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Step 10: How to develop and use your testimony to explain the gospel?

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PREPARING MY TESTIMONY

I. Attitudes and actions BEFORE accepting Christ: _____

II. The circumstances: How I became aware of my need of a Savior and how I received Christ personally : _____

III. Changes in attitudes and actions that have occurred in my life AFTER receiving Christ: _____

DEVELOPING AN EVANGELISTIC TESTIMONY

Probably the two most difficult steps of obedience for a new believer are . . .

- (1) To tithe and give sacrificially of our possessions
- (2) To testify to others about your new faith in Christ.

In this lesson we will learn how to share our faith with others by giving your testimony of how you came to Christ.

Each of the following verses gives a **reason for sharing** with others how to be saved. Write the reason you find in each one:

Matthew 28:19 _____

Luke 19:10 _____

Acts 4:12 _____

Acts 1:8 _____

John 15:8 _____

Jesus commanded us to go into the entire world with His message, that is to say, we should not wait for the world to come to us or the church. He expressed his desire to win the lost because there is no salvation apart from Him. He gives the power to go and reproduce fruit in the lives of others.

When Christ healed the blind man in John 9, the man was called to go before the Pharisees to give a “testimony” of the miracle. How much knowledge was necessary for him to give an effective testimony in **John 9:25**? _____

Step10: Preparing my Testimony

Giving a testimony is communicating what has occurred to you personally, just like the blind man. Do you know for sure that you have received eternal life? If so, then you can say as the blind man did, “One thing I know, once I was _____, and now I am _____”

Once you were lost, without assurance of eternal life, but now you know that this life is something that will never change within you. This dynamic testimony, given at the right moment, will have a great impact.

A TESTIMONY is the presentation of the facts of an event. Just as in a court of law, you must present the truths you know or have experienced, not something imagined. Therefore, what is necessary BEFORE being able to give a testimony? _____

Obviously, we must have personally experienced the assurance of salvation before being able to give a “testimony” of salvation?

What kind of testimony did John give? **1 John 1:1-3** Choose one:

- ☐ What he had Heard from others
- ☐ His personally experience

What is a personal testimony? _____

Sharing our experience of finding eternal life is a way to create thirst in others to know the peace and joy we express.

In **1 Peter 3:15**, the apostle Peter tells us why we should PREPARE a personal testimony. Write the reason in your own words. _____

Step10: Preparing my Testimony

We must always be ready to give an answer of the hope (assurance) we have of eternal life. Therefore, let us now begin to work on the presentation of your testimony.

Each testimony has three parts: **BEFORE** the experience of salvation; the **CIRCUMSTANCES** that lead you to accept Christ; and **AFTER** your salvation: what differences did you or others see? Can you find these three parts in Paul’s testimony in **Acts 26**? Write below the references that show his testimony:

His life before knowing Christ:

26: _____ — _____

How he came to recognize his need:

26: _____ — _____

How he received Christ:

26: _____ — _____

What Christ was doing in his life:

26: _____ — _____

The general outline of giving a testimony might go like this:

BEFORE — Give a brief summary of your life before knowing Christ. Finish this sentence – *There was a time in my life when I lived selfishly and tried to be as good as I could...*

CIRCUMSTANCES — Then you tell what happened specifically to bring you to Christ, something like this: – *Someone came into my life that was honest with me about my sinfulness showing me how I had broken the Ten Commandments and would be found guilty before the judgment of God. I admitted that I had lied, stolen, lusted, etc., and it became obvious that I could never be good enough to be accepted. He showed me how Jesus Christ took all the payment for my sins on Himself when He died on the Cross. He only asked that I repent and trust completely in what He did on the cross and whatever He says. With all my heart I invited Him*

Step10: Preparing my Testimony

into my life to live within me and be my Savior and Lord forever.

AFTER— Finally share the changes that have occurred since knowing Christ. Write something like: *Now when I think about dying I know I'll be in heaven with Jesus, and in the meantime, I'll never be alone. Jesus is with me every minute of the day and helps me through my troubles, etc.*

Read what Paul wrote in **Titus 3:3-7**. Write the *Before*, the *Circumstances* and the *After* of Paul's testimony below:

Before: _____

Circumstances: _____

After: _____

Follow this guide for an effective testimony:

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Use conversational speech. Do not preach.
- Avoid Christian religious words such as: "*justification, under the blood, saved, etc.*" Just be natural.
- Give enough details about your life before Christ to provoke interest, but do not bore your audience with a long narration, nor details of your sinful activities.

Step10: Preparing my Testimony

d. Communicate your message using adult speech, although you may have been saved at a young age. It is better to say, "There was a time when I realized I was a sinner," than to say, "I was six years old when..."

e. Avoid dogmatic sayings which can cause skeptics to doubt.

f. In the ***BEFORE*** section, include both the good and the bad without being graphic. Don't focus your previous sinfulness.

GOOD: desire to better yourself; achieve great things; get a good education; excel in sports; etc.

BAD: Focus on egotism; selfishness, love of money; inferiority complex; anger; stubbornness; excel at whatever price; trying to impress others, etc. Try to emphasize common aspects in order to identify with your audience.

g. In the ***CIRCUMSTANCES*** section:

1) Communicate clearly the Gospel: These are the key verses to the plan of salvation. Look them up, mark them so you can find them easily.

The truth about sinRomans 3:23 Put this verse in your own words: _____

The consequences of sinRomans 6:23 Put this verse in your own words: _____

Christ paid for our sin.....Romans 5:8 Put this verse in your own words: _____

The necessity of receiving ChristJohn 1:12 Put this verse in your own words: _____

How to receive Christ personallyRev. 3:20 Put this verse in your own words: _____

- Let the Bible be your authority, not your feelings.

Step10: Preparing my Testimony

- Explain why and how you received Christ as your “personal Savior.”
- h. In the **AFTER** section, conclude with two or three personal benefits that come from being a believer.

Now, write your testimony using the outline provided in this lesson. Write at least five ideas, circumstances, or illustrations under each of the three divisions. You will not use all your illustrations, ideas or circumstances every time you give your testimony. Instead, you will choose the ones that **apply to** or help you more **effectively identify** with the person to whom you are talking.

Finally, write some brief points on a 3 x 5 card to help you as you practice giving your testimony. Note: your testimony should take only about **three or four minutes**.

Note: your testimony should only last 3 or 4 minutes. You can expand your testimony whenever you have more time or see that there is more interest. Practice until you feel comfortable sharing out loud and easily remember all the parts of the testimony.

Step10: Preparing my Testimony

REVIEW #10: TESTIMONY

What is a personal testimony? _____

Write the outline for preparing a personal testimony:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Write some things that you should avoid when giving your testimony:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

Write some things you should include:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

5. Write your testimony using the three parts: (use the back)

Before

Circumstances

After