for my sins. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die for me and to live so I could have eternal life. Please save me from my sins, and take control of my life, Lord Jesus.'"
- (after)* "Since turning my life over to Jesus, God's lasting peace and joy have been mine as I have obeyed God's Word to overcome problems. I don't mean that I don't have trials, but I am now confident that God will help, guide, and strengthen me when problems come. Have you ever considered the difference that Jesus Christ could make in your life?"