

Sermon Notes

"Can I Get a Witness?"

Acts 22

May 26, 2019

Introduction: Is it wrong to try to persuade someone to change their beliefs?

When did you hear about Christ and what were your initial reactions?

When and why did you begin to feel positive about Him?

What was the turning point in your attitude and what barriers did you experience?

After:

What specific changes did you see in your attitude and actions?

How are you motivated differently now?

Talk about your life since you accepted Christ. It is very important at this point not to give the impression that your life is problem free. Many believers have found that after they came to Christ, God made them aware of many areas of their lives that required work and He allowed various trials to invade their lives. Their lives may have actually been more difficult than before. Be honest about how Christ has made a difference in the difficult times as well as the good.

Written Testimony

Now select and write what you would like to include.

Before Before I received Christ, here's how I thought and lived:

During Here's how I came to understand the gospel and received Christ personally:

After Now that I know Christ as my personal Savior, these are some changes that I noticed:

A. Whose job is it to spread the message?

B. How do you organize your story?

**C. Who will you share this with?
Who is in your circle of influence?**

To whom should you go?

How do you prioritize?

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 05-26-19

Tips for Preparing Your Testimony:

1. Make it short. Aim for three minutes.
2. Make it personal without Christian clichés or preaching. Use “I” and “we,” not “you.”
3. Use the following outline. Write out your story. Edit out what’s unnecessary.
4. Include an explanation of the gospel.

Outline:

Paul gives a good example of a personal testimony in Acts 22:1-22. Paul recounts his hatred of Christianity before he came to know Christ (vv. 1-5). Then he describes how he met Christ on the Damascus road (vv. 6-10). Finally, he describes what happened to him after he received Christ (vv. 11-22). Following his example, our testimony should include three things:

1. Before: a little about my life before knowing Christ.
2. During: how I came into my relationship with Christ.
3. After: how my life has been changed with Christ.

Hinge:

Point 2 in the outline forms a hinge, a turning point. This usually is how and when you trusted Christ. For some, they trusted Christ at such an early age that they don’t remember much of life before knowing Christ. In such cases, you may choose to hinge your story on a point of recommitment to Christ, your first encounter with dynamic Christianity, or another significant turning point in your Christian life (perhaps after a time of not walking with the Lord). Or, you might begin your testimony by talking about a time when you were not walking with the Lord and then hinge with a flash back to when you met Christ as a child.

Build your testimony around a theme from your experience that is of general interest to non-Christians. For example: pursuit of success, life’s best, money, dreams of the future, failure, sin patterns. Set up the hinge by telling about your life before you trusted Christ (or recommitted your life - the hinge) and then tell how your life was changed *in that same topic or theme* by Christ.

Testimony Worksheet

Here are some additional questions to help in crafting your story. You need not answer all the questions. Rather use them to spark ideas and then select what you would like to include.

Using Descriptive Adjectives to Select a Theme:

To help you get started, try listing some adjectives that describe your life before Christ (*i.e., afraid, lonely, proud, greedy, etc.*).

List some adjectives that describe your life now (*i.e., calm, peaceful, connected, humbled, etc.*).

Are there any pairs of contrasting adjectives that form a theme you could focus your testimony upon?

Before:

What did your life revolve around before you received Christ? Attitudes, needs, problems?

How was that unsatisfying?

Perhaps tell about the emotional, intellectual or volitional barriers God had to overcome in your life to get you to see your need for Christ.

During:

Describe the event or person God used to bring you to Christ. It may have been a crisis in your life or some friend or relative. Recount what happened to you.