

HOW DO I SHARE MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY?

1. **Share about your faith journey:**
 - 1.1. By sharing your own journey of faith, you “personalize” the Gospel message and its impact on people’s lives today.
 - 1.2. In a sense, through hearing how God has worked in your life, people can see “God with skin on”, as one person once put it.
2. **Share how you have come to a certainty about your salvation and entrance into heaven upon death.**
 - 2.1. Share how you have faced circumstances similar to theirs, and how God / the Church / Christianity have made a difference.
3. **Types of testimony:**
 - 3.1. Share a personal testimony: an occasion when you encountered God in a life-giving and life-changing way, whether:
 - 3.1.1. A (dramatic) moment of *conversion*
 - 3.1.2. A (less dramatic) time when there was a *deepening* in your relationship with God / the Church, a story of *re-commitment* to Christ and His Church
 - 3.1.3. A time when God worked in a palpable way within your community or group rather than in your individual life granting perhaps a physical or emotional healing or some other favor.
4. **A-B-Cs of a good (verbal) testimony:**
 - 4.1. Audible
 - 4.2. Brief
 - 4.3. Christ-centered
5. **Other pointers:**
 - 5.1. You want to be listened to, so be *interesting*.
 - 5.2. You want to be understood, so be *logical*.
 - 5.3. You want the moment of your new birth / encounter with Christ and His Church to be clear, so be *specific*.
 - 5.4. You want your testimony to be used, so be *practical*.
 - 5.5. You want your testimony to produce results, so be *warm* and *genuine*.
 - 5.6. And... *Always* share in a respectful, caring, gentle manner: never imposing or giving the impression that you are better or that you are judging your listener.

*Courtesy of the Office for Evangelization
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PREPARING A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

QUESTIONS TO AID YOU:

1. If there ever was a time when you made a conscious commitment of your life to Christ, how did this come about? What did it mean to you at the time? Has it made a difference in your life since? In what ways?
2. If you have always been a committed Christian, what are some experiences which you feel were steps forward in your growth in faith, knowledge and love of God?
3. Have you ever experienced a strong awareness of God's presence? How did it happen? What did it mean to you and how did it help?
4. At what times in your life has Christ been most real to you?
5. How has Christ enabled you to make Him the center of your life?
6. What personal experiences have you had which you feel indicate that you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
7. What are some ways in which God has strengthened your faith? What are the personal experiences through which He has done this?
8. What was the most vivid experience of prayer you ever had? At what times in your life was prayer most meaningful to you?
9. How has a verse of Scripture influenced your life or helped you understand God or His will in a particular situation?
10. Have you or anyone you know ever received a healing of illness – mental, emotional, or physical – through prayer alone? How did it come about?
11. In what ways do you feel that God is helping you to grow in emotional and spiritual maturity? What was an experience in which you grew in wisdom, understanding, and trust of God?
12. Have you had an experience in which Christ's love has changed your attitude or outlook? How did this come about?
13. Have you ever sought and received God's guidance? Did you follow it? What happened?
14. If you believe that God has a plan for your life, how do you see it working out in your experience? In what ways have you discovered God's plan as you have gone along?

15. Has another Christian ever shared his personal faith experiences with you in such a way that it gave you new insight or helped with a problem or made a difference in some way to you? How did it help?
16. Have you ever shared your personal faith experiences with the same results? How did it help the other person?
17. How has God given you peace in a difficult situation or an unhappy time?
18. If you feel that Christ is the head of your household, as St. Paul taught, how does this work out in daily living with your family? What effect does it have on your marriage relationship? On your relationship with your children? On your relationship with a friend or family member with whom you live?
19. In what ways do you feel God helps you in your work relationships? In your social relationships?
20. How has God enabled you love a person who does things of which you don't approve or whom you found difficult to love?

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