

# PREPARING MY TESTIMONY

Many people feel that their testimony is a boring story. But nothing could be further from the truth. For anyone who is genuinely a follower of Christ has been supernaturally "born again" (Jn 3:1-8). And just as a person might be called as a witness to give an account for what they have seen & heard in a crime or accident, all God's children are called to be a witness for Christ as we lay out the facts (as we know them) for who Jesus is and what he has done in our life.

*"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord, Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15)*

*"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:11-13)*

## The Woman at the Well's Testimony

*Read John 4:1-30*

- How did her view of Jesus change throughout their discussion?
- What did she learn about Jesus?
- What did she learn about herself?
- In what ways does she demonstrate her faith (a surrendered heart)?

### **1 - Realize the power of your Christian testimony**

First and foremost - remember - there is power in your testimony! Revelation 12:11 says we overcome our enemy by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony.

### **2 - Remember that your Christian testimony is primarily about God, not you**

Make Jesus/God the focus. Any stories that you tell should lead hearers to give greater honor to Christ and not you. Additionally, be careful how you describe past sins--it is best to make a quick allusion to a sin habit than it is to provide much detail.

### **3 - Remember that your story may lead someone to faith**

So help them understand God's promises & Christ's work on the cross on behalf of the people of God. The object of our faith isn't in a particularly moving experience we had (be that walking an aisle, praying a prayer, or a campfire confession). The object of our faith is in the work that Jesus did on the cross 2000 years ago when His death, burial & resurrection provided for our sins and gave us true abundant life.

#### 4 - Study an example of a testimony from the Bible

Read Acts 26:4-29. Here the Apostle Paul gives his testimony.

#### 5 - Spend time in thoughtful preparation

There are a few things to consider before you start writing your testimony. Think about your life before you met the Lord. What was going on in your life leading up to your conversion? What problems or needs were you facing at the time? How did your life change after that? For some, this three-point approach is very effective in communicating your personal testimony. The outline focuses on **before** you trusted Christ, **how** you **surrendered** to him, and the difference **since** you've been walking with him.

#### 7 - For those who are unclear on the date of their salvation

There are many who cannot recall the exact time when they began to follow Christ either because (1) they were very young, (2) they spent so much time working through questions that they didn't recognize when they surrendered their life

- Remember that while you may not remember the point at which you surrendered to Christ, tell us why you are walking with Him today
- You might want to discuss some of the questions that you wrestled through during your journey and how they have been answered

#### Writing Your Statement / Confession of Faith (2-3 sentences)

There is not one right confession/statement of faith, but there are some things to keep in mind in writing it. It should be a clear and concise statement communication that you have trusted/are trusting in Jesus and Him alone for your salvation.

#### The following is an example of a confession/statement of faith found in Scripture:

*But you, man of God, flee from all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1 Timothy 6:11-12)*

#### The following is a contemporary example of a statement/confession of faith:

“Hello, my name is John Smith and I am here today to profess my faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I came to faith 3 years ago and have come to understand the importance of being identified with Jesus Christ and His church, so I am excited to follow my Savior’s call in believer’s baptism.”