

# The Word of Their Testimony

## Sharing Your Personal Testimony

**“That which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience.” Desire of Ages, p. 347**

People can argue with your theology. They can contradict your interpretation of the Bible. They can ridicule your faith. But they cannot challenge the power of a testimony. God’s transforming work in the lives of individuals is the most compelling evidence of His existence. A life that is melted and molded under the influence of the Holy Spirit is an evangelistic sermon all on its own.

*“Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven’s chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old, but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. **Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs.** God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. These precious acknowledgements to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls.” Desire of Ages, p. 347*

Many people mistakenly speak of a “silent witness” as the way to convince others about Jesus. While our characters are, indeed, a silent testimony to our conversion, we are not to give God a backseat in our lives. God is not content to have us silently acknowledge Him as if He were some kind of lucky horseshoe above the fireplace. No, Jesus said, *“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”* (Matthew 10:32, 33) Our conversations should be opportunities to lift up Jesus. As we begin to tell others of His wonderful grace at work in our lives, we are transformed into messengers of mercy. People will see the light of His love in our eyes and they will long for the experience of which we speak. God has promised to give us the words with which to speak.

### **Your Conversion Story**

One of the most effective tools you have for sharing your faith is your personal story of how Jesus has changed your life and met your deepest needs. People enjoy stories, especially when told to them by one to whom the story happened. Your personal conversion, when shared effectively, will

often awaken deep spiritual needs in your listeners and naturally lead them to want to know more of the power of the gospel.

The Bible gives us many examples of those who shared their personal witness in a convincing and compelling manner. One of the most powerful of these is recorded in Acts 26. When the Apostle Paul stood before King Agrippa, he spoke simply, logically, and clearly about his life before salvation, how he met Christ, and what his life was like after conversion.

**Let's look at an example of sharing our testimony from the Bible:**

**Paul before King Agrippa –**

- I. Acts 26: Paul shares his conversion story with King Agrippa
  - a. Vs. 1-3: Paul's **introduction** to his testimony
  - b. Vs. 4, 5, 10-12: Paul's **life before** he met Jesus as Savior
  - c. Vs. 13-19: Paul's **conversion**.
  - d. Vs. 20-23: Paul's **life after** his conversion.
  - e. Vs. 28: **Result** - His passionate testimony brought conviction to King Agrippa's heart!
- II. Following the example of Paul we can have success in sharing our testimony.

**Your Past:**

- a. What things were most important to you? What did your life revolve around?
- b. Why were they so important? What basic need were you attempting to fulfill?
- c. How did you try to satisfy that need?
- d. Don't glorify your past life of sin.

**How you found Jesus:**

- a. When did you first hear the message of Christ, and what was your reaction?
- b. When did you first begin to feel positive toward the gospel and why?
- c. Describe the circumstances that caused you to consider a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- d. This is the most important part of sharing your testimony.

**Your life now in Christ:**

- a. How did Christ specifically satisfy the basic needs you had before you found Jesus?
- b. What changes have occurred in your life as a result?
- c. How do you know Christ is in your life?

### ***Testimony Do's & Don'ts***

1. Be humble. Share what God has done and not what you have done.
2. Use terms people can understand. Avoid "Adventese": I learned the "truth." "Justification." "I'm saved by grace." "I've been washed by the blood." Instead, use phrases like; "My life is so much more peaceful now," "I'm much more confident now that I'm not carrying all this guilt with me," "Life is so much easier when I remember that God has a plan for me."
3. Be real and sincere, not gushy. Be realistic. Share how Christ enables you to walk through your problems, rather than removing them from your life.
4. Don't be critical of other people or churches. Examples: Guard the reputation of family and friends, even if they are part of a painful past. Your former church persuasion may not have been doctrinally correct, but we must remember that we were once a part of them.
5. Never glamorize sin. Be very careful in giving details of the evils of your past. Instead, give details about your NEW life. Exception: certain times when it's important to let someone know that you can relate to them.
6. Instead of dwelling on the trials and sacrifices, dwell on the blessings and rewards. Help people see that you believe "heaven is cheap enough."
7. Don't be religious or preachy! Rather, sound conversational and use informal language.
8. Identify with your audience. Tailor your testimony to meet them.
9. **PRACTICE** your personal testimony until it becomes natural.
10. **PRAY** each day that God will make you aware of someone who needs to hear your testimony. Keep alert. He will show you the person.

### ***Sharing Your Personal Testimony***

As soon as you have some free time, write out your testimony using the principles shared today and in the previous pages. The more you practice sharing this information the more natural sharing it with others will become. You're a story someone else wants to hear! Share how God has changed your life!

*"As witnesses for Christ, we are to tell what we know, what we ourselves have seen and heard and felt... We can tell how we have tested His promise, and found the promise true. We can bear witness to what we have known of the grace of Christ. This is the witness for which our Lord calls, and for want of which the world is perishing." Desire of Ages, p. 34*