

To help you in writing your testimony for class next week, please consider the aim of your testimony. The aim of giving a personal testimony is to tell of the working of God's grace in your own life, that the cross of Christ may be proclaimed and the faith of your listeners built up. *Here are a few things to remember while writing your story...*

- Keep it focused on Christ, the cross and on God's initiative and grace—God focused as opposed to self-focused.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, so that the most important and helpful aspects of your gospel story will be shared clearly. Believe that God will empower you through his Spirit to be a witness to His good grace (Acts 1:8).
- Be brief—**1/2 of a page, single-spaced, 12 pt. font!** Your testimony isn't every life event. It is a simplified version of life before Christ, receiving of the Gospel, and life after.

How might you go about writing your testimony? Here are some practical suggestions...

In Acts 26, Paul stood before King Agrippa and shared simply and plainly the story of his life. Essentially, Paul's testimony followed a guideline that can help you prepare your testimony.

- **Before the Cross (Acts 26:4-11):**
 - a. What was your life like? What characterized you? How did you think of God? What were your thoughts about religion? How was the Lord justly angered toward you because of your sin during this time?
REMEMBER: "We can all say, 'I was once a _____' and fill in our own descriptions of our sinful state. And we don't need a dramatic testimony to do so. Even if your story doesn't involve drugs or immorality, it is still a miracle of God's grace. You didn't write it by yourself. God intervened. God changed your heart. God saved you."¹
- **How you came to know Christ and Him crucified (Acts 26:12-20):**
 - b. Help your readers & hearers to understand what drove you to consider Christ, whether it was the circumstances or time.
 - c. Share the specific steps of how you became a Christian. If there was a particular Scripture or word that someone said that drew you to Christ, share it here. Explain the gospel clearly:
 - i. You were sinful and fully deserving of God's wrath
 - ii. Christ died in your place on the cross as your substitute—bearing the wrath of God in your place
 - iii. When you repented of your sin, turned from your old lifestyle and placed your faith in Christ's sacrifice, then you were forgiven of all sin, becoming a child of God and obtaining new life in Him.
- **After Christ (Acts 26:21-23):**
 - d. *The forgiveness in the gospel of Jesus Christ, but there's also power!* What difference has Christ made in your life? In the way you think, feel, and act? In the way coworkers see you? In the way your family sees you? In the way you view your coworkers or family members?
 - e. Don't be afraid to share honestly that you still have struggles, but be sure to share how Christ helps you with these struggles.
 - f. Conclude by sharing that you now know you have eternal life (according to 1 John 5:11-13) in Jesus Christ.

We're looking forward to hearing your testimony next week!

¹ C.J. Mahaney, *The Cross Centered Life: Keeping the Gospel the Main Thing* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2002), 66.