

# Five Characteristics of a Good Testimony

## Lesson 4

- I. A good testimony will show a changed life (**Acts 26:9-12,18,20; I Tim. 1:12-13; Phil. 3:4-14**).
- II. A good testimony will be Christ centered (**Acts 26:23**).
- III. A good testimony will be consistent with the Bible (**Acts 26:22**).
- IV. A good testimony will be comprehensive (understood by the Hearers (**Acts 21:40, 22:1-5**)).
- V. A good testimony will end with a challenge to receive Christ (**Acts 26:27-29**).

## Three Things To Remember Regarding Testimonies

### I. Responsibility.

- A. The believer has a responsibility to share his or her faith (**Acts 1:8; 26:19-22; I Cor. 9:16; I Peter 3:15; Ezekiel 33:1-9**).

### II. Regeneration.

- A. The believer cannot save anyone. Regenerating is the Work of the Holy Spirit (**John 3:6; Titus 3:5**).

### III. Reactions.

- A. The believer can expect one of the following three Reactions of his or her testimony.
  1. Derision (**Acts 17:32, 26:24**).
  2. Delay or procrastination (**Acts 17:32, 24:25**).
  3. Decision (**Acts 17:34**).

## Giving Your Personal Testimony

It is important as we look at this subject to start by looking at an example of the Bible. Though frequently imprisoned for preaching the Gospel, the Apostle Paul continued to relate the story of his conversion to Christ whenever he had an opportunity. Read the account of his witness to King Agrippa and his royal party in **Acts 26:1-29**, then answer the following:

1. How did Paul begin his story? (**v. 2 & 3**)
2. What characterized his background? (**v. 4,5, & 9-11**)
3. What reversed the direction of Paul's life? (**v. 12-15**)
4. How did Paul explain the Gospel? (**v. 23**)

Now that you have seen how Paul gave his story, how would you give yours? Sharing how you became a Christian is one of the best ways of witnessing. In sharing your testimony there are a few basic principles that should be kept in mind. Your testimony should be broken down into three major parts:

1. Before you trusted Christ (***1/4 of your testimony***).
2. How you trusted Christ (***1/4 of your testimony***).
3. What has He been doing in your life since you trusted Christ (***1/2 of your testimony***).

### **Before**

1. Include elements that will help people understand how you were before Christ came into your life. (e.g., family, school, athletics, etc.)
2. Do not be proud of your past.
3. Do not try to reach everyone.

### **How**

1. Make the story of your conversion so clear that the person hearing it would know how to receive Christ.
2. ***"This is the way God worked in my life, it doesn't happen this way for everyone"***.
3. Share your struggles of making the decision for Christ.
4. Give the credit to Christ, as well as the glory.

### **Work**

1. Stress the growth that has taken place in your life.
2. Share something that you have learned recently--how God has worked in your life or some interesting basic scripture, or maybe a prayer that was answered.
3. Share the struggles that you are going through right now.

### **In General**

1. Be positive.
2. Be careful how you use the other peoples names. Don't be critical of denominations or individuals.
3. Try to get people to identify with you, (***e.g., had a hard Time getting along with your parents, or maybe had a hard time in school***).
4. Your whole testimony should have a continuity, (***e.g., if You had problems with your parents before, how has that improved***).
5. There need to be a balance between the speaking and the Word.
6. Scripture can be used throughout the whole testimony.
7. Be honest, do not make things up just to impress people. Not everyone has to be a former drug dealer.
8. Do not start by saying ***"I don't know why I'm here," or "I Don't know what I'm going to say."*** People will not be interested in listening.

Try writing your story on a piece of paper just the way you would tell it to a friend. As you prepare your story, ask the Lord to give you opportunities to share it. Pray for two or three whom you would particularly like to tell about Jesus Christ at your school, job, or home.

## **List of Do's In Giving A Testimony**

### **A. Preparation**

1. Be known in your business and social life for honesty, Integrity and pay your bills promptly.
2. Lead a moral life from the earthly standpoint (*i.e., live it-- Don't just talk it*). Have no unconfessed sin in your life
3. Realize your testimony is precious in the sight of God and that you are His workman.
4. Desire in your heart to be used of God.
5. Expect God to use you.
6. Speak to God first, that He may speak through you.
7. Study your Bible daily to know **WHY** you should testify.
8. Study your Bible daily to know **HOW** to testify (**Acts 26**).  
**Testimony should consist of:** Introduction, before, During after and challenge.
9. Study your Bible daily to know **HOW** to use God's word, The Bible, most effectively.
10. Write out your testimony so it will be organized for effectiveness, the ineffectual will be eliminated, and so there will be better communication.
11. Practice giving your testimony privately in order to gain confidence.
12. Be careful of your personal habits (**dress, body and Breath**).

### **B. Presentation**

13. Depend upon the power of God, not upon your wisdom, wit or winsomeness.
14. Present a person, Jesus Christ.
15. Let Christ's love shine through you.
16. Be sure to give God's plan of Salvation, using scriptural Reference.
17. Stay within your time limit.
18. Be sincere.
19. Be truthful.
20. Be tactful.
21. Be enthusiastic.
22. Be positive.
23. Be gentle.
24. Be convincing.
25. **Be confident** that He will give the victory and realize that the battle is the Lord's.

## **Lists Of Don'ts In Giving A Testimony**

1. Do not preach.
2. Do not attack a political party, sect or denomination.
3. Do not ignore time rules.
4. Do not be excessively humorous.
5. Do not talk about "**God**" and "**The Lord**" and yet not use the name of Jesus Christ.
6. Do not be vague in relating the events of salvation.
7. Do not detail gory sins.
8. Do not embarrass someone in the audience. *e.g., "Sam, here, My guest, hasn't been saved."*
9. Do not ignore the audience, *e.g., stare over their heads, etc.*
10. Do not use ecclesiastical words without definition, *e.g., "saved" "sanctified", "justified," "washed in the blood," etc.*
11. Do not speak in a monotone.
12. Do not speak in a voice so low that those in far corners cannot Hear you.
13. Do not "**play up**" the type of work you pursue.
14. Do not frequently interject, "**Praise the Lord.**"
15. Do not ignore the MC.
16. Do not have a poor opening.
17. Do not lean on the lectern.
18. Do not put your hands in your pockets or jingle change.
19. Do not hold a Bible in your hands without referring to it.
20. Do not carry unwieldy notes.
21. Do not use "**uhs**" and "**ers.**"
22. Do not refer to time frequently and make such remarks as "**much later in my talk...**".
23. Do not use inappropriate, "**Unfunny**" jokes.
24. Do not have a poor closing, such as, "**Well my time is up; I have to sit down now.**"
25. Do not give your testimony in your strength but in the power of God.