

## How To Prepare A Personal Testimony

A carefully prepared testimony, given in the power of the Holy Spirit, can be of great use in many situations. It should be our desire to present Jesus Christ, and the fullness of the Holy Spirit, in such a clear and attractive, *yet simple*, way that those who hear will *want* to know our Lord. It is how Jesus is seen in *us* that attract others to Him.

A carefully worded, *brief* testimony will communicate far more effectively than a long one that includes a lot of irrelevant material. A plethora of events/experiences will distract from, rather than emphasize, the point of *personal* commitment to Jesus Christ, and what this can mean in a person's life. Remember, it is our Lord that we lift up, and NOT ourselves!

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and guidance as you write (James 1:5-6)
2. Follow a three-point outline:
  - a. Before Jesus, I lived and thought this way ...
  - b. How I received Him ...
  - c. Changes that took place after I did ...
3. Emphasize life after you received Christ (i.e. changes He has made, and what He means to you now) and how the Holy Spirit has given you a "power-filled" walk with Him.
4. Begin with an interesting, attention-getting sentence, and close with a good conclusion.
5. Write in such a way that others will identify with you in past and present experiences.
6. Give enough details to arouse interest. Edit carefully, and rewrite as necessary.
7. Use pertinent Scripture verses.
8. Emphasize the central facts that the events that have made the difference in your life was *accepting* Jesus Christ and making Him part of your life, how yielding to the Holy Spirit made *your* life a living witness to Him. Keep in mind that someone else should be able to *trust* in the Lord, because of *your* testimony.
9. Do not be concerned that your testimony must be exciting, just that it be *interesting*.
10. Be realistic. God does not choose to eliminate all of the problems of life, but they do enable you to live them out with peace and confidence. Jesus says, "I am with you always."
11. Be *POSITIVE*, not *negative*, from start to finish.
12. AVOID the following when writing and giving your testimony:
  - a. Making statements that reflect *negatively* on the Church and other organizations or individuals. Avoid mentioning denominations, especially in a derogatory way.
  - b. *Preaching* to people. You are not converting people, that is the job of the Holy Spirit. Use your natural speaking voice.
  - c. Using stereotypes. It is *your* witness, not someone else's!©
13. Pray for guidance in preparing and presenting your testimony.