

HOW TO WRITE A LIFE CHANGING TESTIMONY

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Here are some thoughts to begin with:

- Your testimony is the story of **how you came to believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how you received Christ as your Lord and Savior.**
- You should **pray as you begin** and ask the Lord to help you and to give you the words to say that will help others open their hearts to Him.
- Your testimony should be **5 to 10 minutes** long. It needs to be written out. (about 4-6 double-spaced pages with a 12 font size.)
- You should include 2 or 3 passages of **Scripture** that God used in your journey of finding Him.
- Your story should be **honest and real.**
- **Do not use churchy language** that a pre-Christian will not understand.
- It must **include the simple Gospel** message because the purpose of a testimony. See 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

The *page suggestions* are a guide to help you to structure your story and will aid you in keeping your testimony focused and balanced.

First half page or so...

MY BACKGROUND

You can provide a brief life history that includes where you're from, what your life was like growing up, your family, your religious background if you had one and anything else that might help the listeners relate to you as a person and allow them to see that they are like you in many ways.

Next page or so...

MY LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST

You should share what your life was like without Christ. The following are examples of stories that we've heard from others:

She sought to be accepted by others and that led her away from God and her true convictions and values.

A devastating divorce left her lost and adrift with two young children. Her cousin came along side with a message of hope in Christ.

He thought he could be good enough to go to Heaven if he just followed the 10 Commandments but found that he couldn't even do that for one month.

He was taught about Jesus from his earliest memory. At a very young age he received Christ and has been growing ever since.

He explored many different religions and found he still had an ache in his soul that kept him seeking for Jesus.

Their marriage was in real trouble because of unhealthy and selfish behaviors. They began to turn to God for help.

Her fears had her paralyzed. A friend invited her to church again and again but she was afraid to even try.

His painful childhood caused him to seek refuge in drugs and alcohol. This worked for a while until the solution became the problem.

She felt the only way she could be loved was to give herself to men sexually. She began to hate herself.

She was overcome with bitterness because of abuse that she suffered. Her inability to forgive caused her to begin to become everything that she hated.

He had intellectually rejected God. His wife's faith in Christ and a serious car accident that he walked away from began to open his eyes and change his heart.

She reached the pinnacle of her career only to find that her heart was still empty.

He grew up in a Christian home but never personally accepted Christ. After living the wild life in college he found an authentic desire for Jesus awakening within him.

Next half page or so...

OBSTACLES OR HINDERANCES YOU FACED IN COMING TO FAITH

What were some of the things that kept you from moving forward in you decision to receive Jesus Christ? These will be important because someone who is hearing your story is at the same obstacle and God will use you so help them overcome!

For you was there...

- A sin you didn't want to give up
- A belief that you could never be good enough for God
- A belief that you were already good enough and didn't need a Savior
- A spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend that discouraged your faith journey
- An intellectual mindset that seemed to stand in the way of having faith
- A feeling that you needed to earn salvation

- A mistrust of “religion” or religious people
- An aversion to being perceived as a religious fanatic
- Misgivings about political issues that the church culture is vocal about

Next page or so...

HOW I CAME TO FAITH IN JESUS

Share the things God used in your life to bring you to faith in Jesus such as:

- A passage of Scripture that spoke deeply to you
- A friend that share the gospel
- A parent or loved one that prayed faithfully for you
- A sickness or tragedy that caused you to seek the Lord
- A miraculous encounter that God used to ensure you of his love
- A song that touched you
- A church that provided a place for you while you were seeking
- A heartbreak that caused you to want deeper answers
- A crisis that cause you to hit the bottom and humbly seek God
- A growing desire for God that was awakened and surprised you
- And many, many others...

Next page or so...

THE MOMENT OF DECISION OR THE SEASON OF DECISION

If you know the moment that you received Christ:

- When was it?
- What brought you to that moment?
- Where were you?
- Who was with you? What role did they play?
- Did you pray?
- Did you feel any different after?
- What changed about your life in those next moments or days?

If you don't know the exact moment or it was more of a season of time:

- What was that season of your life?
- What was empowering your faith journey?
- When did you begin to recognize that you had a growing trust in Jesus?

- What did you understand about your own condition and need for a Savior and what specifically did you do about it?
- What changed in your life after this season in which you came to faith in Jesus?

Invest a half page sharing the gospel

Key Concept:

The purpose of sharing your story is to show how we personally accepted Jesus Christ! **It is your opportunity to explain the Gospel personally!** The Gospel is the good news (literally the “good spell”) that God loves us and sent his son Jesus to us to live a sinless life, die on the cross to pay for our sin, and come back to life three days later. When we put our faith in his death on the cross to forgive our sins, and trust that he was resurrected to give us new life we are spiritually transformed. Jesus comes to live in us by the Holy Spirit and gives us a new life. We can also be assured that we are forgiven of all of our sins and that we will be welcomed into Heaven for eternity when this new life that Christ gives us is over.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

Now, fellow believers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.***

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time... Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also...

1 PETER 3:18

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit...

The last page or so...

HOW MY LIFE HAS CHANGED BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST

It’s time to tell how your life is different now that you are a follower of Jesus.

- What peace and joy are you experiencing?
- What kind of experience are you having with God?

- How has being forgiven affected you?
- What issues are you overcoming or have you overcome?
- What are you doing that's helping you to grow in your faith?
- How are you connecting with other believers?

Close with your favorite verse of Scripture and tell why it's important to you.

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