

HOW TO PREPARE A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Any subject matter can be presented more effectively by careful organization. A carefully prepared testimony, empowered by the Holy Spirit, can be of immediate and effective use in nearly every witnessing situation. It should be our desire to present Christ in such a clear, attentive, yet simple way, that those who hear will not only want to know Him too, but they will also know “ how “ to know Him personally.

“Do’s” and “Don’ts” of a One-Minute Testimony

Do:

1. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write (Jas 1:5-6)
2. Follow a three-point outline – “My Life With Christ”
 - a) Life before knowing Christ.
 - b) How you came to know Christ. (Be specific. Explain words such as “accepted”, “received”.)
 - c) Life after you received Christ – i.e. changes He has made, what HE means to you now.
3. Emphasize point “c” above if you became a Christian as a small child.
4. Begin with an interesting, attention – getting sentence and finish with a good concluding statement.
5. Write in such a way that others will feel associated with you in past and present experiences.
6. Give enough details to arouse interest.
7. Use one verse, if this is pertinent to your testimony. Only use two verses when it is necessary to complete a thought.
8. Edit carefully and rewrite before final draft.

An important portion of your testimony will be what seems to you as fairly simple – specific positive changes in your life, but these day to day things communicate to people.

Don’t:

1. Use Christian jargons. Words such as “saved”, “convicted”, “born-again” and “sin” do not communicate truth to the average non-Christian. Though these words and phrases are precious to us, they are so often misunderstood and consequently ridiculed by non-Christians.
2. Be too wordy, beat around the bush, or emphasize how bad you used to be.
3. Speak in glittering generalities. Avoid words like “wonderful”, “glorious”, “joy”, “happiness”, “fantastic peace”, etc.. If you use a general term, give an example of what you mean.
4. Mention church denomination.
5. Speak critically or negatively about any other individual or group.
6. Give the impression that the Christian life is a “bed of roses”.

When you are asked to share your testimony, be sure to:

1. Share it with loving enthusiasm in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Eph 5:18)
2. Speak it loudly and clearly in a natural, relaxed tone of voice. (Avoid ministerial “twang”)
3. Avoid mannerisms when you speak, such as rubbing your nose, jingling coins in your pocket, swaying, clearing your throat and using “uh’s” and “ah’s”.
4. Avoid arguing and other high pressure methods of getting a “decision” for Christ.
5. Remember that men are “born of the Spirit”, not through persuasiveness or logic of men, though Christ may use both.
6. Smile often! Ask the Lord to give you a happy, radiant face.
7. **Memorize** your testimony and practice it until it becomes natural.

TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

Before I received Christ I lived and thought this way:

How I received Christ: (If someone has been instrumental in your receiving Christ, mention his/her name. Explain that through prayer you asked Jesus into your life.)

After I received Christ these positive changes took place in my life: (Be sure to emphasize eternal life and God's faithfulness.)

Favourite or pertinent verse by which I might close: (If you can, explain why the verse is pertinent in your life.)