

## How to Prepare a Personal Testimony

Any subject matter can be presented more effectively by careful organization. A carefully prepared testimony, empowered by the Holy Spirit, can be of immediate and effective use in nearly every ministry situation. A testimony can include three basic points:

- Life before knowing Christ
- How you came to know Christ (be specific)
- Life after you received Christ (changes He has made – what He has done for you.)

When giving a brief testimony, DO:

- Pray that God will give you wisdom and clarity of thought.
- Present only **one** main thought.
- Prepare an interesting, attention-getting opening statement and close with a good conclusion.
- Communicate relevant information in such a way that others feel associated with you in past and present experiences.
- Be honest and real.
- Be positive and **smile**.
- Emphasize faith, not feeling.
- Use at least one, but at the most two, scripture verses.
- Give only enough details to arouse interest.
- Write out your testimony.

DON'T:

- Use Christian jargon. Words such as *saved*, *Christ in my heart*, *convicted*, and *born again* do not communicate effectively to the average non-Christian.
- Speak in glittering generalities. Avoid sentences like “It was a wonderful experience” or “God has been good to me.”
- Preach or talk down to people.
- Mention church denominations.
- Ad-lib: know what you want to say and avoid being too wordy.
- Speak critically or negatively about any other individual or group.

When you share your testimony, remember to...

- Share it with loving enthusiasm in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Speak loudly and clearly in a natural, relaxed tone of voice.
- Avoid mannerisms when you speak, such as jingling coins in your pocket, swaying, clearing your throat, using *uhs* or *ahs*.
- Let people see the story of what God is presently doing for and through you. Recreate your story from what you saw, felt and learned.