

# Developing a Personal Testimony

The world may question the reliability of the Bible,  
But the world cannot discount  
What has happened to you  
Since Jesus entered your life

## **NOTE:**

This vast information was gathered & accumulated over years, thru reading various material & setting under godly men. I do not take credit for this tool that has helped me develop my own testimony, I can only take credit for gathering it together in a way that is beneficial to me. I do not wish to plagiarize anyone's individual work, but I am unable to express proper citation due to gathering various notes & scraps of paper from my own study That I accumulated. I am grateful for all those who have allowed God to use them to help use become better witnesses to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 John 5:10-13** <sup>10</sup> The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. <sup>11</sup> And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. <sup>13</sup> These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

## **The Use of the Personal Testimony in Witnessing**

1. Your testimony should spotlight Jesus not you.
2. Detail what Jesus has done for all people. (**1Corinthians 15, The Gospel**)

### **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup> **by which also you are saved**, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, <sup>4</sup> and that **He was buried**, and that **He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**,

3. Tell what God has done for you and continues to do in you, and through you  
It creates interest.  
It will plant the seed of the Gospel.
- ❖ It takes 7 or more meaningful contacts with Christians sharing their faith before a person accepts Jesus.

**You can share the Gospel without sharing your Testimony,  
But you cannot share your Testimony without sharing the Gospel**

## The Characteristics of the Personal Testimony

1. Keep it Free of “**Churchy**” Language
  - The world does not understand many of the words used in church
    - Sin – Repent – Saved – Salvation – Righteousness - Holy
    - If you use them define them!
2. Keep it Brief
  - No more than 3 to 4 minutes
  - This is not a biography of your life
3. Be Clear & Concise
4. Be Excited
  - This is the Story of Jesus and How He Saved you → **Stress your personal relationship with Christ**
5. Exalt Christ ***[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease (John 3:30)***
  - Present Christ as the center of your testimony, not yourself.
6. Be Courteous & Kind
  - Share what happened to you → don't be oppressive
  - Don't try to force them to make a decision
  - The Holy Spirit Convicts them (***John 16:8***) and Jesus Saves them (***Romans 10:9-10***)
7. Must be Outlined well
  - **Before** you received Christ
  - **How** you received Christ
  - **After** you received Christ

### **Testimonial Examples** --- Read the Testimony of the Apostle Paul – Acts 22 & Acts 26

- Paul's primary focus in the Scriptures of Acts was the sharing of the Gospel
  - Twice Paul shared his personal testimony when he was on trial for his life.

#### **Acts 26 - A Biblical Model**

**Before** Verses 4-11  
**How** Verses 12-20  
**After** Verses 21-23

### **Your story has power...**

1. It's personal. You don't have to memorize Bible verses, or worry about telling it correctly.
2. It is conversational. It's not a sermon. It can be shared over a cup of coffee or dinner.
3. No one can dispute it. If you have joy, peace, and love in your life because of Christ, it will be evident.
4. It is interesting. It's natural for friends to want to know more about each other. Even if your friend is antagonistic to the Gospel, he/she may still be interested in why you value your relationship with a man named Jesus.

## An Outline for the Personal Testimony

### Tips on how to Start

1. Jot down thoughts, ideas, and events (at this point write down everything).
2. Arrange your thoughts, ideas, and events in a logical (even chronological) order of presentation.
3. Develop your thoughts, ideas, and events into sentences.
4. Decide what is most important to sharing your testimony.
5. Tie the sentences together in a concise, meaningful way.

### Before you received Christ

1. What things were most important to you? What did your life revolve around?
2. Why were they so important? What basic need were you attempting to fulfill?  
**Examples:** lack of peace, fear of death, something missing, no meaning to life, desire to be in control, loneliness, lack of security, lack of purpose, lack of significance, no real friends, no motivation
3. How did you try to satisfy that need?  
**Examples:** marriage/family, work, drugs/alcohol, sports/fitness, money, education, hobbies/entertainment, sex, wrong friends

### How you received Christ

1. Describe the circumstance that caused you to consider Christ as a solution to your need
  2. State specifically the steps you took to become a believer in Christ
    - This is where you would share Specific Scripture references → **Don't be rote make them personal**
  3. Include the Gospel clearly and briefly (**1 Corinthians 15**)
    - Romans Road (3:10; 3:23, 5:8; 6:23; 10:9-10; 10:13)
    - Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
- ❖ **Focus** Not to Quote Scripture but to know and incorporate in your testimony  
All have sinned, penalty of sin, Christ paid the penalty, must make Jesus Lord of your life.

### After you received Christ

1. Describe how Jesus filled or is filling your need that you stated in the **Before** section
  2. What changes have occurred in your life as a result of accepting Jesus?
  3. Focus on the greatest need being met → Eternal Life in Jesus (**John 17:3**)
  4. What is the Lord teaching you now?
  5. How do you *know* Christ is in your life?
- ❖ **Remember** you're not perfect, but you are forgiven and spiritually growing (***I'm a Work in Progress***)

**I Became a Christian as a Young Child  
And There Seems to be Little "Dynamic" to Tell...**

**What should I include?**

1. Christian home/family background, people who influenced you, your early Christian experience.
2. How you knew as a child what following Christ meant.
3. Your experience of understanding that you personally needed to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.
4. Reasons why God's presence in your life makes a difference now and specific areas in which He is actively working in and through you.

**Never Forget you were saved from death, wrath, and hell,  
You're a living miracle with a story to tell.**

**Have Multiple Length Personal Testimonies Prepared**

Same story; different lengths depending upon the audience and time available.

1. **Standard version:**
  - 3 to 4 minutes
  - For when you meet a new or old acquaintance
  - Sunday School or Worship Service Testimonial
  
2. **Long Version:**
  - 5 to 15 Minutes
  - For testimonials in services or when occasions allow for more specific detail.
  - This would revolve around your life story with Christ.
  
3. **Short version:**
  - 60 to 90 Seconds
  - For those occasions when time is of the essence
    - **The plane is boarding and you both are heading in different directions.**
  
- ❖ **Always, Always, Always**
  - **End with what they must do to be saved (Romans 10:9-10)**
  - **And with an Invitation to respond**

## Religious Word Conversion Chart

<u>Religious Word</u>	<u>Possible Substitute</u>
Gospel (1 Corinthians 15)	Jesus died for our sins according the Word of God, was buried and raised 3 days later
Sin	Disobedience, Breaking God's Law, Turned my back on God
Substitute/Debt/Penalty	To stand in place of – Jesus was my Substitute on the Cross Jesus paid the penalty for my (sin) breaking God's Law Jesus took the punishment for my (sin) breaking God's Law
Repent	Turn from (sin) breaking God's Law and turn to God and obeying God's Word (Bible)
Forgiveness	To be pardoned from (sin) Breaking God's law
Eternal Life (John 17:3)	To have a personal relationship with God/Jesus
Justified	Declared Right before Holy God
Believe in Jesus	Trusted or Relied on Jesus/Christ
Went forward	Decided to turn my life over to God/Jesus
Under the Blood	God forgave the wrongs I had done
Saved/Born Again	Became a Christian, Committed my life to Christ

- ❖ **Never Ever Sugar-Coat the Gospel** → Explain It
- ❖ **Never Ever Hide the Blood of Jesus** → Explain It
- ❖ **Never Ever be Ashamed of the Cross** → Explain It
- ❖ **If you use a "Churchy" Word** → Explain It

## Scripture Memorization for Evangelism

### Roman's Road Gospel Presentation

1. **Romans 3:10** as it is written, there is none righteous, not even one
2. **Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
3. **Romans 5:8** God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
4. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
5. **Romans 10:9-10** if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation
6. **Romans 10:13** WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED

### Additional Scriptures helpful for Evangelism

1. **Rev 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me
2. **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
3. **John 14:6** I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
4. **Heb 9:27** it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment
5. **Mark 1:15** The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.
6. **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
7. **1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit
8. **Romans 14:12** each one of us will give an account of himself to God
9. **Acts 4:12** there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved
10. **Matt 11:28-30** <sup>28</sup> Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. <sup>30</sup> "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

## 10 Commandments (Exodus 20)

### 1. You shall have no other gods before Me.

**Matthew 4:10** <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

### 2. You shall not make for yourself any idols.

**Acts 15:19-20** <sup>19</sup> "Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles, <sup>20</sup> but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.

### 3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.

**Matthew 7:21-23** <sup>1</sup> "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. <sup>22</sup> "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup> "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

### 4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

### 5. Honor your father and mother.

**Ephesians 6:1-3** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup> SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

### 6. You shall not murder.

**Matthew 5:21-22** <sup>21</sup> "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER ' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' <sup>22</sup> "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.

**1 John 3:15** <sup>5</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

### 7. You shall not commit adultery.

**Matthew 5:27-28** <sup>27</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; <sup>28</sup> but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

### 8. You shall not steal.

**Ephesians 4:28** <sup>28</sup> He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.

### 9. You shall not lie.

**Colossians 3:9** <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,

### 10. You shall not covet.

**Romans 7:7** <sup>7</sup> What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

❖ **Have a Basic Understanding of what each of the Commandments Mean**

**The Great Commandment**  
**Jesus gave an Expository Sermon on the Ten Commandments of Exodus 20**

**Matthew 22:36-40**

<sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

<sup>37</sup> And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

<sup>38</sup> "This is the great and foremost commandment.

<sup>39</sup> "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

<sup>40</sup> "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

- Commandments 1-4 → Love your God
- Commandments 5-10 → Love your Neighbor