

Sharing an Effective Testimony

They triumphed over [the evil one] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony,
and they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Revelation 12:11

People can argue against many things, but *your* experience with God, which is your testimony, is inarguable because your story is *your story* – regardless of whether or not anyone accepts it. No two salvation testimonies are alike. However, your testimony is still part of God's redemption story. You need to be prepared to proclaim His story *through* your testimony to a world in need of hearing it.

Anticipating that the Spirit will give you opportunities to share, invest some time thinking through how to tell your story succinctly (in 5 minutes or less), connecting it to God's redemptive story. There are many "testimonies" you can share about how God has transformed your life. However, this handout outlines how to use your testimony to talk about the Gospel and its implications in your life.

One way to tell your God-story is to briefly share about your life BEFORE Christ, WHAT led you to a commitment to Christ, and HOW things have changed in your life. Using that framework, practice communicating your story through the lens of these four key Gospel realities:

The Gospel is a story: Share one to two things from your story that God used to help you realize you needed Jesus and led you to new life in Christ.

What NOT to share: Dates, times, people's specific names, church affiliations, where people lived or worked, etc. Don't complicate things by trying to communicate details the hearer won't even remember. **Share your testimony, *not* your history.**

Use words that communicate feelings others can identify with. For example:

- Lacked peace
- Feared death
- Life was empty and seemed meaningless
- My need to control led to things spinning out of control
- Loneliness, depression
- Lacked security
- Lacked significance
- No real friends
- Did not like what I was becoming
- Pain, abuse, addiction, etc.



Share what God began to do: Who or what He used, or what led you to repentance and commitment to Christ.

Example: Invited to Church, someone invested time in me, started reading the Bible, went to a conference or concert, etc.

The Gospel is a power: Share how you sense the power of the Gospel transforming you *now*.

Communicate what's changing: Areas where you've experienced spiritual or emotional healing, how you are letting go of bad habits, addictions, unforgiveness, immoral behavior, negative attitudes, profane language, selfishness, etc.

The Gospel is a relationship: Share how you are cultivating intimacy with Christ *now*.

Emphasize the present reality of Christ in your life: studying the Word, experiencing His presence through prayer, growing in the knowledge of God, obedience to His commands, fellowship and accountability with other Christ followers, etc.

The Gospel is participation: Share how you are advancing His Kingdom through your spiritual gifts or service to others.

Share how your worldview and lifestyle are being transformed and be specific about what serving God looks like for you.

You may choose to end with a question that gives them an opportunity to respond or ask questions. For example:

What's your story?

Do you have any thoughts or questions about what I just shared?

If you're interested, I'd like to share more with you sometime.

The Gospel begins with an invitation to join His story and is extended to everyone, including you...

Things to keep in mind as you prepare to share your testimony:

An effective testimony is not an argument. Sharing your faith must be motivated by a loving desire to help someone become aware of the Gospel and perhaps see their need for Jesus Christ.