

HOW TO WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY

Testimony Guidelines

1. Before you start writing, pray. Ask God for guidance and wisdom as you write. (James 1:5,6)
2. Be honest and realistic.
3. Remember that you are not cured.
4. Don't use religious clichés.
5. Don't make statements that reflect negatively on the church, other organizations or people.
6. Keep it short and to the point.
7. And most of all—have fun!

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

– 1 Peter 3:15

Writing Your Testimony

1. Begin with an attention getting sentence or incident.
2. Be specific. Give enough detail to arouse interest, but be cautious of overloading with detail!
3. Be accurate - don't try to embellish the situation or 'fudge' the facts.
4. Include relevant, thought provoking experiences.
5. Use one or two scripture verses, but only where they would relate directly to your experience and fit in naturally.
6. Edit and rewrite as needed.
7. Write a closing that makes your life story sound finished and complete.

Where Might God Call Me to Give My Testimony?

“Your lives are echoing the Master's Word... The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore – you're the message! – 1 Thessalonians 1:8b

A well-prepared life story, given in the power of the Holy Spirit, can have a direct impact in nearly every witnessing situation. The critical component is that it be given in the power of the Holy Spirit. Your testimony will tell others, “This is how it was for me; this is the experience of what happened to me. This is how I gained the strength to begin my recovery and there is hope for you.” Read how the Apostle Paul follows this outline as he shares his story in Acts 22:1-20.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR TESTIMONY (CON'T)

*There are four major parts to your story. Relax and get started!
The questions are meant to stimulate your thoughts as you begin to take notes.
Don't feel you have to answer every one of the questions.*

1st: "The Old Me"

- Start out with, "I'm a follower of Jesus Christ that struggles with _____."
- What was the insanity of my life before recovery?
- What are some of the circumstances that others can relate to?
- What was my relationship to God like?
- What was my attitude to others like?
- What was my lowest point?

2nd: My Experiences and Changes in Working through Addiction Recovery

- Describe your experience of turning your life over to Christ.
- How I got into recovery?
- How has my growing relationship with Jesus Christ influenced my recovery?
- How did working the program help me?
- Did one particular step touch my heart in a special way?

3rd: "The New Me"

- What changes has God made in my relationships with others?
- What areas of my old life are gone and how have they changed?
- How has my walk with God changed?
- What are some of the great benefits that I have received from coming to Addiction Recovery?

4th: Outreach

- What encouragement can I give a Newcomer?
- "Thanks for listening to my story and keep coming back."

Goals and Challenges to Complete

I will have my testimony completed by: _____

This is the person who will keep me accountable: _____

arm
addiction
recovery
ministry

