

## **Sharing your Testimony**

What is a testimony and what does it mean to share it as a follower of Christ?

### **Let's look at how Paul shared his testimony in Acts 22:3-21**

<sup>3</sup>“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel<sup>[b]</sup> according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. <sup>4</sup>I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, <sup>5</sup>as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

<sup>6</sup>“As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. <sup>7</sup>And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ <sup>8</sup>And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ <sup>9</sup>Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand<sup>[c]</sup> the voice of the one who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup>And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ <sup>11</sup>And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

<sup>12</sup>“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, <sup>13</sup>came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. <sup>14</sup>And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; <sup>15</sup>for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup>And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

<sup>17</sup>“When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance <sup>18</sup>and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ <sup>19</sup>And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. <sup>20</sup>And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’ <sup>21</sup>And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

**What stood out to you? Did you notice anything regarding Paul's testimony?**

**What would you say are the key components to a Christian's testimony?**

**In general, a Christian's testimony contains the following structure (or some form of it):**

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**Going back to Paul's testimony from Acts 22. Where do you see examples of the three points above?**

**Some things to consider when thinking about, drafting, and/or sharing your testimony:**

- God is sovereign over salvation and our words have no real power in bringing a person to a saving faith in Jesus
  - John 6:44
  - Ephesians 2:8-9
- Having good relationships with unbelievers provides the platform for the Lord to use us through the sharing of our testimonies
  - Pray that the Lord gives you opportunities
- We are to use wisdom in how we share our testimonies to avoid casting pearls before pigs
  - Relationships are key!
  - Videos and social media
- Depending on the level of relationship, consider the length of your testimony. With practice, a testimony can be shared in a couple of minutes
- Make sure to emphasize the saving work of Christ in your life and not your own efforts and works
  - We are saved by grace alone through faith alone!