

## Thoughts on Sharing Your Story

- Breathe and relax. Make eye contact. Speak clearly and slowly—be natural.
- Don't be boring, critical, or preach at people. Never put down or criticize other churches, denominations, or representative Christian personalities (even the wacky ones). Rather, just speak calmly and share about the value of being In Christ.
- Tell the truth, don't exaggerate, and never make things up to produce a better sounding testimony. God will use the "real" you more than the "fake" you!
- Be enthusiastic and show His care. It is important that you come across as really believing in what you are saying, because you believe and trust in Christ.
- God honors preparation and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Emphasize Christ's work in you, not the bad you have done prior to salvation. Your job is not a drama presentation; it is to present Christ and your victory in Him.
- Highlight the point or person that made the difference by showing you who Christ is.
- Bring Christ into your story by making the Bible the authority, not *just* your story.
- If you grew up in a Christian home, share when Christ started to be real for you and when your faith became personal and real, not just a part of your family.
- Remember to feature Christ, and not yourself.
- Be very careful how you use humor. Never condescend or make fun of others!
- Recount any misconceptions about Christianity you once had, such as how you saw Christians before your conversion versus how you see them now.
- Do not make audacious statements, such as *Christ will heal you* or *God told me to tell you*. This removes any credibility. If God makes a move, He does not need you to say so!
- Don't tear down or use negative remarks. Be positive!
- Remember, the gospel of our Lord is the *power of God unto salvation* (Romans 1:16). Rely on His Word and the Holy Spirit, not your words.
- Remember, do not "oversell" Him. Allow Him to use you. It is the Spirit that sells!
- It is best to quote at least one or two clear salvation verses (no more than three), such as John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 5:13.

- Don't let your testimony become a nuisance by going on and on. Short and simple really is the best. Don't keep talking just to talk.
- Be real and honest. Share that becoming a Christian may not solve all problems or cause us to be healed; life can still be a struggle. However, with Christ, we have the strength and empowerment of the Spirit to persevere successfully.
- Lay out the positive benefits that you have experienced. What has \_\_\_\_\_ meant to you? Insert one or two of, *Your relationship with Christ, God's love, Grace, God's forgiveness, freedom from fear, a better perspective of life, having a purpose, dealing with difficult people, dealing with stress, overcoming tragedies, having God's counsel, honest living, a place of belonging, peace of mind, no fear of death, eternal security, forgiving others, fulfillment, significance, the impact of God's Word, understanding others, fellowship of other Christians, strength, or the Fruit of the Spirit in your life.*
- Make sure you convey the assurance that you have in Christ and in eternal life.
- After you have practiced and used your testimony, seek how you can improve it.
- We need to let the Word of our Lord touch and remind us that our speech reflects upon the God we serve! Everything we do as a child of God must be done with integrity, truthfulness, and honesty, as we are not only representing Him, but also He is living in us! Jesus calls us to be true to our word as a testimony of our faith in Him. We are not to be worldly with our words or integrity, or drag or defile His good name with feeble, easily retracted words.
- Remember, your purpose is to share your experience with Christ in a loving, caring, as well as in a convincing and convicting way so others can start to have an interest in wanting to know Him. To make your testimony more effective, make sure you practice with someone who can give you good, positive feedback. And, be willing to augment and refine your testimony to improve it and make it fit the situation. Make sure you do not do all of the talking, unless you are giving a public address. Listen to what the other person has to say. Keep in mind that some people may criticize you. Don't be fearful; that is between them and Christ. You know where you are going.

## **Phrases TO AVOID**

Stay away from "Christianese" phrases. These "foreign" or "churchy" words can alienate listeners and readers and keep them from identifying with your life. Here are some examples:

### **"born again"**

Instead use:

- spiritual birth
- spiritual renewal
- to come alive spiritually
- given a new life

### **"saved"**

Instead use:

- rescued
- delivered from despair
- found hope for life

### **"lost"**

Instead use:

- heading in the wrong direction
- separated from God
- had no hope

### **"Gospel"**

Instead use:

- God's message to man
- the good news about Christ's purpose on earth

### **"sin"**

Instead use:

- rejecting God
- missing the mark
- falling away from the right path
- a crime against God's law
- disobedience to God

### **"repent"**

Instead use:

- admit a wrong
- change one's mind, heart or attitude
- make a decision to turn away
- turn around
- a 180 degree turn from what you were doing

Points taken from:

<http://www.discipleshiptools.org/apps/articles/?articleid=43722&columnid=4192>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-write-your-christian-testimony-701445>