

PREPARING A TESTIMONY!

Many people have a wonderful testimony of what the Lord has done in their life, but don't know how to share it. A testimony is the sign of God's life at work in our midst. If there is no testimony, it is a sign of God's abiding life being absent in a congregation. We always need to be prepared to give others the reason for what they may find different about us.

There are some things to remember.

First, a testimony is about Jesus, not yourself.

Second, a testimony is not preaching but simply sharing. It has power to bring people to Jesus Christ.

Third, it is non-debatable since it is your personal experience. The listener may accept it or reject it, but it is your personal experience.

Writing Exercise - Prepare Your Testimony

You may use any experience you choose.

Step 1. What were the circumstances of your life at the time you had this experience? Write two sentences describing this.

Step 2. What was your attitude at the time you had this experience? Were you searching for a relationship with God, or seeking answers to some questions? Again, two sentences.

Step 3. What was the setting? Were you at home, in the hospital, in church, alone or with someone? One sentence will suffice.

Step 4. Was there someone who was helpful in your having this experience? Again, one sentence.

Step 5. How was Jesus revealed to you? Explain in detail and you may use as many as ten sentences to describe this revelation.

Step 6. Did someone say something that made a difference, resulting in this experience? Two sentences are used to describe this.

Step 7. Was there a special scripture? Limit yourself to three verses. To go beyond this might turn off the listener, and they get the impression that you are a Bible quoter. Your task is to share Jesus, not impress others upon your memorization of Scripture.

Step 8. What kind of response did you make? What was the result of your initial response? Did you feel emotion? What kind of thoughts did you have? What caused you to make your response? This is the climatic part of the testimony and as many as twenty sentences may be used.

Step 9. Did you pray? What did you pray? How did you pray? No more than five sentences.

Step 10. How did your encounter with God change you? Were you immediately aware of Him in your life? Use up to five sentences to describe this.

Step 11. What difference is it making now? Again, five-sentence limit.

It is good to write out your testimony, practice it in the solitude of your home, and then share it

with a person you trust who will react constructively to what you have written. A testimony is like a road map; it shows you where you are going and how to get there. Sometimes you may take short cuts and other times you may travel the more elaborate scenic route.

Closure:

You conclude your testimony by asking the hearer

if they have any questions about what you have shared.

was anything said that had a special meaning to them

was anything about your testimony something with which they could identify

If you feel the Holy Spirit is so directing, you may ask if they would like prayer for any special concern or need in their life.

If your testimony has been about SALVATION, you might conclude by asking:

Do you know about Him or know Him? Knowledge about Him is insufficient. He wants us to know Him as He knows us.

If you do not know Him, now is the perfect moment to say “come into my life and take control, Lord Jesus. Forgive me all my sins, and fill me with your life giving Spirit.”

