

HOW YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN:

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN – THE IMPACT IT IS HAVING ON YOUR LIFE:

HOW OTHERS CAN HAVE A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE (THE PLAN OF SALVATION IN YOUR OWN WORDS):

GIVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHERS TO MAKE A DECISION FOR CHRIST:



HOW TO SHARE YOUR STORY

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have.”

I Peter 3:15

One of the most effective tools you have for sharing your faith is your testimony – the story of how Jesus Christ transformed your life.

When the Apostle Paul stood before King Agrippa (Acts 26), he spoke simply, logically, and clearly about his life before salvation, how he met Christ, and what his life was like after conversion. Paul's testimony takes three or four minutes to read aloud.

Learning how to tell others your story in the same manner will be important in terms of you giving it away. The choice of the right words, the flow of your story, and knowing how to begin and end are important.

The purpose of preparing a testimony is not to memorize it and say it verbatim, but to help you put into words some of the important and interesting details of your own conversion experience. A testimony serves primarily as a “door opener,” not a “convincing tool.” Many people are not ready to be convinced they need Christ, but can often be led to talk about the gospel after hearing a personal testimony.

Paul's Model

Paul's testimony in **Acts 26** is a biblical model you can follow in writing your own personal testimony.

LEAD IN	VERSES 2-3
BEFORE	VERSES 4-11
HOW	VERSES 12-20
AFTER	VERSES 21-23
CLOSE	VERSES 24-29

Here you will find some suggestions for developing the Before, How, and After sections of your personal testimony.

BEFORE

Many people's actions spring out of their unsatisfied deep inner needs. What were one or two of your unsatisfied, deep inner needs before you came to know Jesus Christ? Some examples of inner needs are:

Lack of peace	Lack of Significance
Fear of death	Lack of purpose
Something missing	No real friends
Lack of security	Desire to be in control
No meaning to life	No motivation Loneliness

Non-Christians are usually trying to satisfy their deep inner needs through unsatisfactory solutions. In the past, what unsatisfactory solutions did you use to attempt to meet those deep inner needs? As you develop your testimony, list positive, as well as negative solutions you may have tried. Some examples are:

Marriage/family	Education
Work	Hobbies/entertainment
Drugs/alcohol	Relationships
Sports/fitness	Wrong friends
Money	

HOW

1. Describe the circumstances that caused you to consider Christ as the solution to your deep inner needs. Identify the events that led to your conversion. In some cases this may have taken place over a period of time.
2. State specifically the steps you took to become a Christian. If there is a particular passage of Scripture that applied here, you may want to use it. You will want to paraphrase it.
3. Include the gospel clearly and briefly. The gospel includes: All have sinned; Sin's penalty; Christ paid the penalty; You must receive Christ. (You can pick up tools to help you at the Give It Away Kiosk)

AFTER

Share how Christ met or is meeting your deep inner needs. In the BEFORE, you expressed your needs and how you tried unsuccessfully to meet them. You now want to show the difference that Christ is making in your life.

Conclude with a statement like this: "But the greatest benefit is that I know for certain I have eternal life." The person you are talking with will tend to comment on the last thing you say. Often it is natural to move from the testimony into a clear presentation of the gospel.

Pray that God will give you the opportunity to build relationships and provide you with a clear opportunity to share your story. Your story is uniquely your own – no one can share it like you can because it's YOUR story. You will help others see that Christ can make a difference in their lives, just like he has made a difference in yours!

Colossians 4:2-6 *“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*

Use this template to help you in formalizing your short testimony.

YOUR STORY TEMPLATE

INTRODUCE YOURSELF:

YOUR LIFE BEFORE BECOMING A CHRISTIAN: