

How to Prepare a Personal Testimony

- A. Any subject matter can be presented more effectively by careful organization. A carefully prepared testimony, given in the power of the Holy Spirit, can be of immediate and effective use in nearly every witnessing situation. It should be our desire to present Christ in such a clear and attractive, yet simple, way that those who hear will not only want to know Him, but they will also know how to know Him personally.
- B. A carefully and intelligently worded three-minute testimony will communicate far more effectively than a prolonged one that includes a lot of extraneous material which will distract from, rather than emphasize, the point of personal commitment to Christ and what this can mean in a person's life.

Things To Do:

1. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write (James 1:5,6).
2. Follow a three-point outline: "My Life With Christ."
 - a. Life before knowing Christ.
 - b. How you came to know Christ (be specific).
 - c. Life after you received Christ (changes He has made, what He means to you now.)
3. Emphasize point "c" above, if you became a Christian as small child.
4. Begin with an interesting, attention-getting sentence and close with a good conclusion. Include relevant, thought-provoking, secular facts and experiences.
5. Write in such a way that others will feel associated with you in past and present experiences.
6. Give enough details to arouse interest.
7. Use at least one, but at the most two, Scripture verses.
8. Edit carefully and rewrite as necessary before the final draft.
9. Choose something characteristic of your experience that is of general interest to non-Christians. Build your own testimony around a theme, for example success, life's best, money as the answer, dreams of the future, God's personal plan for me, what I want most out of life, desire to help others, etc.

10. Emphasize the fact that the thing that made the difference in your life was accepting Christ as Savior and making Him Lord and Master of your life. Keep in mind that someone else should be able to trust the Lord through your testimony. Tell how He entered your life.
11. Remember, the same Christ lives in you whether you trusted Him early or later in life. Do not be concerned that your testimony is exciting, just that it is interesting.
12. Be realistic. Christ does not eliminate all the problems of life, but enables you to live them out with peace and confidence: "I am with you always."
13. Be positive, not negative, from start to finish.
14. Give your testimony in a group situation the same as you would for an individual.

Avoid the following when giving your testimony:

1. Making statements which reflect negatively on the church, other organizations or people.
2. Mentioning denominations, especially in a derogatory way.
3. Preaching at people. Use your natural speaking voice. This is a testimony, not a "preachimony."
4. Using stereotypes, people who work together for a period of time on a team tend to unwittingly copy one another.
5. Using too many of the same terms as others:
 - a. Straight-laced, sober and sad.
 - b. Fantastic, exciting and great.
 - c. Peace, purpose and happiness.
 - d. Changed.
6. Speaking with such little volume that you cannot be heard readily by all present.
7. Speaking in glittering generalities using words that are meaningless to non-Christians. Terms like "salvation," "saved," "born again" and "conversion" need to be defined if used. Terms like "glorious" and "Hallelujah" are so ridiculed in some areas that you would do well not to use them at all.
8. Using poor posture or exhibiting nervous habits (especially with your hands).
9. Talking on the way to or from your seat.

10. Being long-winded and using unnecessary words (adhere strictly to the time schedule).

How to Share Your Testimony

- a. Share your testimony with loving enthusiasm in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18).
- b. Speak loudly and clearly in a natural relaxed tone of voice.
- c. Avoid mannerisms when you speak, such as rubbing your nose, jingling coins in your pocket, swaying, clearing your throat and using uh's and ah's.
- d. Avoid arguing and other high pressure methods of getting a decision for Christ. Remember, men are born of the Spirit, not through persuasiveness or logic of men, though God may use both.
- e. Smile often! Ask the Lord to give you a happy, radiant countenance.
- f. Memorize your testimony and practice it until it becomes natural.
- g. Use all or portions of your personal testimony before, during or after a Four Spiritual Laws presentation.

Testimony Work Sheet

Before I received Christ, I lived and thought this way:

How I received Christ:

After I received Christ, these changes took place:

Pertinent or favorite verse with which I might close: