

PERSONAL TESTIMONY GUIDELINES

DO:

1. Ask God to give you wisdom in your testimony preparation. (James 1:5-6)
2. Limit your testimony to 3 minutes.
3. Use the three-point outline: (A) My Life Before Trusting Christ, (B) Circumstances that Lead Me to Trust Christ, and (C) My Life After Trusting Christ (include changes in behavior and beliefs).
4. If you trusted Christ as a young child: (A) give circumstances of that decision, (B) explain when God revealed the truth about sin in your life, (C) explain when you realized you should surrender certain areas of your life to Christ, and (D) explain the conviction/desire to read the Bible and pray yourself.
5. Use at least one, but no more than three Bible references. (Integrate the verses into your testimony by explaining how it related to your life.)
6. Make a written draft of your testimony and read through it to insure it is no longer than 3 minutes. (Try to memorize it.)
7. Ask God to give you a joyful countenance when you share your testimony. (Smile.)

DO NOT:

1. Do not use church jargon like “I got saved,” “I backslid,” “I walked the aisle,” “I was filled with the Holy Ghost,” etc.
2. Do not focus on the details of your sinful behavior prior to trusting in Christ. (Be careful not to glorify your sin or joke about it.)
3. Do not over explain. Get to the point. (written draft helps with this)
4. Do not criticize denominations.
5. Do not denigrate individuals or groups.
6. Do not give the false impression that living the Christian life translates into everything becoming easy for you.
7. Do not try to explain doctrine. Explain your reasons for trusting Christ. (It’s a testimony, not a sermon.)

PERSONAL TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

1. How did I behave and think before becoming a Christian?
(Describe how you related to people and what you thought about yourself.)

2. What did I believe about God or Jesus?
(Do you remember a Bible verse that described God/Jesus?)

3. What was my identity in life? What were my goals and dreams for my life?

4. What caused me to consider putting my trust in Jesus Christ?
(Describe what caused your brokenness or emptiness and what drove you to repentance?)

5. How did you hear the Gospel, the good news about Jesus? Describe the circumstances.

6. When did I place my trust in Jesus Christ?
(Be specific and brief.)

7. Since becoming a Christian, what has changed in my behavior, speech, and thought?

8. What are the tangible benefits to trusting in Jesus Christ?
(What promise has God fulfilled in your life?)

9. Conclusion: What is the greatest change that Jesus has made in my life from before I knew Him to now?
(Answer this question in a single sentence that you can use as your conclusion.)