

## WRITING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

### Benefits of Writing Your Personal Testimony:

- It creates a story that is compelling because when people see the change Christ has produced in your life, it makes a strong witness
- It'll warm your heart, and remind you of the wonderful work of Christ in you
- You're ready almost at a moment's notice to share your faith
- A three-minute testimony is considered optimum
- You know what God has done in your life, and you can speak about it with confidence

### Building Your Testimony:

- Very few of us will have as dramatic a testimony as the apostle Paul, but all of us will have a testimony
- Building your testimony around a theme is sensible and powerful
- Be careful of certain terminology that would be easily understood by a Christian, but would be confusing to non-Christians
- Be careful of denominations and religions – you don't want to talk about others in a negative or pejorative way
- Write your testimony out word for word; include an introduction and a conclusion, let a close friend read over it and give you feedback then practice saying it out loud

### Your Life Before Christ:

- Don't only think of the habits Christ has changed, but burrow down more into the motivations, your inner life, the longings you have, the unmet and unfulfilled aspects of your life before you knew Christ
- What is the main theme and the change that Christ has produced in your life and how have you seen that change worked out
- Think about how your point will sound to someone from another culture
- Give the point and then illustrate it – your illustration should be clear, very pointed, and easy to understand.

### How you came to Christ:

- Don't get hung up on the chronology of it
- Think of the moment in time where you're sure that's when you became a Christian
- You may have received Christ as a child and then maybe even made a recommitment later in life, there probably was a moment where you came to actual faith, but you may not know exactly when it was – don't get hung up by that
- Be sure to include the basic elements of the gospel, do this in a way that any of your listeners would be able to receive Christ if they were ready

### Your Life After Christ:

- Whatever points you make in the before, you want to be sure and go back to in the after to allow the listener to see the change Christ has made
  - Your illustration should connect your points in before and after
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