



“Testimony”
1 Peter 3:15-17
July 20, 2014

- Bible is our sole authority
- Autonomy of the Local Church
- Priesthood of the believer
- Tithing
- Immersion
- Security of the Believer

LifePoint: God has given you a testimony

_____!!

What Is the Definition of a Testimony?

It is the story of how Christ has made a
_____ in your life.

Psalm 107:2
1 Peter 2:9

2 Corinthians 3:3
1 Peter 3:15

God’s Testimony to Us is Jesus *1 John 5:10-11*

Testimonies about God from Scripture

- Adam God provides for the forgiveness of sin
- Noah God keeps His promises
- Abraham God is Jehovah Jireh, the Lord our provider, and God will provide a Lamb
- Joseph God always has the final word
- Moses God delivers out of bondage
- Joshua God blesses obedience
- David God is my shepherd
- Nehemiah God will fight for us
- Job God can do all things
- Esther God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things
- 3 Boys in Furnace God will be in the fire with us

- Daniel God can shut the mouths of lions
- Ezekiel Dry bones can live again
- Amos God is the plumb line of righteousness
- Jonah God is the God of second chances
- Habakkuk God is to be revered
- Zachariah It’s not by might, power but by my spirit
- Malachi God blesses obedience

4 PARTS TO OUR TESTIMONY

1. What my life was like before I met Jesus

2. How I realized I needed Jesus

3. How I committed my life to Jesus

4. How I have progressed in my faith

MY RESPONSE

- A. _____ a Testimony
- B. _____ Your Testimony
- C. _____ Your Testimony
- D. Be a part of events where we are sharing our testimony with our community
 - ✓ Feed the New Petal School Teachers Breakfast – Thursday, July 31st
 - ✓ Petal Primary School Prayer Walk – August 6th
 - ✓ Big Brother/Big Sister Program through Petal Primary – Fall
 - ✓ Feed the Teachers/Staff of Petal Primary – Tuesday, August 5th
 - ✓ Students – Invite a Friend to Student Ministry Lock-In, Friday, August 8th
 - ✓ Invite Someone or a Family to Church by telling your story to our Fall Kick-Off Sunday, August 10th

WHY WE ARE BAPTISTS?

“**T**estimony”

1 Peter 3:15-17

July 13, 2014 AM Worship

Talking about our Baptist Distinctives, what makes us unique, sets apart, why are we Baptists?

Bible is our sole authority; **Autonomy** of the Local Church; **Priesthood** of the Believer; **Tithing**; **Immersion**, **Security** of the Believer

LifePoint: God has given you a testimony worth sharing!!

Mark 5 – Tell what the Lord has done for you.

So share it

It is Life changing

He delivered us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light

What is the definition of a testimony?

It is the story of how Christ has made a difference in your life.

How Jesus has transformed you, how He has made you alive

We have a tendency to rank testimonies,

Those who grew up in church, raised in a Christian home, never really strayed, very religious, but somewhere along the way they realize they have a need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Even though they have been around the things of God, comfortable in church, there still must be that life changing experience, trusting Christ where they now know they are going to heaven.

A person who did not grow up in church, got gripped by this vice or that, walked in their own path, perhaps grew up in church or did not, and then God miraculously saved them and delivered them addicted to this drug or lifestyle, but then rescued them, and place them on the path of life.

(Wow, look at what God did in their life, and we applaud)

But let me say, it takes the same miracle and the same amount of grace to save a person who accepted Christ at an early age.

And there is nothing to be ashamed of because our testimony may not seem exciting.

Psalm 107:2 “Let the Redeemed of the Lord say so.”

95% of Southern Baptists have never led anyone into a saving knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ. Only 5 out of 100 here in this room this morning have ever led someone Jesus Christ (Many also have also never even shared their faith) It's time for the 95% to say so. And not because someone tells you to, or makes you feel guilty but because you want to, because you have a story to tell of what Jesus has done for you and in you and through you! It's not about you, but all about HIM!

[2 Corinthians 3:3](#)

It's not your testimony has made it to a book cover, but is the reality that our life is the written testimony of who we are, before we ever speak a word, our conduct, our lifestyle, how we respond to certain situations, how we raise our kids, etc that is part of your testimony

When they read your life, they are reading your letter, when

[1 Peter 2:9](#) (Used it for our message Priesthood of believers)

“that you may declare” We have been saved not to sit, but share to the good news of Jesus Christ.

[1 Peter 3:15](#) Divine Appointment (missed them before)

Why is that you are different, why is that you have joy in the midst of tough times, why is it they your values are different and you don't do the things other people do?

Be ready to give an answer, let's not miss those opportunities.

Golden opportunities to share Christ, lets quit passing them up

Don't know how to share some might say

A lot of you have done Share Jesus Without Fear, FAITH, Roman Road, and others

But bottom line, tell them your testimony, what Jesus has done for you.

[God's testimony to us is Jesus, 1 John 5:10-11](#)

If you want life abundant, life complete life that exceeds anything you can experience this side of heaven, then you must get connected to Jesus, you must be delivered by Him, you must be saved and in Christ there is life and remember once you have Christ you have it all forever

[Testimonies about God from Scripture](#)

Adam	God provides for the forgiveness of sin
Noah	God keeps His promises

Abraham	God is Jehovah Jireh, the Lord our provider, and God will provide a Lamb
Joseph	God always has the final word
Moses	God delivers out of bondage (provides manna)
Joshua	God blesses obedience
David	God is my shepherd
Nehemiah	God will fight for us, rebuilder of our broken lives (walls)
Esther	God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things
Job	God can do all things
Shad, Mesh, Abed	God will be in the fire with us
Daniel	God can shut the mouths of lions
Ezekiel	Dry bones can live again
Amos	God is the plumb line of righteousness
Jonah	God is the God of second chances
Habakkuk	God is to be revered
Zachariah	It's not by might, power but by my spirit says the Lord
Malachi	God blesses obedience pour out blessings

4 Parts to our testimony

1. **What my life was like before I met Jesus** **Condition**

What was your condition before you met him

Describe each

Fear--death, absence of peace, empty, in bondage, religious

2. **How I realized I needed Jesus** **Conviction**

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness, turns on the bright light to reveal in us sin, He is working right now in our hearts and lives, revealing truth and confirming truth.

3. **How I committed my life to Jesus** **Conversion**

I have been changed

Life changing experience, profession of faith

picture of marriage (A lot of people are dating Jesus, they are courting Him, flirting with Him, but have never been married to

Him) Know about him, head knowledge, tell you a lot about the Bible, about Jesus, but don't know Him personally, never been to the altar

Comes a point where you turn from sin and self to Christ alone for salvation.

I have a covenant relationship with God just like mine to Rebecca
February 16th, and November 7, 1979

4. How I have progressed in my faith Continuation

The reason I know that I am saved is not because I can revisit the time when I got saved, their at my bedside, that does not give me security, because I have seen a progression of my faith, I have grown God has changed me and transformed, I have been working out my salvation, I am not the same person I was then, nor even last year, God is changing my life, and hopefully that is evidenced by the fruit in my life.

I have more an appetite for the things of God than before

So many people don't grow here, just stop at number three

Peace, Purpose, meaning, just treading water, fulfillment, significance

What is God doing in your life right now?

MY REPOSE

- **Have a Testimony**
 - With your family
 - With your friends
 - With your co-workers, school friends, neighbors
do this week
 - Make a contact with people who have visited, guests, lost people.
- **Write Your Testimony**
- **Share Your Testimony**
- **Be a part of events & opportunities where we are sharing our testimony with our community**
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