

# TTT379 - Guidance For Those Hosting Parts of Sunday Worship Series. Part 6 - Sharing Your Testimony

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10 September 2024

## Introduction

Today, we continue a series exploring why we do what we do at a Sunday gathering. Last week, we focussed on announcements and updates. This week's topic is testimonies.

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## What is a Testimony?

Let's explore the Scriptures. In the New Revised Standard Version, the English word 'testify' and its variants occur 72 times in 70 verses of the New Testament. The Greek words involved are versions of:

- diamarturomai - διαμαρτύρομαι. To testify, to declare solemnly (Acts 2.40).
- martureo - μαρτυρέω. To testify, to bear witness, or suffer martyrdom (John 18.37).
- epimartureo - ἐπιμαρτυρέω. To testify, to bear witness (1 Peter 5.12).
- katamartureo - καταμαρτυρέω. To testify, to witness against (Mark 14.60).

*All in all, the emphasis is on talking gladly and boldly about the work of God.*

A testimony can be how you came to know Christ or how you have personally seen God's work in your life. With those principles in mind, let's consider some tips.

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## Personal

Be sure to give us enough personal information so that we see you as a person, not a 'thing' (someone whose life was transformed by Jesus, not just someone who got baptised).

For example, if you look at Paul's testimonies about his conversion (Acts 22 and 26), you will see many "I" statements and mentions of God (more on Him next).

The key words to remember that will help ensure your testimony is personal are - details and emotions. In other words not,

- “When I first came to church, I was a young man.”, but “When I first came to church, I was 23 years old, engaged to be married and terrified.”
  - Not, “When some men from the church studied the Bible with me, I was convicted (jargon-alert!).”, but “When Doug and Chris sat down with me and explained the teachings of Jesus, I was amazed at how relevant they were to my life.”
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## God

Be sure to talk about God. Your story is not only your story. It is yours *and* God's story. Use Scripture where relevant. When I testify about my conversion, I always mention this passage:

*“Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.” Then you will defile your silver-covered idols and your gold-plated images. You will scatter them like filthy rags; you will say to them, “Away with you!”” (Isaiah 30:19-22)*

The reason is that I read it a month before encountering the church and had prayed for it to come true.

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## Questions for reflection & discussion

What makes a testimony powerful? How can we make testimonies about God, not just us? As you prepare your testimony, the critical question is, "How can I help everyone present to grow in their awe at the power and grace of God?". Which testimony in Scripture is your favourite and why?

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## Summary

I have written and recorded on this topic previously. You will find some helpful tips [here](https://www.malcolmcox.org/tasty-testimonies-ten-commandments-for-terrific-testimonies/): <https://www.malcolmcox.org/tasty-testimonies-ten-commandments-for-terrific-testimonies/>

It's time for the challenge of the week. The next time you have an opportunity to share your testimony, aim for these three goals: Make it short, make it personal, and make it about God.

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## Next week

Next time, we will explore speaking at the Lord's Supper.

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Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

Consider joining us at [AIM](#) UK & Ireland for faith-building teaching:

<https://aim.moodlecloud.com/>.

Do you have a question about teaching the Bible? Is it theological, technical, or practical?

Please send me your questions or suggestions. Here's the email: [malcolm@malcolmcox.org](mailto:malcolm@malcolmcox.org).

If you'd like a copy of my free eBook on spiritual disciplines, "How God grows His people", sign up at my website: <http://www.malcolmcox.org>.

Please pass the link on, subscribe, and leave a review.

Keep calm and carry on teaching.

God bless, Malcolm