



HOW TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

Women Equipping Women

1 Peter 3:15

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to
give a reason for the hope you have.*

How to Write/Share Your Testimony

- Pray
- Consider length of message.
 - 1 minute
 - 2 minutes
 - 3 minutes
 - 5 minutes.
- Use common everyday language. No church words.
- Share key evangelism verses
 - Romans Road
 - 1 John 1:9
 - John 3:16
 - Ephesians 2:8-8
 - Acts 16:31
 - Romans 10:9
- Have small group leader read your testimony and offer suggestions for improvement.

Typical Model of Testimony:

Not all questions will apply. They are here to prompt your thoughts about what to include.

1. Before You Trusted in Christ

- a. What did my life revolve around?
- b. Where did I get my security or happiness from? *The non-Christian is relying on something external to give him security, happiness, purpose, etc.*
- c. What made you feel most significant?
- d. How did those areas begin to let you down?
- e. Who did you think God was? What did you think He was like?
- f. Were you raised in church?
- g. What was your understanding of heaven or hell?
- h. Did you have any thoughts about why people “do bad things”?

- i. Did you have idols such as people, money, health, kids, etc?
- j. Were you angry at God for some trial or suffering?

2. When and how you came to trust in Christ

- a. When was the first time you heard the gospel? Or when were you exposed to the truth about Jesus? Child? High school? College? Work? Married? Middle age? Sermon on the radio?
- b. Who told you the Gospel? Church? Friend? Tract? Co-worker?
- c. What was your initial responses?
- d. When did your attitude begin to turn around? Why?
- e. What were some struggles that went through your mind just before you accepted Christ?
- f. Why did you accept Christ?
- g. You can format this section with three statements if you like:
 - i. Here's what happened
 - ii. Here's what I learned
 - iii. Here's what I understood
- h. You must include in this part of the testimony a realization and acceptance of Gospel truths:
 - i. The fact of sin. All sin breaks relationship with God. We are alienated from God.
 - ii. The penalty of sin. Death. Eternal separation from God.
 - iii. Jesus' payment for sin. He substituted His life for your sin payment.
 - iv. The response required by us: repent and trust Jesus.
 - v. The steps you took to invite Christ into your life.
- i. You want people to know
 - i. Who Jesus is
 - ii. What He accomplished on the cross
 - iii. What He offers
 - iv. What He calls us to do

3. After coming to faith In Christ
 - a. Read Romans 5. Romans 8. Ephesians 2. Titus 3: 3 – 7. What do you see that the believer has after that he didn't have before?
 - b. **What's the *one fundamental change*** in your life now that you have Christ?
Answer: restored relationship with God and eternal life. **1 John 5:11-12.**
 - c. Yes, you can write about joy in salvation, peace in knowing you are saved, restored marriage, freedom from addictions, fellowship of believers, etc etc etc.
Just don't forget you **were dead** and **now you are alive** in Christ.
 - d. Jesus overcomes two things: sin and death.

Additional Thoughts

The point of your testimony is to exalt Jesus, not talk about yourself. You **will** talk about yourself because it's your story but your *using your story to showcase God's work in your life*.

There are no boring testimonies. You were dead and now you're not. How is that boring? If you were saved at a young age you have the following testimony, "I was saved from drugs, alcohol, partying, sex, fill in the blank at fill in the age you got saved. What a testimony of grace!

Paul's Example

Acts 26

1. Acts 26: 4 - 11 BEFORE

⁴“My manner of life **from my youth**, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. ⁵They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion **I have lived as a Pharisee**. ⁶ And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, ⁷ to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! ⁸ Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

⁹“**I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth**. ¹⁰ And I did so in Jerusalem. **I not only locked up many** of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death **I cast my vote against them**. ¹¹ And **I punished them often** in all the synagogues and **tried to make them blaspheme**, and in raging fury against them **I persecuted them** even to foreign cities.

2. Acts 26: 12- 18 CONVERSION (*not your average conversion, nevertheless this is Paul's account*)

¹² “In this connection **I journeyed to Damascus** with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ At midday, O king, **I saw on the way a light from heaven**, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, **I heard a voice** saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ And **I said**, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the **Lord said**, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet,

for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

3. Acts 26: 19-21 AFTER

“Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. ²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.

FYI.....notice the response Paul got when he was done giving his testimony:

v. 24 *Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind.”*

Your job is not conversion. Your job is to tell your testimony.