

## 1 Minute Testimony

Making Witnessing Easier—part 5

July 31, 2022

### **DAY 1: Your source material for a 1-minute testimony**

1. When you think about witnessing, witnessing is simply giving testimony to what you saw, what you experienced.
  
2. As Christians, our witness can take several different directions. We can witness to:
  - a. What Jesus has done for us,
  - b. Who Jesus is to you,
  - c. The truth of His death and resurrection,
  - d. How we became a Christian,
  - e. The beneficial result of becoming a Christian,
  - f. A simple contrast about your life before coming to Christ and your life after.
  
2. Look back at that list. Which of these *most* resonates with you?
  
3. Now you're going to amplify on what you just wrote down. Jot down your thoughts, words that come to mind, some of the benefits of being a Christian, or a story that exemplifies you wrote down, above.
  
4. What thoughts, words, personal stories about being a Christian have you shared with a friend, fellow Christian, or family member?
  
5. This is some of your "source material" for putting together a 1-minute testimony.
  
6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## DAY 2: Paul's "pre-story" (prior to his 1-minute testimony)

1. Paul had finished his last missionary journey, and ended up in Jerusalem. A group of Jewish leaders from Asia were in Jerusalem and recognized Paul, whom they hated. Many, many Jews had converted to Christianity due to Paul, and this infuriated them. They stirred up the mob with a false accusation, dragged Paul into the temple and tried to kill him.

2. He was rescued by Roman soldiers and arrested. He asked to be able to speak to the crowd. A hush came over the people as Paul began to share his longer testimony. We will look at a few of the excerpts.

*Acts 22:4 "I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, <sup>5</sup> as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished."*

3. This part of Paul's story is his life before he became a Christian. I think of this as our "**pre-story**." Paul shares this part of his story to identify with his audience.

4. Every Christian has stories of what our life before we became a Christian. (Our pre-story).

5. Jot down what story or stories comes to you mind of your life before you became a Christian.

6. My stories would include:

- a. Going to church as a kid but it not meaning much in my daily life.
- b. Living the party life in college.
- c. Having everything I thought it would take to make me happy.

7. Our "pre-stories" help our friends to identify with us. To some of my friends, that I went to church as a kid but later had no use for church resonates with them. To other of my friends, the party life resonates with them. That I once had everything I could think of that should make me happy resonates with some.

8. Before we share a witness to our conversion story, our "pre-story" helps loosen up the soil for our non-Christian friends.

9. What strikes you from today's devotional?

### DAY 3: Your conversion 1-minute testimony

1. After Paul identified with his Jewish audience, he now witnesses to his conversion.
2. Here is his “1-minute testimony” which only takes about 30 seconds.

*Acts 22:6 “About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. <sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘**Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?**’*

<sup>8</sup> *“**Who are you, Lord?**’ I asked.*

*“**I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,**’ he replied. <sup>9</sup> My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.*

<sup>10</sup> *“**What shall I do, Lord?**’ I asked.*

3. There are three startling revelations for Paul.
  - a. Paul had been certain that Jesus was a fraud, died, and was not resurrected. He was wrong.
  - b. Paul realized that by persecuting Christians he was persecuting Jesus, the Messiah.
  - c. Paul began to repent. “What shall I do, *Lord?*” This enraged, defiant anti-Christian man began to melt.

4. A metaphor for sharing out testimony: Lay’s Potato Chip commercials

When we share a testimony we rarely get opportunities to share our whole story. In reality, we are like the Lay’s Potato Chip commercial. Their tag line was, “You can’t eat just one.” No one guzzles a bag of potato chips. Instead, we eat chips one at a time. As long as the last one was tasty, we reach into the bag for the next chip.

5. Witnessing is like this. We give one “chip” or our testimony to a friend and gauge their response. If they are interested we can offer a second “chip” of our testimony. In the excerpt above, Paul offers three chips of his testimony.

6. So far, we’ve looked at our “pre-story/stories” of our life before we came to Christ.

7. Today, we look at your conversion story. Jot down your thoughts of what you would say if asked for your conversion story.

8. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

## DAY 4: The prodigal son's 1-minute testimony

1. The prodigal son gives us an example of a 1-minute testimony.

*Luke 15:21 The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'*

<sup>22</sup> *"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'* So they began to celebrate.

a. Verse 21 is a statement of humility and repentance. It is the acknowledgement of sin.

b. Verse 22 is a statement of the forgiveness and grace of God for repentant sinners.

3. What strikes you about this testimony?

a. Write a simple 1 or 2-sentence statement of your repentance (Look back at Luke 15:21).

b. Write a simple 1 or 2 sentence statement of the forgiveness and grace you received at your conversion (Look back at Luke 15:22-24).

4. At this point you may have one of two problems.

a. You have too much material. This is a good problem!

All this means is that you have multiple pieces of your overall testimony. Each of the pieces of your testimony is like a bag of Lay's Potato Chips. This means you have options to share pieces of your testimony!!!

b. You are having trouble identifying or specifying pieces of your testimony. This is where a trusted Christian friend, leader, or pastor can be of help. Ask for some simple help. Tell them what you're trying to do, and ask them to be another pair of ears to help you specify pieces of your testimony.

5. What strikes you from today's devotional?

## DAY 5: 2 examples of Paul's 1-minute testimony

1. Paul writes a letter to his young protégé, Timothy, who was pastoring the church in Ephesus. Paul gives us two stellar examples of a 1-minute testimony.

(Note that Paul gives *two* 1-minute testimonies, given back-to-back. Paul could share either of these with someone, or he could share both of them, back-to-back, as in this letter).

2. Every conversion testimony has two parts: repentance for sin, and faith in Christ.

*1 Timothy 1:13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. <sup>14</sup> The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*

a. Paul talks about why he was repentant in verse 13. How would you describe your repentance when coming to Christ?

b. Then Paul describes God's response to his repentance. Notice his key words: "mercy, grace, faith, and love in Christ." How would you describe God's response to your repentance? What words would you use?

3. Paul's example #2.

*1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.*

a. Paul talks about why he was repentant in verses 15-16. Is there something here that resonates with you, something you would add to what you wrote in question 2a?

b. Then Paul describes God's response to his repentance. Notice his key words: "save, mercy, immense patience, believe, and eternal life." Is there something here that resonates with you, something you would add to what you wrote in question 2b?

4. Write out your 1-minute testimony. (You may realize that you actually have more than one. Each one represents a chip in your Lay's Potato Chip bag of testimonies). If you have more than one, also write it down.