



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### What's Your Testimony?

**Sub-Topic:** What was your first initial encounter with God?

**Testimony** - Witness; evidence; proof of some fact. In Scripture, the two tables of the law. The word of God; the Scriptures.

- A formal witness or evidence given about a person's religious experience and faith.
- A public declaration of the truth God has done in one's life.
- Personal accounts of faith, declarations of God's goodness, or historical affirmations of His character.
- For example, Psalm 119: testimonies remind believers of God's laws and guidance, reinforcing their trust in Him.

Our testimony is given when we relate how we came to know the God of the Bible through the moving of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Most commonly, we are sharing how we came to know God's miraculous intervention and work in our lives through specific events. Often, we can only see that in hindsight, but sharing that experience is vital. Also, when giving this testimony, a sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is always a necessity. We can include specific information about how we came to accept Christ as Savior.

It should not end with the conversion experience, but should also include the ways in which the Lord has worked in our lives to sanctify us for His service. As an example, a testimony could include how He brought us through a difficult time in our life (such as a loss or some sort or a severe illness) and built our faith in Him through that experience. We should also be able to describe the continual process by which the Spirit who now indwells in us leads, guides, molds and shapes us into mature servants of God. Again, the focus should be on the Lord and His faithfulness.

In the Bible here is just a few examples that gave their testimony or encounter with Jesus: **Jesus talks to a woman at the well** (John 4:1-42); **Saul initial encounter with Jesus on the way to Damascus** (Acts 9:1-31); **After Saul/Paul conversion** he testified about his encounter with Jesus Christ on the road of Damascus: before his brethren and fathers (Acts 22:6-21); before King Agrippa (Acts 26:12-23); **Blind Bartimaeus at Jericho** (Mark 10:46-52); and **Peter, Andrew, James and John the sons of Zebedee** – by the sea of Galilee while fishing and mending their nets (Matthew 4:18-22).

A biblical testimony is **an account of what a person has seen or experienced of God and His work in their life**. It is a way of declaring who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for us. A biblical testimony is also a part of God's revelation of Himself to people within history. A biblical testimony shows the authenticity of our faith in three ways: by our words, by our actions, and by our character. A **spiritual testimony** is an **eyewitness account of how God rescued you from sin and death through Christ and changed your life**. It is a way of acknowledging God's blessings and building fellowship among believers.

#### When giving your testimony you should:

- Tell how you came to trust in Christ alone as your Lord and Savior.
- Share how God has met your needs—either physical or emotional—since you accepted Jesus.
- Share about what part of your relationship with God you're most grateful for today.
- Stick to the point. Your conversion and new life in Christ should be the main points.
- Be specific. Include events, genuine feelings, and personal insights that clarify your main point.
- Be current. Tell what's happening in your life with God right now, today.
- Be honest. Don't exaggerate or dramatize your story.

Our testimonies should be unceasing, in our homes, it's empowered by the Holy Ghost, in the assembly of the saints, and without shame or fear, relates to personal experience, recounts God's blessing, come forth from an inward fire, an everyday duty, becomes irrepressible, and is outgrown by faith. Even today many still dismiss Christianity as nonsense or worse. But even when we face opposition, we must continue to speak the truth. We may not always convince others with our words. Our witness may seem to fall short at the moment. However, we should not underestimate the influence our godly life has on others.

We should: "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).

#### What testimony does your life offer?