

Telling Your Story With God, Your Testimony November 16, 2008

Intro: You are the world's leading expert on ... your story with God.

1. Beginning to Testify. (Initial Public Offering)

2 Timothy 1:8 (HCSB)

⁸ So don't be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, or of me His prisoner. Instead, share in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God,

- Identify, ask God to show you lost people to love
- Intercede for each
- Identify yourself as a Christian
- Involved Friendship
- Invest
- Inquire about Prayer Requests
- Intercede with him/her, let them hear you pray.
- Inquire - "Can I tell you about the best thing that ever happened to me?"
- Share Your Personal Testimony
- Inquire - "Has anything like this ever happened to you? If yes - Would you mind sharing it with me?" OR "Would you like to hear what the Bible says about this?"
- Share Gospel (Next Sunday a simple way to share using one verse)
- Invite to Christ and to His Church.

2. Basics of Your Testimony, learning from Paul

Acts 9:1-22 gives the event, and Acts 22:1-21 is Paul telling His Testimony.

2a. Before I became a Christian.

Acts 22:1-5 (HCSB)

¹ "Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense before you."

² When they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even quieter.

³ He continued, "I am a Jewish man, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and educated according to the strict view of our patriarchal law. Being zealous for God, just as all of you are today,

⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women in jail,

⁵ as both the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. Having received letters from them to the brothers, I was traveling to Damascus to bring those who were prisoners there to be punished in Jerusalem.

2b. How I became a Christian.

Acts 22:6-10 (HCSB)

⁶ "As I was traveling and near Damascus, about noon an intense light from heaven suddenly flashed around me.

⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting

Me?’

⁸“I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ “He said to me, ‘I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting!’

⁹Now those who were with me saw the light, but they did not hear the voice of the One who was speaking to me.

¹⁰“Then I said, ‘What should I do, Lord?’ “And the Lord told me, ‘Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything that is assigned for you to do.’

2c. My Life with Christ, After I became a Christian.

Acts 22:11-21 (HCSB)

¹¹“Since I couldn’t see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹²Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good reputation with all the Jews residing there,

¹³came to me, stood by me, and said, ‘Brother Saul, regain your sight.’ And in that very hour I looked up and saw him.

¹⁴Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the sound of His voice.

¹⁵For you will be a witness for Him to all people of what you have seen and heard.

¹⁶And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name.’

¹⁷“After I came back to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple complex, I went into a visionary state

¹⁸and saw Him telling me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me!’

¹⁹“But I said, ‘Lord, they know that in synagogue after synagogue I had those who believed in You imprisoned and beaten.

²⁰And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving, and I guarded the clothes of those who killed him.’

²¹“Then He said to me, ‘Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”

(If you accepted Christ as a young child, you may want to substitute for section “A” a recent challenge through which Christ helped you.)

Practical Advice:

- It doesn’t have to be “glamorous” to be very effective
- Short and Simple is better than Long or Complex/Churchy
- Practice is good

3. Being A Part of God’s “Testify to Truth” Team

3a. Creation Testifies: Romans 1:20-21 (HCSB)

²⁰From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse.

²¹ For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened.

3b. God throughout History Testifies.

Exodus 25:22 (HCSB)

²² I will meet with you there above the mercy seat, between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the **testimony**; I will speak with you from there about all that I command you regarding the Israelites.

Exodus 31:18 (HCSB)

¹⁸ When He finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave him the two tablets of the **testimony**, stone tablets inscribed by the finger of God.

Psalms 50:1 (HCSB) (He is not Silent!)

¹ God, the Lord God speaks; He summons the earth from east to west.

3c. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Testify: 1 Timothy 2:6 (HCSB)

⁶ who gave Himself—a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.

3d. The Holy Spirit Testifies: John 15:26 (HCSB)

²⁶ “When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will **testify about Me**.

4. Believing in the Power of God Perfected In Your Weakness When You Testify.

John 4:39 (HCSB)

³⁹ Now many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of what the woman said when she testified, “He told me everything I ever did.”

Revelation 19:10 (HCSB)

¹⁰ Then I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow slave with you and your brothers who have the testimony about Jesus. Worship God, because the testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Revelation 12:11 (HCSB)

¹¹ They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not love their lives in the face of death.

Invitation: If you do not have a testimony to tell you can get one today! If you do have a testimony, then be challenged by the verse with which we began: **2 Timothy 1:8 (HCSB)** ⁸ So don’t be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, or of me His prisoner. Instead, share in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God,