

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Your personal testimony is a natural introduction into sharing the Gospel of Christ. Using the following guidelines will help you develop your own story of what God has done in your life.

1. You are a unique person in God's eyes! Let God be original in you. You have your own story to tell, and in the telling Jesus Christ can be lifted up and glorified.

2. God's power shows up best in "weak" people. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 2:1-5:

"And when I came to you brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God."

3. Ask God to give you insights into how He has worked in your life.

4. Don't think of sharing with a group, but rather, with an individual. You do not need to be a speaker, just one who has the riches of Christ and now wants to share those riches with another person.

5. As you write, avoid Christian terminology. If you must use some, be sure to explain what you mean by it. The non-Christian is not familiar with Bible language. Avoid using denominational names as well.

6. To help you as you prepare, read Acts 22, 23 and 26. Note Paul's "before", "how", and "after". Guide your testimony around these three areas.

a. **Before** I received Christ, I lived and thought this way...

Spend a brief time on "before." This is not a biography from childhood. It is best to start at a time in life that relates to your experience with Christ.

b. **How** I received Christ...

Be specific. The Holy Spirit often convinces people that they should receive Christ when others are sharing how they received Him. However, many people cannot remember the exact time of receiving Christ. Think in terms of a season in your life when you recall a definite change in thought and action.

c. **Now** with Christ in my life, as I trust Him, I live and think this way...

Be practical. Explain how you are continuing to grow as you learn to trust Christ as your Lord and Master.