



OUTSIDE READING ASSIGNMENT

HOW TO SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY EFFECTIVELY

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Introduction

God Can Use Your Testimony

On Sunday morning, April 7, 1956, I sat in a small military chapel listening to something that was to change my entire life! I had been in that chapel several times before and had heard several preachers expound the Scriptures, but on this particular Sunday morning, I suddenly became aware of how Jesus Christ could actually enter a person's life.

The minister was relating how he had personally met and been changed by the living Savior. It was a simple, but marvelous story! Realizing that these were also my needs, I found myself identifying with him as he described his own search for purpose and meaning in life. As he continued on and related how Christ had satisfied his deepest longings, I could sense a deep desire in my own heart to allow Him to do the same thing for me. As a result of this man's personal testimony, I received Jesus Christ into my heart that day.

A witness is one who simply declares what he has seen, heard, and experienced (1 John 1:1-3). He is not called upon to argue or judge, but simply to relate the facts of his own experience with Christ. This minister was a ready witness and was used by the Holy Spirit to draw me to Christ.

Are you prepared to declare to others what Christ has done for you? Are the facts of your conversion clear in your mind and ready on your tongue? If not, you have yet to develop one of the most strategic instruments God has given you for witnessing to others.

This book is designed to help you prepare your own personal testimony in a short but effective way that will better enable you to witness for Christ as you have opportunity. It is not to be read only, but to be written in and marked. To obtain the maximum benefit from the book, you will also need a Bible and a pen or pencil to aid you in discovering and recording Scriptural truths. As you depend upon the Holy Spirit, He will use your unique, personal experience with Christ to draw others to the Savior.

—David L. Dawson



Chapter 1

LEARNING FROM PAUL

Paul's Testimony

In this chapter we will examine the personal testimony given by the Apostle Paul on two occasions.

Acts 22—Paul had just returned from his third missionary journey. He had been beaten and attacked by the Jews who were opposed to his preaching. The Roman Guard had to rescue him. Paul defended himself with his personal testimony.

Acts 26—Due to mounting opposition from the Jews, Paul was imprisoned and brought before King Agrippa for a hearing. Paul again defended himself with his personal testimony.

Instructions

Read Acts 22 and 26 carefully. Then answer the questions below. *(The study will be more interesting and profitable if Chapters 21, 23, 24, and 25 are also read for background.)*

Questions

1. How did Paul capture the interest and attention of his hearers so that they were willing to listen to him?

a. Acts 22:1 _____

Acts 22:2 _____

Acts 22:3 _____

b. Acts 26:2,3 _____

2. Which personal pronoun is used most frequently in his testimony? _____

3. Was Paul preaching a sermon or relating facts? _____

4. Notice that Paul's testimony could be divided into three parts:

- a. What his life was like before he met Christ,
- b. How he met Christ (his conversion experience),
- c. What his life was like after he became a Christian.

Which verses in Acts 22:1-22 and Acts 26:1-29 relate Paul's story?

	Acts 22	Acts 26
a. Before he met Christ	_____	_____
b. How he met Christ	_____	_____
c. After he met Christ	_____	_____

5. Now focus on the verses in Acts 22 and 26, relating to Paul before conversion. Below are some facts we can discover about Paul from these passages. Add any others you find, and add references.

Fact	Reference
<u>Jew from Tarsus</u>	<u>Acts 22:3</u>
<u>Educated under Gamaliel</u>	<u>Acts 22:3</u>
<u>Strict follower of Jewish beliefs</u>	<u>Acts 22:3</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. From your discoveries listed above, write a summary of approximately 50 words describing Paul's life before conversion. As you write, use the first person—as though you were Paul. The first sentences are given to help you get started.

Friends, I am a Jew from Tarsus, but I was taught here in Jerusalem under Gamaliel.

Through his instruction, I became a strict follower of Jewish laws and customs...

8. Summarizing Paul’s conversion based on your findings, complete the following paragraph in about 50 words. Again use the first person. **Avoid** lengthy description of details. The first sentence is again given to get you started.

Then one noon as I was traveling to Damascus, a blinding light began to shine around me ...

9. Next, examine the verses in Acts 22 and 26 describing Paul’s conversion as you did in question 7. List all the facts you can find relating how Paul’s life was changed after his conversion.

Fact

Reference

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10. Compare Paul’s life before Christ with his life after Christ. Note how God changed him. Summarize your findings in about 50 words using the first person as you did before.

As we continue to develop our own testimonies, we will follow the same form the Apostle Paul used—relating our conversion in three main sections:

- **Before Christ**
- **The Conversion**
- **After Christ**