

3 Minute Testimony

Making Witnessing Easier—part 6

August 7, 2022

A three-minute testimony is divided into three parts, each lasting about one minute.

Part 1: A statement about your life **before** you came to Christ.

Part 2: Explaining **how you came to Christ**. (How does someone become a Christian?)

Part 3: A statement about your life **after** coming to Christ. (What benefit have you seen?)

DAY 1: Testimony part 1: your life before you became a Christian

1. Start by thinking about your life before you became a Christian. For me, my list includes:

- I grew up in a church-going family.
- I didn't really want to go to church.
- In college I quit going to church.
- I saw no need for church.
- I was pursuing fulfillment in my first 3 years of college.
- The search for fulfillment led me into a sense of emptiness about my life, which was very confusing because I had everything I thought I'd ever need to be happy.
- I started going back to church, but a bible-teaching church, and discovered the bible had wisdom for living life.

2. Now write down what your life was like before you became a Christian.

3. Some questions that may prompt some factors in your pre-Christian story:

- a. Did you have a religious background, little background, or no religious background?
- b. What things were most important to you before you became a Christian?
- c. What began to pique your interest in checking out Christianity?
- d. What need(s) did you begin to see that made you curious about Jesus and the gospel?
- e. Did you have any Christians in your life that gave you a good impression of being a Christian?

4. Add any additional factors under question #2.

5. Go back and circle your top three sentences that depicted your life before you became a Christian.

DAY 2: Testimony part 2a: how I became a Christian (repentance)

Mark 1:14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

1. Mark gives us the kickoff of Jesus' public ministry. He was "proclaiming the good news of God." What was the good news? What did that mean?

2. Here are the first words of Jesus' public ministry.

Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

3. What are the two things Jesus tells us to do?

4. Every conversion to Christ involves two elements: **repentance** and **faith**. The simplest example of this is, "Once I thought sin was good, and I don't need God. Now I see that sin is bad, and I do need God!"

5. During part 2 of your testimony, you want to be able to tell how you became a Christian in such a way that they would know how they could become a Christian. Today, we'll look at **repentance**.

→Repentance

6. Repentance is not just feeling bad about our mistakes, failures, or sin.

7. Repentance is a Greek word that means a change of direction, or a change of mind. The idea is you were traveling east when you realized that you were traveling in the wrong direction. You should have been traveling west. Repentance is not just knowing that you've gone in the wrong direction, but it also means you turn around and head in the right direction.

*1 John 1:9 If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

To "**confess**" my sins just means to agree with God that I am a sinner.

8. Your words in part 2 of your testimony might be something like this:

- "I realized I disobeyed God and was a sinner.
- "I rebelled against God."
- "I went my own way, away from God."
- I confessed that I was a sinner and God forgave me."

9. How would you write a sentence about your repentance at your coming to Christ?

DAY 3: Testimony part 2b: how I became a Christian (faith)

Mark 1:15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

1. The second part of your testimony is a simple explanation of how you came to Christ. The key components are repentance and faith. Today, we’ll look at faith.

2. “Faith” is not mere intellectual assent that something is true. Biblical faith is “belief in action.” I grew up “believing” that Jesus died for me. I knew that, and I “believed” that. However, my life did not reflect the truth of either repentance or faith in action.

Repentance is saying “no” to sin as first priority in my life.
Faith is saying “yes” to Jesus as first priority in my life.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God.

3. The apostle Peter tells us that the work of salvation is done by Christ dying in our place for the sins we’ve committed.

4. In the next few verses, jot down what the verse says about faith as it pertains to salvation?

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no one can boast.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

5. We are saved through repentance for sin, and putting our faith and trust that what Jesus did on the cross brought about our salvation.

6. Write a sentence or two that describes your faith in Christ for your salvation.

DAY 4: Testimony part 3 (Your life since becoming a Christian)

1. This third part of your 3-minute testimony has to do with the benefit(s) you've had since becoming a Christian.

2. Here are some examples:

- I am amazed at God's forgiveness of all my sins and failure.
- I am experiencing inner joy for the first time.
- I am experiencing inner peace.
- I got to start life all over again with a clean slate
- God has been teaching me how to genuinely love someone more than myself.

3. Here are some more examples.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

4. Are there any character qualities you see God building in you?

5. Jot down a few benefits that you've seen because of being saved.

6. Circle two or three of the top answers you just jotted down.

7. It is these benefits that make up the last third of your 3-minute testimony.

8. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: Putting your 3-minute testimony together

You are now ready to put the pieces of your 3-minute testimony together. You will use your summary material from the bottom of the page of each of our devotionals this week.

1. Before you came to Christ:

Jot down what you wrote at the end of page 1. Include two or three items.

2. How you came to Christ:

a. What did you write about **repenting** from sin? (End of page 2)

b. What did you jot down about your **faith** in coming to Christ as your savior? (End of page 3).

3. Your life after coming to Christ:

What did you jot down about your life since coming to Christ? (End of page 4).

4. You now have the pieces for a 3-minute testimony!

5. Some tips to help your testimony to become more natural for you to share:

a. Write it out on piece of paper.

b. Practice sharing your testimony out loud.

c. Ask a friend or two to let you share your testimony with them.

d. One extra bonus. You have actually written more than one 3-minute testimony. For example, if you have two or three different statements in your life before you became a Christian, you have options in sharing. You can share one, two or three of your items. The same is true for the last minute of your testimony. If you have two or three benefits after coming to Christ, you can share one, two or three of those!