

Sharing Your Faith Story -- Learning from Paul v2

Have you ever found yourself in a conversation where you wanted to share your faith, but the words just wouldn't come out? Maybe you weren't sure where to start or how to make it relatable. Today, we're going to learn from the apostle Paul—how he shared his faith story in different settings and how YOU can confidently do the same. By the end of this video, you'll have a clear, simple framework to tell your story in a way that truly connects.

I. Introduction: The Power of Your Testimony

1 Peter 3.15-16

“but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.”

The Bible tells us to always be ready to give an answer for the hope that we have. But let's be honest, most of us don't feel ready, do we? That's why in this video, we're focusing specifically on your **conversion story**—how you came to know Jesus—because that's one of the most powerful ways to share your faith. I've covered this topic in different ways before, and I'll link those videos below. But today, we're keeping it simple and practical so you can apply it **right away**.

II. Learning from Paul: Sharing His Story in Different Contexts

1. Spontaneous Testimony – Acts 22:1-21



Imagine this—you're in front of an angry mob, falsely accused, and you get a chance to speak. What do you say? Paul didn't argue. He shared his story. This wasn't a planned sermon, it was a **spontaneous testimony**. Sometimes, opportunities arise when we least expect them. Are you ready?



I remember taking a **baptism theology class at LST** when a student asked, "How did you come to faith?" That moment wasn't scripted, but I had my story ready. The same can happen

at work, in a coffee shop, or even at the gym. **Be prepared.**

2. Formal Testimony – Acts 26:1-23



In this setting, Paul had time to prepare. He knew his audience. He structured his story clearly. And at the right moment, he invited Agrippa to believe. When you're given a **platform—maybe in church, a small group, or an event—make the most of it.**



Just last Sunday, **Jess** shared her faith journey in church. If you want to see a great example, check the [link](#) in the description at the 35-minute mark.

3. Testimony in Letters

Galatians 1.11-24, [1 Corinthians 15.8-10](#), Philippians 3.4-11, 1 Timothy 1.12-17

- Paul's Personal Defence of His Apostleship
- Paul on Grace and His Calling
- Paul's Transformation from Legalism to Faith in Christ
- Paul as an Example of God's Mercy

Malcolm: Paul didn't only share his testimony in person—he wrote it down! Have you ever thought about writing yours? It helps refine your thoughts and gives you something ready to share. We'll come back to this later.

III. The Three-Part Testimony Framework

You can structure your testimony like Paul did:

1. **Before Christ** – What was your life like before Jesus? (Be real, but don't glorify sin.)
2. **Encountering Christ** – What led you to faith? (What clicked for you?)
3. **Life After Christ** – How has following Jesus changed you? (Be specific!)

Example:

- Before: "I thought success would bring me peace, but I always felt empty."
 - Encounter: "A friend invited me to study the Bible, and I realised Jesus offered something better."
 - After: "Now I have peace, knowing my worth comes from God, not my achievements."
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IV. Practical Application: Sharing in Different Situations

1. Unexpected Moments

- Keep it short—**1-2 minutes**.
- Example: "I used to struggle with anxiety, but when I started following Jesus, I found peace. Now, even when life is tough, I know I'm not alone."
- Tip: **Ask a question back**—"Have you ever had an experience like that?"

2. Planned Testimonies

- Aim for **3-5 minutes**.
 - Use the **three-part framework**.
 - **Jargon: Avoid it.** Keep it clear for non-believers.
 - **Be real:** Vulnerability connects people.
 - **Make God the hero.** It's not about how great you are, but how great He is.
 - **Know your audience:** Adapt to who you're speaking to.
 - **Tell a story:** Beginning, middle, and end.
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V. Conclusion & Call to Action

2 Timothy 1.8

"Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God,"

The Bible tells us, "**Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord.**" Your story matters. It has power. So here's my challenge:

1. **Write down your testimony this week.** Even just a rough draft.
2. **Identify one opportunity to share it.** Maybe with a friend, at church, or online.

3. **Pray for boldness.** God will give you opportunities—you just need to be ready.

- **Comment:** What's one thing that stood out to you today?

Thanks for watching, and I'll see you next time. God bless!

- Jess' testimony here: <https://fb.watch/xQ14yjnacm/> at about the 35-minute mark.
- What we're reading episode 25: "The Search for God & the Path to Persuasion: Testimony Time" - <https://youtu.be/tlgrwZen5gQ?feature=shared>
- Tasty Testimonies: Ten Commandments for Terrific Testimonies
<https://www.malcolmcox.org/tasty-testimonies-ten-commandments-for-terrific-testimonies/>
- Teaching Tip 379 | "Hosting Sunday Worship – Part 6" | "Testimonies" | Malcolm Cox -
https://youtu.be/aTDW_VJ2Lng, and: <https://www.malcolmcox.org/teaching-tip-379-hosting-sunday-worship-part-6-testimonies-malcolm-cox/>