

# Testimonies

## Testimonies

### Writing Your Testimony

#### 1. Before I received Christ

Preparing your personal testimony begins with telling the story of what your life was like before you received Jesus Christ. It is not necessary to go into extreme detail. Effective communication is usually brief, to the point, and clear. In fact, orally explaining your testimony should not take more than 3 or 4 minutes.

##### What to Do:

- Ask God to give you wisdom.
- Keep to a 3-5 minute limit
- Be realistic, don't exaggerate

##### What Not to Do:

- Make statements that reflect negatively on any church organization.
- Make statements that reflect negatively on any individual.
- Mention denominations or church names.
- Speak or write in a preachy manner. (Be real with people)
- Use vague terms like *joyful*, *peaceful*, or *changed* without explaining them.
- Use religious terms like *saved*, *sin*, or *convicted* without explaining them.

##### Writing Style:

- Begin with an attention-getting sentence or incident.
- Be positive, accurate and specific – details arouse interest.
- Use Bible verses directly related to your experience. Delete references, for example, say, “One of Jesus’ disciples said...” rather than writing “1 John 5:11-13 says...”
- Write a logical conclusion.

As you begin writing your testimony, write things just as you would say it to someone in person. Such as, “Before I received Christ as my savior, my attitude was...” or “My life was filled with problems I could not solve...”

#### 2. How I Received Christ

When and how did I first hear about Christ?

What were my struggles just before I received Christ?

What happened when I received Christ and how did my attitude begin to change, and why?

### **3. Since I Received Christ**

When giving a personal testimony, many people concentrate on the sin they had before they received Christ – even the sensationalism. However, an effective testimony focuses not on our sin, but on the work of the Holy Spirit on us, so that Jesus Christ takes center stage. It is at this point that your testimony should begin to shine.

**What happened after I received Christ?**

**How my life changed, and when did I notice that change?**

**How am I motivated differently now?**

Now ask yourself the following questions:

- Does this read like a story
- Is it disjointed? Does it make sense?
- Can I read this aloud in 3 to 4 minutes?
- Have I exaggerated?
- Did I give the Lord enough credit for the change in my life?



### **Communicating Your Testimony**

Your primary objective in writing and memorizing your testimony is to better relate to the average non-Christian. As you begin to work on it, consider what your life was like *before* you trusted Christ or you really began to see change.

1. Before I accepted Christ (or gave him control.)
  - A. What was my life like that will relate most to the non-Christian?
  - B. What did my life revolve around? From what did I get my happiness or security? (Remember, the non-Christian is relying on something external to give him happiness and meaning.)
  - C. How did those things let me down?

1. How I received Christ (or have Him complete control):
  - A. When was the first time I heard the gospel? (OR when was I first exposed to dynamic Christianity?)
  - B. What were my initial reactions?
  - C. When did my attitude begin to change? Why?
  - D. What were the doubts or struggles that went through my mind just before I accepted Christ?
  - E. Why did I accept Christ?
2. After I Accepted Christ (or gave Him complete control):

What are the specific changes Christ has made in my life? Are there any illustrations that would be helpful? Why am I motivated differently?

Now you're ready to write your testimony. Use these guidelines:

1. What was my life like before I met Christ?
2. Describe how and when I decided to trust Christ.
3. How this decision made a difference in my life?