

How to Prepare Your Baptism Testimony

One of the most empowering things we can do as Christians is learn to tell our story, sometimes called a testimony. This exercise will help you think about what God has done in your life and will prepare you to share your story on the night of your baptism.

Sharing Your Story—Before You Begin

Before you begin to write your testimony, pray and ask God to guide you in this process. God has given each one of us a unique experience with him. Take heart! He will guide you in what to say.

It might be helpful to keep a couple of things in mind. When sharing your story:

1. Make it personal.

Tell what Christ has done for you. Use the pronouns "I", "me", and "mine".

2. Keep it short.

You don't have to talk for very long. 1-2 minutes should be enough time to share your experience.

3. Keep Christ at the center.

One of the main elements of a personal story is being able to highlight what Christ has done for you. He is the reason for your baptism.

4. Use the Word of God

If you are finding it hard to find your own words, you can turn to scripture. Sometimes God's word reflects what we are feeling and thinking. A verse or two of Scripture can help you explain your own experience.

Please note: If your testimony includes a previously negative church experience, please do not mention the name of that church or denomination. It might create needless antagonism in those who are listening to your story.

Sharing Your Story--Writing It Down

Now, try writing down your story. Tell a little about your life before you trusted Jesus Christ. Then tell about how you came to trust Him and a little bit about your life now that you know Him (for example, you can talk about the blessing of sins forgiven, assurance of eternal life with God, and other ways your life or outlook has changed since you came to trust Him). If you have been a Christian for some time, be sure that your testimony includes some current information about the continuing effect of Jesus Christ in your life. You can follow a format similar to this:

<u>MY TESTIMONY</u>	
Before I trusted Christ:	
How I trusted Christ:	
Since I've trusted Christ:	

This is only an exercise to help you think through your testimony. On the night of your baptism, we suggest that you share from your heart—but you may read what you have written if you'd like. Because there will be several people sharing, we respectfully ask that you keep your testimony to 1-2 minutes.