

Testimony

"What is a Christian Testimony?"

Question: "What is a Christian Testimony?" <http://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-testimony.html>

Answer: The word "testimony" is used in few different ways. One common usage is when a person is brought into a courtroom and placed under oath to tell, attest to, or give witness to his or her personal knowledge or experience with reference to the case that is being heard. To link the word "Christian" to the word "testimony" is to narrow the focus of the testimony and who can give it. Only a Christian can give a Christian testimony, and a Christian is one who has received forgiveness for sin by trusting alone in the person and work of Jesus Christ for that forgiveness.

A Christian testimony is given when Christians relate how we came to know the God of the Bible through the moving of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Most commonly, we are sharing how we became Christians by God's miraculous intervention and work in our lives through specific events. Often we can only see that in hindsight, but sharing that experience is vital. Also, when giving this testimony, a sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is always a necessity. Though we can include specific information about how we came to accept Christ as Savior, those details should not be the focus of the testimony. The focus should be about the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

A Christian testimony should not end with the conversion experience, but should also include the ways in which the Lord has worked in our lives to sanctify us for His service. As an example, a testimony could include how He brought us through a difficult time in our life (such as a loss or some sort of a severe illness) and built our faith in Him through that experience. We should also be able to describe the continual process by which the Spirit who now indwells us leads, guides, molds and shapes us into mature Christians. Again, the focus should be on the Lord and His faithfulness, and should include at least one verse that speaks of that faithfulness (Psalm 18:2, 6).

The Testimony You Live By

By Charles F. Stanley

He then answered, 'Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' - John 9:25

John 9 tells the story of a blind man's encounter with Jesus. The Savior spat on the ground, made clay, and put it on the man's eyes. After washing in a pool, he "came back seeing" (John 9:6-7). From then on, the young man had an amazing story that he shared with those around him. Even though the religious leaders harassed him, he refused to recant his testimony.

"Though I was blind, now I see," he told them.

The young man had incredible courage to defy the learned leaders—even though he knew so little about Jesus. He stood firm. Something undeniable had happened to him, and he shared his personal testimony. Simple. Straightforward. Bold.

How often do we just tell others that we were once blind to the truth of Christ, but now we see? That's really what people want to know—even more than answers to deep theological questions. They want to hear about what happened in our lives that makes us different.

Your Testimony

Our personal testimony is unique, and sharing it is a responsibility that we must never take lightly. God has entrusted each of us with an opportunity to affect people who watch us daily. Sometimes we don't know the influence we have, but people watch us—waiting to see if our words match our actions.

You've probably been influenced by someone else's testimony. Maybe that person's lifestyle spoke clearly to your heart about needing a Savior. In the same way, you can impact others—even when you have no idea they are watching. Three things are essential in our lives if we want to affect others for God's kingdom.

1. First, your *character* needs to be solid. What you are on the inside is much more important than what you look like on the outside.
2. Next, your *conduct*, or what you do, should align with God's commands. Unbelievers are watching, so make sure you stay in the center of the Father's will and maintain a godly walk.
3. Third, your *conversation* is an indication of your true character. Before you can expect anyone to be curious about your life, you need to consider what your words reveal about you ([Matt. 12:34](#)).

Your personal story is a powerful tool. It is the expression of what God has done and is doing in your life. Some may say, "You don't understand. My personal testimony isn't dramatic at all. I received Jesus Christ as a young child. I never took drugs. I grew up in the church. That's about it." Don't underestimate how powerful such a testimony is to someone who is lost! If you became a Christian at a young age, there was still a time you passed from death into life—and the world needs to know how to do that.

It doesn't matter whether your testimony is simple or dramatic. If Jesus is your foundation, He can use you to draw people to Himself ([John 12:32](#)). Ask God to shine through you in a manner that makes others curious about the Christian faith ([Matt. 5:16](#); 1 Pet. 3:15). Whether or not they admit it, most folks want to hear about how God touches a person's life. Just think—if your character, conduct, and conversation are in line—an encounter with you could change someone eternally.

