

DEVELOPING A SALVATION TESTIMONY

A personal testimony is an oral presentation of facts surrounding a given event. The word testimony is often associated with the courtroom. In court a testimony is not to be a clever argument or fictional happening, but rather is meant to be a clear presentation of facts. This is also true when it comes to a testimony in the spiritual realm. Your personal testimony consists simply of the facts surrounding your conversion and subsequent events. A prepared personal testimony of what Christ did in your life is a basic tool in effective witnessing.

How do I develop one?

1. Pray and ask God for wisdom and guidance as you write.
2. Develop it around a three-point outline for a clear and logical impression. Keep it relatively short. (Depending on the time you are given, it is always good to prepare a testimony for about five minutes. Add more details when appropriate.)
 - a. Attitudes and actions before I became a Christian.
 - b. Circumstances surrounding my conversion.
 - c. Changes that took place in my actions and attitudes after receiving Christ.
3. Be Christ-centered
4. Be specific: Write at least five specific things that have occurred in each of the above categories. This might take time, but it will increase your effectiveness.
5. Give enough details to arouse interest.
6. Use some, but not too many, Scripture verses. Your purpose is to give a testimony, not to preach.
7. Be personal: This is your own testimony. Use "I, me" rather than 'we' or 'you'.
8. Be sure not to take this opportunity to lecture others.
9. Be sure to define Christian terms the non-Christian might not understand.
10. Edit and rewrite until it seems logical and communicates effectively.
11. Practice and memorize your testimony for smooth deliverance.

Every salvation testimony ought to include:

1. God is love -John 3:16, I John 4:8
2. I am a sinner - Romans 3:23
3. The penalty of sin is death - Romans 6:23
4. Christ died for my sin on the cross -I Peter 2:24
5. I trust and receive Christ as my personal Savior -John 1:12
6. I receive eternal life and my sin is forgiven -John 3:16, Colossians 2:13