

Our helper and friend Brendan Woodnutt with his Ministry of **Growing Parishes** puts how to think about approaching your testimony in three statements!

1. I was.... 2. God did.... 3. I am.....

1-minute Half a minute 1-and a half minutes

The above timings give you a sense of how you would divide your time up for a 3-minute testimony.

I was! - This is where you describe who you are; family; growing up; where you have come from, what you have done, the type of person you were; until you met Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour.

Note! A testimony is giving Glory to God of your changed life not glorying in your worldly pursuits; or your whole of life story, which may give glory to the world, the flesh, and the devil.

There may be some key Scriptures, or words that affected you during this time. You do not labour on the details of a sordid past, you treat it factually I was a liar and a thief; or I was a prostitute and hated men! Perhaps I encountered the Cross, or avoided it? Sincerity is important! Honesty is essential! Don't use jargon, and terms that non-Christians would not understand.

God did! - In this section you share what it was like coming to God, being drawn by the Holy Spirit to encounter Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour. Your Coming to the River, or the power of the Cross. Receiving Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit impacting you!

Key Scriptures help here; as well as Prophetic Words; and any gifts of the Holy Spirit that affected you.

How you felt emotionally, physically, and spiritually is helpful.

I am! – This is the longest part of your personal testimony.

It is where you really give Glory to God; Thanking him for His wonderful provision, and good plans for your life, and bestowing His Grace upon you. For his love, in choosing you right from the beginning.

Thanking Jesus for saving you, by dying on the Cross for your sins, so that you can have His life; and be your newfound Lord and Saviour.

For giving you eternal life with the Father; bringing you

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stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law a Pharisee.

In those few words, Paul has described his life from eight days old through to reasonably current times. He covered family, tribe, religious belief, education, and work status.

Next he describes very simply where he was at in his heart and beliefs, and the outworking of that in action:

V6. Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless,

Now he moves on to the change in his beliefs and lifestyle.

V.7. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ,

Here is Pauls conviction to change coming out. I have decided to follow Jesus

V.8. Yet indeed I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish , that I may gain Christ.

Now the walking out in real life denying his self-righteousness in the Law. To be found in Christ in His righteousness. To walk by faith in him!

V.9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.

St Paul is now sharing the full depth of his conversion, even to be in Christ Jesus even to martyrdom. He holds nothing back!

V.10, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

He now shares his deep desire to be in the resurrection of the faithful!

V.11 if by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Now he gives some balance as to where he senses he is at on that journey.

V.12. not that I have already attained. Or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for

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