

# Personal Testimony

## An Example from The Bible

Read Acts 26. Here the Apostle Paul gives his personal testimony before King Agrippa. He tells about his life before his conversion on the road to Damascus when he persecuted the followers of the Way. Next, Paul describes in detail his miraculous encounter with Jesus and his calling to serve Christ as an apostle. Then he goes on to tell of his new life after turning to God.

## Guide on writing your testimony

### 1- Spend Time in Preparation and Prayer

Here are a few things to consider before you start writing your testimony: Think about your life before you met the Lord. What was going on in your life leading up to your conversion? What problems or needs were you facing at the time? How did your life change after that? Pray and ask God to help you share what he wants you to include.

### 2 - Use a Simple 3-Point Outline

This outline focuses on **before** you trusted Christ, **how** you surrendered to him, and the difference **since** you've been walking with him.

- **Before:** Simply tell what your life was like before you surrendered to Christ. What were you searching for before coming to know Christ? What was the key problem, emotion, situation or attitude you were dealing with? What motivated you? What were your actions? How did you try to satisfy your inner needs? (Examples of inner needs are loneliness, fear of death, insecurity. Possible ways to fill those needs include work, money, drugs, relationships, sports, sex.)
- **How:** How did you come to be follower of Christ? Simply tell the events and circumstances that caused you to consider Christ as the solution to your searching. Take time to identify the steps that brought you to the point of trusting Christ. Where were you? What was happening at the time? What people or problems influenced your decision?
- **Since:** What your life has been since? How has your life in Christ made a difference? How has His forgiveness impacted you? How have your thoughts, attitudes, and emotions changed? Share how Christ is meeting your needs and what a relationship with him means to you now.

### 3 - Important Tips to Remember


- **Stick to the point.** Your conversion and new life in Christ should be the main points.
- **Be specific.** Include events, genuine feelings and personal insights that clarify your main point. This makes your testimony tangible--something others can relate to.
- **Be current.** Tell what is happening in your life with God now, today.
- **Be honest.** Don't exaggerate or dramatize your life for effect.

(Adapted from the following website: <https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-write-your-christian-testimony-701445>)

Please submit at least one page long, 500 words or longer, preferably typed.

2 Personal Testimony samples are attached for your reference.

### Sample 1

Testimony of 

Before:

As a 2<sup>nd</sup> gen Christian, attending a Methodist school and church since young meant that there was so much more that I had to discover myself. My parents were not the most fervent of believers, and they generally left me to discover my own beliefs as I matured. While I never doubted the existence of God and the sovereignty He had over me and my life, it was never something I truly felt. Every Sunday in church would just be that – attend service, and after service I would go back to my daily life. Hence, I was motivated by the things of the world – good grades, popularity with my friends and etc. While I did not feel like I was led astray, I also recognised that I did not have a strong relationship in Him, and at that point I did not seek anything more.

How:

The moment that I believe I was born again in Christ was not so much a moment, but rather a process. It started with the interest in serving in worship, as I had a keen interest in music. However, nothing was really set into motion for 2 years. Yet, one by one, the dominos began to fall. I signed up for my first camp, and was immediately placed in the unfamiliar position of group leader. That year, I had just lost my grandfather, as well as a very good friend in school. One particular sermon prompting us to step up and make a difference really stood out to me. As a young teenager thinking about my place and purpose in the world, I felt the call to step up, to make a difference not for myself, but for God. Funnily enough, we were outdoors during the altar call, and I could feel my friend smiling down on me from heaven. It was then that I decided to rededicate myself to God, and probably marked the culmination of a year of soul searching.

Since:

Ever since, I have taken a step up to be more active in church. I started serving in the youth worship ministry, as well as being more active in small group. The once hot-headed, short-tempered boy in me strived to be more God-like. There was this renewed fervour that allowed me to tackle the world, as I knew that God was with me every step of the way. This really changed my mind-set when it came to dealing with setbacks, especially, as I truly came to believe that God has a purpose for me, and that every victory and every setback was all by His design, all of which were lessons for me to pick up. Striving to be more God-like every day has also given me a larger purpose, far greater than any lofty aspiration Man can come up with.

## Sample 2

Testimony of [REDACTED]

Before:

I was always angsty, impatient, stubborn, and arrogant. I thought that I could control all aspects of my life as long as I worked hard towards my goals. When things did not go according to plan, I reacted in a pessimistic manner and lashed out at those close to me. I resorted to drinking on a few occasions. I got irritated at the smallest mistakes; either pertaining to myself or my girlfriend. I was often impatient and chastised her over the smallest issues.

How:

When I graduated from [REDACTED], I was struggling to find a job; despite doing well in school. I ended up working a part-time job which I already had during my school days. I was going to Wesley with my girlfriend and we often prayed at night before bed. Then, I was not convinced by the Christian faith and only paid lip service to our weekly church attendance and nightly prayers. We often included my career options in our prayers. A couple of months later, I received a 2 months freelance contract with my dream company. This led me to wonder about those nightly prayers and whether God answered them. The turning point came when I attended a touching sermon at Wesley by guest speaker, Shawn Tay. The circumstances were strange; as I only attended church with my girlfriend. Yet that day, my girlfriend could not make it but I still came to church by myself. The sermon touched my heart that day, and it is evident that God had a part to play in this chance encounter.

Since:

I felt that with God's help, I have matured a lot as a person. I am better able to deal with the setbacks that I still continue to face today. I am still unable to find a full-time job; but I know in my heart that God will provide for me when the time is right. In fact, I am going for a job interview on [REDACTED]; and have also signed a freelance contract with an agency.