



How to Prepare an Effective Personal Testimony

A carefully prepared testimony, empowered by the Holy Spirit, can be of immediate and effective use when sharing your story with others. Our desire should be to present Christ in a clear, attractive, yet simple way.

Include These Steps:

- Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write (James 1:5)
- Follow the divisions on the Testimony Worksheet
 1. Life before knowing Christ (the briefest part; don't dwell on this).
 2. How you came to know Christ (be specific). You may lead another person to Christ with this. Is it clear? Does it explain how a person can receive Christ clearly?
 3. Life after you received Christ (changes He has made; what He means to you now).
- If you became a Christian as a child, use Testimony Worksheet #2
- Begin with an interesting, attention-getting sentence and close with a strong conclusion.
- Write the way you speak. Make the testimony yours.
- Use at least one pertinent verse of Scripture (two at the most).
- Aim for short. No more than 3 – 5 minutes in length.

Avoid These Tendencies:

- Using Christian jargon that might be intimidating or unclear to unbelievers. Words such as *saved*, *convicted*, *converted*, *born again*, and sometimes even the word *sin* do not usually communicate to the unchurched.
- Being too wordy, beating around the bush, or emphasizing how bad you used to be.
- Speaking in glittering generalities. Avoid words like wonderful, glorious, etc.
- Mentioning church denominations, especially in a derogatory way.
- Speaking critically about any other individual or group.
- Giving the impression that the Christian life is always easy, or that you never have any problems.

While Sharing Your Testimony:

- Share it with loving enthusiasm in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Speak clearly in a natural, relaxed tone of voice.
- Avoid arguing and high-pressure methods of getting a “decision” for Christ.
- Avoid preaching at people.
- Smile often!
- Practice your testimony until it becomes natural.