

Jesus told His followers, "You are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24:48)

Everybody has a story and especially those who follow Jesus. As followers of Christ, we are "witnesses," too - "testifying" about the amazing transformation He has made in our lives.

Your story is a persuasive account of how the Lord brought you to know Him as your Savior and Lord. It is real, relevant, and relatable. It is always ready to share whenever God opens the door.

4 Basic Kinds of Testimonies

There are endless ways to shape your story, but here are some ways that work well:

- **A Simple Statement:** You can share a simple statement about why you chose to follow Jesus. Example: "Before I met Jesus Christ, my life was empty and now that I follow Him, He has filled my life with purpose and meaning. I now know I was created to know and love Him and serve others for God's glory."
- **Before and After:** You can share your "before" and "after" story—what your life was like before you knew Jesus and what your life is like now. Simple and powerful.
- **With and Without:** You can share your "with" and "without" story—what your life is like "with Jesus" and what it would be like "without Him." This version of your story works well if you came to faith at a young age.
- **Before, How, and Since:** You can frame your story around three elements: "before" I received Jesus (reveals your previous spiritual need), "how" I received Jesus (the account of how Christ called you), and since I received Jesus (what difference Christ has and is making in your life).

3 Parts to Sharing Your Testimony

When sharing your story, it's helpful to think of it as part of a three-part process:

- **Their Story:** Ask the person you are talking with to share about their spiritual journey.
- **Your Story:** Then share your testimony.
- **God's Story:** Finally, share God's story (the gospel) in a way that helps them see their need for the wonderful forgiveness and eternal life Jesus Christ provides.

Your testimony doesn't have to be lengthy or overly detailed to be impactful. Keeping your story to 3-5 minutes can keep people engaged, leave time for questions, and provide for some deeper conversation.