

HOW TO WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY

A great model for your testimony is found in Acts 26:4-23. Use it to gain insight from Paul's life pre and post conversion to guide you as you write yours. Paul also ends his testimony by giving a statement of beliefs, as you will be asked to do as well.

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 Jesus, how you surrendered to Him, and the difference since you've been walking with Him.

PART I - Before:

Simply tell what your life was like before you surrendered to Jesus. What were you searching for before coming to know Jesus? 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.) If you came to Jesus at an early age share simply that, don't be ashamed or feel that your testimony is "less than." Some of my favorite testimonies are from those who have walked with Jesus their whole life.

PART II - How:

How were you converted? Simply tell the events and circumstances that caused you to consider Jesus and Jesus alone as the solution to your searching. Take time to identify the steps that brought you to the point of trusting Jesus and repenting of your sin. Where were you? What was happening at the time? What people or problems influenced your decision? Make sure to talk about what Jesus did for you on the cross and repenting of your sin.

PART III - 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. In addition please highlight why you want to be baptized.

Some 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 Jesus 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.
- Include a favorite verse or two that point out what Jesus has done and who you are now as a follower of Him.
- Write it out and keep it to one page in length. One sided, typed, 12 font.

The most important question that any Christian should be able to answer is: I know I am a Christian because....Make sure this is clear.

Some helpful texts:

John 3:16
 John 14:6
 Romans 3:23
 Romans 5:6
 Romans 5:8
 Romans 5:12
 Romans 6:4
 Romans 6:23
 Romans 10:2-3
 Romans 10:9-10
 Mark 1:17
 Mark 10:21
 Mark 16:16

Matthew 6:33
 Matthew 10:32
 Matthew 10:38
 Matthew 28:18-20
 II Cor. 5:17
 II Cor. 5:19-21
 Acts 2:38
 Acts 16:31
 Eph. 2:1-10
 Ephesians 4:24
 Philippians 3:4-9
 Colossian 2;12
 Colossians 3:1-4
 I John 1:8-2:2