

## HOW TO GIVE A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

### I. THE TERM “TESTIMONY” DEFINED.

- A. The Dictionary Defines the Word “testimony” as, “a statement given as evidence or proof by a witness.”
- B. The Bible Uses the Two Words “confess” and “testify” to Show that a Testimony Is Being Given.
  - 1. In the Bible *confess* means, “to make a plain, clear announcement about something or someone” (John 9:22; 12:42; Acts 24:14).
  - 2. In the Bible *testify* means, “to be a witness to; to bear record of; to give evidence; to declare (announce or state) something to be true” (Luke 16:27-28; Acts 10:42; 20:20-21).
  - 3. A personal testimony then is, “a declaration, or statement, of a personal experience to establish a fact” (Acts 22:1-16).

### II. THERE IS A BIBLE BASIS FOR GIVING A PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

- A. There Is a Need for Giving a Testimony.
  - 1. Everyone will be required to give a testimony concerning the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil 2:9-11).
    - a. Everyone in heaven, including angels, seraphim, cherubim and saved people.
    - b. Everyone on earth, including nations, tongues and people.
    - c. Everyone under the earth, including Satan, demons and unsaved people in Hell.
  - 2. A testimony to God is needed for salvation (Acts 8:36-37; Rom 10:9-10; 1 John 4:2).
  - 3. A testimony is needed to receive honor:
    - a. In the presence of God the Father (Mat 10:32).
    - b. In the presence of the Holy Angels (Luke 12:8).
- B. The Results of **not** Giving a Testimony on Earth by the Saved:
  - 1. They will lose honor and Jesus Christ will also be ashamed of them (Mark 8:38)
  - 2. They will be denied (will lose) their right to reign with Christ (2 Tim 2:12).

### III. THE BASIC CONTENT OF A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

- A. A Testimony Should Be a Declaration (statement) of what a Person Has Seen, Heard or Said (Acts 4:20).
  - 1. It can be a statement about things in the Bible (Psa 119:46; Mark 2:25-26).
  - 2. It can be a statement about salvation (1 Cor 15:1-4).
  - 3. It can be a statement about the blessings of God (Eph 1:1-3).
  
- B. A Testimony Should Be a Declaration of What Has Been personally Experienced (Psa 66:16).
  - 1. Like the Apostle Paul did in Acts 22:12-15.
  - 2. Like the Maniac of Gadara did in Mark 5:18-20.
  
- C. A Testimony Should Be a Declaration of What Is personally Believed (2 Cor 4:13).
  - 1. Like the Apostle Peter did in Matthew 16:13-16.
  - 2. Like the Ethiopian Eunuch did in Acts 8:35-38.

### IV. HOW TO PREPARE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

- A. What You Should Consider before Preparing Your Testimony:
  - 1. You should consider varying the contents of your testimony depending on the time limit you have to give it.
  - 2. You should consider the time involved in giving your testimony, allowing at least five minutes.
    - a. Start with your life before you were saved (20% of the allotted time).
    - b. Then relate how you were saved (40% of the allotted time).
    - c. End your testimony with your life as a Christian (40% of the allotted time).
  - 3. You should consider the emphasis of your testimony, how you were saved and your life since you were saved, not your sinful past.
  
- B. What You Should Do while preparing Your Testimony:
  - 1. You should ask God for wisdom and guidance (Jas 1:5-6).
  - 2. You should emphasize (stress) the positive changes in your life.
    - a. Knowing God's love.
    - b. Receiving direction from the word of God (the Bible).
    - c. Receiving a new inner strength through the Holy Spirit.
    - d. No longer fearing death.
    - e. No longer fearing old age.
    - f. Having peace of mind.
    - g. Having a purpose in life.
    - h. Having prayers answered.

- i. Having a reason for living.
  - j. Having a new outlook on life.
  - k. Having fellowship with God and other Christians.
  - l. Having the feeling of complete forgiveness of sins.
3. You should be sure to give enough details to make your testimony interesting.

- C. What You Should Consider not Doing when You Give Your Testimony:
- 1. You should not use Christian terms like, “convicted, sanctified or justified,” unless they are known or are first defined (or explained).
  - 2. You should not read your whole testimony word for word.
  - 3. You should not ramble on (talk too much) about any one part of your testimony.
  - 4. You should not criticize other Christians, denominations, or Church groups.
  - 5. You should not give the impression that the Christian life is free of problems.

## V. HOW TO GIVE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

- A. When Giving Your Testimony:
- 1. You should give it with enthusiasm (feelings).
  - 2. You should give it in a clear, natural, relaxed tone of voice.
  - 3. You should give it without nervous mannerisms (habits).
    - a. Do not clear your throat a lot.
    - b. Do not say “uh; ah” or any other repeated word.
    - c. Do not jingle things in your pocket.
  - 4. You should give it without preaching it.
  - 5. You should give it with a smile, but not an exaggerated grin.
  - 6. You should give it after you memorize the facts, but not memorizing it word for word.

- B. While Giving Your Testimony, Be Flexible and Adapt to different Situations.
- 1. You should adapt to giving it while on the job.
  - 2. You should adapt to giving it during bad times.
  - 3. You should adapt to giving it during good times.
  - 4. You should adapt to giving it while on visitation.
  - 5. You should adapt to giving it when in a Church setting.

## VI. WHEN TO GIVE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

- A. Be Ready to Give Your Testimony at a Moment’s Notice (1 Pet 3:15).

- B. Be Ready to Give Your Testimony in almost every Situation.
  - 1. Be ready to give it when you are not able to use a Bible.
  - 2. Be ready to give it when you are telling someone about another person's experiences.
  - 3. Be ready to give it when you are speaking to someone while on visitation.
  - 4. Be ready to give it when lost people make comments to you during sports activities.
  - 5. Be ready to give it when lost fellow-workers are sharing their personal experiences with you.

VII. A FINAL CHECK LIST FOR YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

- A. Does Your Testimony Express Your Relationship with God?
- B. Does Your Testimony Express Your Personal Experience and/or God's Faithfulness?
- C. Does Your Testimony Emphasize the positive Benefits of Your Life in Jesus Christ rather than Your sinful Past?