

Sharing Your Testimony - From Dynamic Evangelism by Dave Earley and David Wheeler

When we speak of sharing your story or telling your testimony, we are talking about proclaiming to others how you came to Christ. You are giving a witness. "In a courtroom, a witness isn't expected to argue a case, prove the truth or press for a verdict; that is the job of the attorneys. Witnesses simply report what happened to them or what they saw." If you have been saved, you have a salvation story! No one else's story is exactly like yours, so you need to share it.

Benefits of Sharing Your Testimony

1. Sharing your salvation story builds a relationship bridge of understanding that Jesus can walk across into the heart of a lost person.
2. Sharing your testimony is a convenient and effective way to bypass intellectual defenses. It is difficult to argue with the evidence of a changed life.
3. Sharing your story often holds the hearer's interest longer than if you were quoting the words of great theologians. People will listen to you because instead of being a professional salesman, you are a satisfied customer.
4. Sharing your story can be done in any time span you are given from a minute to an hour.
5. Sharing your story is not reserved for the highly educated or spiritually mature. It can be done by a newly saved believer.
6. Sharing your story makes evangelism personal and relational.

How to tell your story:

Before I met Jesus: - Tell about your life before you came to Christ. Make known your perspective of how you viewed your life spiritually before you came to Christ. For example, did you feel you were going to Heaven, and why? Or did you feel you were a good person and didn't need God? Or were you searching for something more? Use adjectives to describe your life before Jesus. They may be words such as lonely, empty, proud, confused, religious, or broken. Maybe you will say, "I just knew something was missing in my life." Tell of activities that filled your life before Christ, such as, "I was trying to climb the ladder of success," or "I was a faithful church attender," or "I was on my way to becoming an alcoholic."

How I met Jesus: Here you will talk about the circumstances surrounding your conversion. For example, where were you when you received Christ? Were you with your friends, at a church camp, in a church service, or in your room? Talk about exactly what

truth gripped your heart when you realized that you needed Christ. Talk about what you thought or felt when you accepted Christ as your Savior.

Since I surrendered to Jesus: This is where you talk about the changes Jesus has made in your life. How would you describe your spiritual growth from the time you accepted Christ to today? Describe your spiritual growth, victories, and challenges.

Don't exaggerate or glorify your past. Dishonesty will only stifle the work of the Holy Spirit. You are not the star of this story; Jesus is. Spend less time talking about what you did and more time talking about what He has done for you. Don't belittle the power of coming to Jesus at a young age and being spared a life of sin and wickedness. If you are living the Spirit-filled life full of love, joy, and peace, you have something any lost person will crave.

"One of the best ways to 'build a bridge' with a person who does not have a relationship with Christ is through your personal testimony." —Greg Laurie

"God has given you a life message to share. When you become a believer, you also become God's messenger. God wants to speak to the world through you. . . . You may feel like you have nothing to share, but that's the devil trying to keep you silent. You have a storehouse of experiences God wants to use to bring others into his family." —Rick Warren