

# HOW TO GIVE MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Like a court testimony, a Christian testimony attests to something – a life changed by Jesus Christ. The following are two types of testimonies:

## 1. Outreach Testimony

**Purpose:** To glorify God for His salvation, and tell people that they can be saved, too.  
**Theme:** A life changed by God.  
**Focus:** The message believed.  
**Desired Response:** “I can relate to what you were like before Christ! I need Jesus in my life, too!”

## 2. In-reach Testimony

**Purpose:** To glorify God for His salvation, and encourage people that they can be used by God to lead others to Christ.  
**Theme:** A life changed by God.  
**Focus:** The means God used to communicate the message.  
**Desired Response:** “There is someone at my school/work just like you. Perhaps God could use me just like He used the influential person in your life.”

## 3. Preparing Testimony

Answer each question on the back of this sheet and then pick an example from your like to illustrate your answer. The questions are to get your ideas flowing. Do not try to include the answer to every question in a 3-minute testimony.

## 4. Tips for Preparing Testimony

- A). Pray for guidance (James 1:5-6).
- B). Write it out so you can remember and refine it.
- C). Be careful to not give glory to the evil one for his hold on you in the past. Only share details with wisdom rather than bringing up unnecessary “garbage” which should be left between you and the Lord.
- D). Try not to speak negatively about any Christian churches/denominations, even though your experience may not have been positive. Leave this general.
- E). Consider Paul’s testimony in I Timothy 1:12-17 as an example of what a testimony contains:
  1. In verse 13 we see Paul relating his past before he was saved. *Note: Paul does not go into gross detail of his sins, but demonstrates the rebellion and sin in his heart toward God.*
  2. In verses 14-15 Paul tells of the salvation that is in Christ.
  3. In verses 16-17 Paul closes by applying the gospel to himself and praising the Lord. This reveals the joy, peace, and change that has been wrought in his heart through Christ.
  4. We are then to follow Paul’s inspired example and pattern the content of our testimony after his.
  5. Our condition and state of mind before we were saved, followed by the events that led up to our salvation, with an explanation of that salvation, and finally a testimony of the change that has been wrought in your life since receiving Christ.

## **BEFORE** (Your life before you surrendered to Christ)

1. What things were most important to me?
2. What did my life revolve around?
3. From what did I receive security, fulfillment, or happiness?
4. List a few specific examples (pick the best one later).

## **DURING** (The time God was drawing you to Himself)

1. What was the message I came to understand and believe?  
Summarize.
2. What was my first reaction to the message of the good news?
3. Why did I first begin to feel positive about the good news?
4. What was motivating me to overcome my initial struggles with the truth?
5. Why did I finally decide to stop living for myself and surrender to Christ?
6. What decision(s) did I make when I turned away from my sin and began to live for Christ?

## **AFTER** (Your life after you were given a new heart) Ezekiel 11:19-20; II Corinthians 5:17

1. How did Christ change the areas I wrote down in point #1 (Before)
2. What are some of the specific changes in my life now?
3. What are some specific illustration of theses changes?
4. Is my life problem-free now? If not, what is different? (Hope and power to change through the Holy Spirit - I John 3:3-4)

## **ILLUSTRATION**

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## **TESTIMONY WORKSHEET**

**BEFORE I KNEW CHRIST, I LIVED AND THOUGHT THIS WAY...**

**HOW I RECEIVED CHRIST...**

**AFTER I RECEIVED CHRIST, THESE CHANGES TOOK PLACE...**