Adapted from "Handbook for Christian Living" (2007).

How to Write Your Christian Testimony

Six(6) Easy Steps for Putting Together Your Christian Testimony By Mary Fairchild

Skeptics may debate the validity of Scripture or argue the existence of God, but no one can deny your personal experiences with him. When you tell your story of how God has worked a miracle in your life, or how he has blessed you, transformed you, lifted and

encouraged you, perhaps even broken and healed you, no one can argue or debate it. You go beyond the realm of **knowledge** into the realm of **relationship** with God.

These steps are designed to help you write your Christian testimony. They apply for both long and short, written and spoken testimonies. Whether you are planning to write down your full, detailed testimony or preparing a quick 2-minute version of your testimony to share on a short-term mission trip, these tips and steps will help you tell others with sincerity, impact and clarity what God has done in your life.

1 - Realize the Power of Your Christian Testimony

First and foremost - remember - there is power in your testimony! Revelation 12:11 says we overcome our enemy by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony.

2 - Study an Example of a Testimony from the Bible

Read Acts 26. Here the Apostle Paul gives his testimony.

3 - Spend Time in Thought Preparation

There are a few things to consider before you start writing your testimony. Think about your life before you met the Lord. What was going on in your life leading up to your conversion? What problems or needs were you facing at the time? How did your life change after that?

4 - Start with a Simple 3-Point Outline

A three-point approach is very effective in communicating your personal testimony. The outline focuses on **before** you trusted Christ, **how** you surrendered to him, and the difference **since** you've been walking with him.

- **Before:**

Simply tell what your life was like before you surrendered to Christ. What were you searching for before coming to know Christ? What was the key problem, emotion, situation or attitude you were dealing with? What motivated you? What were your actions? How did you try to satisfy your inner needs? (Examples of inner needs are loneliness, fear of death, insecurity. Possible ways to fill those needs include work, money, drugs, relationships, sports, sex.)

- **How:**

How were you converted? Simply tell the events and circumstances that caused you to consider Christ as the solution to your searching. Take time to identify the steps that brought you to the point of trusting Christ. Where were you? What was happening at the time? What people or problems influenced your decision?

- **Since:**

How has your life in Christ made a difference? How has his forgiveness impacted you? How have your thoughts, attitudes and emotions changed? Share how Christ is meeting your needs and what a relationship with him means to you now.

5 - Important Tips to Remember

- **Stick to the point.** Your conversion and new life in Christ should be the main points.
- **Be specific.** Include events, genuine feelings and personal insights that clarify your main point. This makes your testimony tangible - something others can relate to.
- **Be current.** Tell what is happening in your life with God now, today.
- **Be honest.** Don't exaggerate or dramatize your life for effect. The simple truth of what God has done in your life is all the Holy Spirit needs to convict others of their sin and convince them of his love and grace.

6 - Things to Avoid

Stay away from "Christianese" phrases. These "foreign" or "churchy" words can alienate listeners and readers and keep them from identifying with your life. Here are some examples:

Avoid using "**born again**"

Instead use:

- spiritual birth
- spiritual renewal
- to come alive spiritually
- given a new life

Avoid using "**saved**"

Instead use:

- rescued
- delivered from despair
- found hope for life

Avoid using "**lost**"

Instead use:

- heading in the wrong direction
- separated from God
- had no hope

Avoid using "**Gospel**"

Instead use:

- God's message to man
- the good news about Christ's purpose on earth

Avoid using "sin"

Instead use:

- rejecting God
- missing the mark
- falling away from the right path
- a crime against God's law
- disobedience to God

Avoid using "repent"

Instead use:

- admit a wrong
- change one's mind, heart or attitude
- make a decision to turn away
- turn around
- a 180 degree turn from what you were doing