

HOW TO WRITE YOUR SPIRITUAL STORY

You got one. Everybody does. No, I'm not talking about an income tax return. I'm talking about your very own personal spiritual life story. We are all spiritual beings with a spiritual side that we long to see satisfied

If you are following Jesus as your life leader and sin forgiver then this brochure will help you express that journey in writing.

“Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony of God in them.” 1 John 5:10a (GWT)

STEPS TO WRITING YOUR SPIRITUAL STORY

STEP ONE: PRAY

(Hey, you can pray this one by reading it right off the page. Just put your heart into it.

By the way it is okay to pray with your eyes open!)

“Heavenly Father, thank you for this opportunity to express on paper my spiritual journey with you. Help me to remember and record what we have experienced together. I am asking that this exercise would act as another voice in my heart reaffirming that I am indeed your child. I want to celebrate what you have done for me. Father, I also ask that what I communicate in writing would be crystal clear so that as people read it they would understand just what they need to know and need to believe and need to do to experience You as their own personal life leader and sin forgiver. Above all I pray that what I write would cause people not to see me alone but above it all to see you as the One who loves them and whom they need. Amen.”

STEP TWO: ASK THE BIG QUESTIONS

A spiritual life story will answer four questions.

- 1) What was my life like before I became a Christian?
- 2) Why did I become a Christian?
- 3) How did I become a Christian?
- 4) What is my life like now that I am a Christian?

STEP THREE: ANSWER THE BIG QUESTIONS

Let's look a little closer at each of the questions

1) What was my life like before I became a Christian?

If you became a Christian as a young child then you won't have much to write here. The idea that you were selling dope, leading gangs, robbing banks and embezzling money and then at the age of 10 you heard God's voice and were radically transformed might be a little hard for your readers to believe. (Mind you if it really happened that way then hey let's write a book and make some money off of it!) It's a wonderful life experience when

you become a Christian as a child. The only down side is that you won't have a whole lot to write in this section of your spiritual story. No problem though. There is much you can write to answer the remaining three questions.

Now for those of us who held out until we were older there's some exciting stuff to record. So if you accepted Christ when a little older you've got some stuff to write down. People really like to learn about other people. Even if you think your life is boring other's won't. That's why those grocery store tabloids sell so well. They are often about people and we really get into learning about others. So go for it. Write down some stuff about your life. Maybe it'll be about your family or the town your grew up in. Maybe it will be about your education or your occupation. Maybe it will be about some major struggles or successes you experienced. Maybe it will be about churches you were a part of or athletic accomplishments you experienced.

Be careful not to mention anyone or any church or religious group by name if the comments are not positive ones.

2. REMEMBER:

Hey, turn around and look back on your spiritual journey. This is exciting. God has done something unique in your life that he hasn't done in anyone else's life. Your journey is a one of a kind experience. That's true of everyone. There are some key elements in your journey that are vital to sharing a spiritual story with others. We have some questions to help you remember. Go through them and quickly, in point form, answer as many as you can.

- What was/is the spiritual temperature of the home you were/are raised in like?
- What was your view of God like?
- What did you see as your relationship to God?
- When did you first hear about Jesus?
- What was it about Jesus that drew you to him?
- Why did you decide to become a follower of Jesus?
- How did you express your decision to become a Christian to God?
- What have you experienced since trusting in Christ?
- What changes are you asking God to make in your life?

WHY BOTHER?

- 1) Helps you solidify your spiritual journey. Know where you are and where you need to grow.
- 2) Honours God – it is all about what God has done in your life. This is an act of worship.
- 3) Communicates the Good News to those who read your story. Paul tells his 5x in the NT. It is a powerful tool for sharing your faith.

KEYS

- 1) Focus on Jesus
- 2) Be specific. Use illustrations. The more specific you are the more people will grab hold of it.