



Tips for Crafting a Powerful Christian Testimony

Testimony: *a formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law; evidence or proof provided by the existence or appearance of something. (Webster)*

Christian testimony: *a real-life story shared by a believer about how they came to know Jesus Christ through the moving of the Holy Spirit in their heart, and how that encounter became a miraculous intervention in their life, empowering them to live as a testament of the power of a sovereign God.*

The difference? A “testimony” is simply a statement or a factual recounting of an experience. A “Christian testimony” is a story, raw and real, that serves as proof of God’s power to change someone’s life. It’s a story that begins with the acceptance of Christ, but does not end there. It’s also a story about how the Lord has worked in our lives to change our hearts, heal our souls, give us new purpose, and alter the direction of our future for the better.

We all know our own stories. But how we tell those stories can either turn someone away or spark a burning desire for God in their heart as they see what He has done in ours.

5-Step Process for Preparing a Great Story

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

- My attitudes were such that . . .
- My needs revolved around . . .
- My problems were . . .
- I gained happiness from . . .

B. Due to all of the things I mentioned above, I was:

- disappointed because . . .
- unfulfilled because . . .
- struggling with my life because . . .

C. I first heard about Christ:

- in Sunday morning worship service.
- when a friend introduced me.
- in a difficult time in my life.
- through someone else's testimony.
- through an encounter with Him at a special service or event.

D. When I received Christ, many things happened to me:

- My attitude changed in that . . .
- The things that were important before were no longer important, such as . . .
- I began to be concerned about new things, like . . .

E. My life has changed in many ways:

- I stopped doing things that were bringing me down, such as . . .
- I stopped having a negative attitude about . . .
- I began to care about . . .
- I was able to forgive people who . . .
- I noticed God working in my life and answering prayers, for example . . .

Once you've answered these questions and jotted down important facets of your faith walk, try to write out your story in a conversational tone. Envision yourself sitting down with a friend over coffee and sharing this story with her. Once you have your story written in a concise and impactful way, practice sharing it out loud, in front of a mirror, or with that friend who knows you best.

Knowing how to tell your God-story is just as important as having one.

Do's of Writing a Powerful Testimony:

- Always begin with an attention-getting sentence or incident.
- Be positive, accurate, and specific—details arouse interest.
- Write in such a way that others can relate to your experiences—include real-life experiences.
- Use one or two Bible verses directly related to your experience, but just paraphrase them rather than quoting references and specific words.
- Write things just as you would say them if you were having a conversation.
- Have someone else look it over and provide some constructive feedback.
- Show that being a Christian is a day-to-day relationship.
- Keep it around 3 to 7 minutes long.

Don'ts of Writing a Powerful Testimony:

- Don't use Christian jargon, which does not communicate truth to the average non-Christian and is often misunderstood: saved, convicted, converted, born again, sin, repentance.
- Don't be too wordy, beat around the bush, or emphasize just how bad you used to be. People feel uncomfortable if you dwell on unfortunate personal issues.
- Don't exaggerate how bad your life used to be.
- Don't speak with glitter language: wonderful, glorious, outstanding.
- Don't give the impression that life is a bed of roses since you accepted Christ as your Savior.
- Don't preach to people. Make it a testimony, not a "preachimony."
- Don't assume that the person knows the basic truths of God.