

## TESTIMONY

*Whoever speaks, let it be with God's words ...so that in everything God will be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. – 1 Peter 4:11*

### Glory to God

- Honor, thank and praise God
- Spread the word
- Give a reason for your hope
- Build faith in you and your hearers

### Ready to Answer

*But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. - 1 Peter 3:15*

A good testimony is prepared, and as a rule of thumb can be shared in three minutes or less. It is personal and specific, and it brings glory to God. Consider the following steps as a way to get ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thinking and inspire the words you will use so the truth is evident to all who will listen.
2. Put your testimony in writing so you can carefully improve it and then recall the important points accurately.
3. Begin with your presenting condition. Describe your conflict or pain that caused you to seek healing. Be specific about your need and how you recognized it.
4. Describe briefly the circumstances in which you had an encounter with God. This would include the setting, how you prayed, and the condition of your heart as you asked Him for help.
5. Tell what happened. Relate important details, such as impressions, visions, words or thoughts that came to you. Share about any physical or emotional changes you recognized.
6. As accurately as possible, record what you heard from God.
7. Describe what changed in you, and how you knew the change had occurred.
8. Express your current understanding of how you became a new creation. Be personal and specific about your new identity.
9. Give honor to God for what He did.

The first testimony most people write is about how they began their relationship with God. Describe what your life was like before you came to know Him and the problems you faced because of your sinful ways. Describe the events of your conversion and what prompted you to change. Conclude with a brief description of how your life has changed since then and what impact the decision has had on you.

Use a similar format to write a testimony of any interaction with God. Encourage others to prepare a testimony of their healing. It will build their faith and help them hold the territory.