

Format for Giving Your Testimony

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” | Peter 3:15

Introduction: Paul gives an example of an introduction to one’s story in Acts 26:2, 3. Give the “lead in” that is appropriate to the situation. Usually not more than a sentence is needed.

My life before conversion:

- Give a **succinct** account of the context of your life before you responded to the gospel.
- The **point** is that whether you grew up in a Christian home or not, whether your life was a positive or negative experience, you were **a sinner in need of a Savior**.
- Give a specific **example** of an event that Christ used to draw you to Himself (Jn. 6: 44). A word picture is helpful in communicating and makes your story more interesting.

Responding to the gospel (conversion):

- In explaining your conversion, make the gospel central.
- Explain how you responded to the gospel, with sufficient clarity that another person would understand **what God requires** of them (repentance, etc.).
- Use Scripture so it flows as part of your testimony and is not merely something tacked on. The truth of Scripture should power your testimony. (Jer. 23: 29)

My changed life (evidence of conversion):

- Give one or more examples of how your life changed as a result of salvation through Christ.
- Explain that conversion is evidenced by a changed heart and spiritual fruit (a “sinner’s prayer” does not a Christian make—i.e., no “fire insurance”).

Challenging others:

- When speaking to an **audience**, have some kind of follow-up opportunity set up.
- When speaking to an **individual**, get their contact information for follow up. Invite them to church with you. If you are out of town, direct them to a church or do the research to find out where they should go to church.
- Pray for them.