

Preparing Our Testimony

- Helpful Hints
 - Remember, we're telling God's story
 - Pray and ask for wisdom
 - Be honest, concise, relevant/appropriately detailed
 - Write the way you speak
 - Practice & be prepared; aim for 3-5 minutes
 - Be looking for opportunities
- Testimony in 3 Parts
 - My Life Before Christ
 - What about my life before Christ will relate most to the non-Christians I know?
 - What did my life revolve around? Where did I get my security, identity or happiness from?
 - How did those things begin to let me down?
 - How I Came to Christ
 - When was the first time I heard the gospel? What were my initial reactions?
 - When and why did my perspective of Christ begin to change?
 - What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before I accepted Him? Why did I finally decide to accept Christ, give Him complete control of my life?
 - My Life After Coming to Christ
 - How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude and perspective on life.
 - What motivates me now? What do I live for?
 - Even though my life still isn't perfect, how does knowing Christ help me deal with that fact?

Further Study

1 John 5:6-12 ESV

“This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who *testifies*, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that *testify*: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. If we receive the *testimony* of men, the *testimony* of God is greater, for this is the *testimony* of God that he has borne concerning his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God has the *testimony* in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the *testimony* that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the *testimony*, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

- Main theme: Testimony Concerning the Son of God (italics)
 - This is a final attempt from John to argue against the false [Gnostic] teaching that Jesus was not both fully God and fully human. The Gnostics separated “Spirit” from “body” both in Jesus, so John uses 6 witness testimonies to drive home the truth about Jesus.
- John uses 6 witnesses to testify (underlined)
 - Water (Jesus’ baptism)
 - Referenced 4x
 - Jesus’ baptism is found in all 4 Gospels; Introduces us to the Triune God; Anointed for public ministry (Matt 3:16-17; Ps 2:7; Isa 42:1)
 - Blood (Jesus’ crucifixion)
 - Referenced 3x
 - Jesus’ work began at His baptism, it ended on the Cross (Matt 27:54; Mark 15:39)
 - Significant # of witnesses: darkness (Matt 27:45), curtain torn (Matt 27:51) earthquake (Matt 27:51), OT saints raised (Matt 27:52-53), Roman centurion (Matt 27:54; Mark 15:39)
 - 1 Cor 5:21
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Referenced 3x
 - Jesus’ words in John 15:26
 - Spirit was at Jesus’ conception, baptism, temptation, throughout His earthly ministry
 - God the Father
 - All the above are God’s historical witness; see John 5:37 among others
 - Testimony of men: Focus of message; see other side
 - Eternal Life
 - “Life” and “Son” go hand-in-hand; if we have the Son, we have life