

Writing Your Personal Testimony: three ideas to get you started

Example 1: From Will Metzger's *Tell the Truth* (p. 160)

This is your spiritual autobiography. Many Christians are unable to point to a crisis conversion experience. Many Christians do not know the date when God brought them into his kingdom (perhaps he did so when they were young). This does not mean you do not have a meaningful testimony. Use some of the phrases under each heading to help focus on important things.

What I was like:

My family, friends, interests were.... My security (most important value) was...

My religious background and attitude toward God was....

What God used to open my eyes:

I was awakened to my need by (people, books, meeting, circumstances)

What I thought and/or noticed (about myself, God others) at this point was...

What I saw/understood:

Those aspects of the Gospel that touched me were... I came to understand that Christ...

I saw my need was... I understand my condition was...

How Christ has affected/is affecting my life:

My relationships with... My attitude toward... My desires now are... I'm now doing... A still difficult area is...

Example 2: Your testimony should answer these three questions:

1. What caused you to realize that you were a sinner and needed to be saved from your sin and its penalty: death?
2. How did you find out who Jesus Christ is and what he did for you? When and how did you embrace him as your Savior and Lord?
3. How are you different because you have a saving relationship with Jesus? Give an example of what God's Holy Spirit has helped change in you since becoming a Christian.

Example 3: Use the five membership vows discussed in *Foundations of Faith* as the structure of your testimony.

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
How do you know that you are a sinner? When did you see that you were a person in need? What does it mean to you that you are "without hope save in his sovereign mercy?" When in your life were you really aware of your need for God?

2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
What does it mean to believe in Jesus? What does it mean to receive and rest upon him alone for salvation?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the follower of Christ?
How are you seeking to live for Jesus? What struggles are you having? What are the signs of spiritual life?
4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
Why do you want to be a part of our church? What does it mean to you to support the church in its worship and work?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace? *Are you willing to do this as a member of our church?*