

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Romans 1:16

You would not walk by a man who had fallen and injured himself. If you saw a woman struggling with a heavy bag and pushing a stroller, you would go out of your way to open a door. If a child was lost and crying, you would help him find his way. That’s what good people do. When it comes to physical needs, most of us are right there pitching in and doing our part to help others.

Now consider this. You make eye contact with someone, and casually ask them how they are doing to “fill the conversation space”. The next thing you know, you are caught by a full-blown one-sided monologue. It is amazing what some people will tell others (strangers!) in the bank line, grocery store, doctor’s office, or church lobby. People talk. Sometimes they just need a listening ear. Sometimes they are lonely or scared or overwhelmed with a problem. Even as Christians, we may find that we listen half-heartedly, waiting for an opportunity to share our own dilemmas or (more often than not) getting away from the person who is getting a little “too personal.” STOP YOURSELF. Remember, God calls us in many ways to share the gospel. When someone is in physical need, your actions reflect your Christian walk; but are your actions and words reflecting what you believe when someone is crying out for emotional comfort? Are you recognizing the opportunities that God has put before you to save someone’s life by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ? Or are you avoiding eye contact?

In bringing others to Christ, we are often called to witness to them and share our testimony. In Romans 1:16 it states, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

In this lesson we are going to look at two approaches to witnessing which will prepare you to share your faith as the Lord brings

opportunities your way. Remember, **the Lord will use you and your gifts to help edify not only the Body of Christ, but also others that He is calling to Himself.** There are two types of testimonies in scripture. There are **Timothy’s type of testimony** and **Paul’s type of testimony.**

Most Christians do not have the gift of evangelism. Most Christians are really

uncomfortable in talking with people about religion and, needless to say, uncomfortable in talking about salvation. However, we are called by God to live our lives as a Christian example so that when others observe us, the way we live our lives is a testimony to Jesus Christ. As a Christian you **must not** live in the same way as people who are in the world (i.e., non-Christians). Also, **whatever you do and wherever you go, people are watching your behavior.** It is a sad thing to hear when non-Christians say ‘oh that Christian religion isn’t anything, they are just like everyone else.’

God has also given each of us a certain set of experiences. **Some of our experiences have been very positive and good. Other**

experiences have been very negative and bad.

In Romans 8:28, we learn, *“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”* No matter how bad some of our experiences have been, God will use them to His good purpose. That is why each of us is called upon by God and the Holy Spirit to share our testimonies with certain individuals and at certain times.

Your question may be; **when will God call upon me?** The answer is that “you will know”. It is for the time of your calling by God that you need to be prepared. The rest of this lesson is to prepare you to respond to God positively when He calls.

1. **Timothy’s testimony** illustrates someone who was raised “in the training and instruction of the Lord’. Their parents or guardians followed Ephesians 6:4 and brought them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. People who have a Timothy testimony were saved early in life, usually attended Church regularly and accepted the teachings and values taught in church. Their salvation experience was usually not dramatic but they are just as precious in the eyes of God.

In many cases, people who were saved early, in some cases before they became teenagers, lived a productive life in the church. They learned many of the basics of Christianity, but may not have fully understood them (i.e., at the depth of a mature Christian) simply because of their young age. They experience spiritual birth but may not have experienced spiritual maturity. They usually do not question their salvation, but they may not be able to explain the essential of the historic Christian faith because they were exposed to these principals and ideas many years ago.

Their testimony will often include a discussion of the good years when growing up, but will also include those experiences gained when they left the church or when they lived a sinner’s life. In some cases, they feel very guilty because they knew right from wrong. They may be very ashamed of certain parts of their past. However, they have learned that though out it all, God loved them and stayed

with them, lovingly pointing their way back to Him. Their testimony should include the times in their life when they lived more as a sinner than as a Christian.

1.1. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-15 _____

1.2. Read 2 Timothy 1:1-8 - Verse 5 states: **“For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.”**

1.3. Read Acts 16:1-3, Acts 17:15, 18:5, Phil 1:1, Col 1:1, Heb 13:23 Timothy was a companion of Paul and worked very closely with him. _____

2. **Paul’s testimony** illustrates a very dramatic conversion. The Paul type of conversion happens to people who did not grow up in the church or spent very little time in the church. They may have occasionally visited church, perhaps even attended Vacation Bible School, and attended services on some holidays. In some cases, they may have had some exposure to church life, or even attended a Christian school but never found their way to Jesus in their early years. Some people have grown up without virtually any church experience.

These individuals find Christ after becoming adults. In most cases, it is a dramatic event. It hits them like a bolt of lightning. It is ‘an ah’ ha experience for them. They have tried living life without God and have come to the conclusion that there must be something more. There is usually an empty feeling (or spot) in their hearts...one that cannot be filled with things, accomplishments or attaining goals in life.

In other cases, the Paul testimony stems from experiencing very difficult times in life. This could be do to any number of things, but usually involves some type of sin. The sin drags them down to a point when they say...**‘there must be something more’**. Paul, who was a very learned man and zealous Jew, was actually killing people for



their beliefs in Jesus. He was walking along a road and was blinded by Jesus in a very dramatic way. In the same way, after some dreadful experience many individuals call upon God; **'please save me'**.

Read the following passages and fill in the information below for the three periods of his life.

2.1. Read about Paul's life before becoming a Christian. Acts 22:3-5 _____

2.2. Read Acts 26:4-11 *“So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem; / since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. /And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers; / the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews. /Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead? /So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth./ And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. /And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.”*

2.3. Read about Paul's conversion in the following two passages. Acts 22:7-16

2.4. Read Acts 26:12-18 *“While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, /at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me. /And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, “Saul, Saul, why are you per-*



secuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” /And I said, “Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. /But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;/ rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, / to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”

2.5. Read about Paul’s life as a Christian. Acts 9:19-22 _____

2.6. Read Acts 22:21 _____

2.7. Read Acts 26:19-20 *“So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, /but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.”*

3. Your testimony probably fits one of the patterns we see in Paul or Timothy. Take the time to write out your testimony including your life before becoming a Christian, the circumstances and the time you accepted Christ as your Savior, and your life now as a Christian. Keep it brief so you can share it with someone in three to five minutes and rest assured that the Lord will provide you the opportunities, not only to share it as a witness, but also to minister to someone through your testimony.

3.1. **My life before becoming a Christian** _____



3.2. **My conversion** _____

3.3. **My life since becoming a Christian** _____



4. **What attitude does God have toward lost people?** Read John 3:16 _____

5. **What is Jesus attitude toward lost people?** Read Luke 19:10 & John 15:13 *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” / “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”* _____

6. **What was Paul’s attitude toward the lost?** Read Romans 9:3 & Romans 10:1 _____

7. **What is our motivation for witnessing?** Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 *“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;/ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”* _____

8. **What should our attitude be toward witnessing?** Read Romans 1:16 & Galatians 1:10 _____

9. **God will provide you with power to witness.** Read Acts 1:8 *“...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”* _____



9.1. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5 _____

9.2. Read 1 Corinthians 2:3-4 5 _____

10. **Be bold in your witnessing** (2 Timothy 1:7) but also be loving (Mark 12:31). Think about how you might approach people you know in introducing them to Christ. *“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.” / “The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”* _____

11. Lastly, if you find some good tracks or publications to help you witness, by all means use them. Check with the church library for good examples to use.

During the week read/sing the following song as a reminder of this lesson.

You’re The Only Jesus - Gordon Henson

If not in you, I wonder where will they ever see the one who really cares. If not from you, how will they find there’s one who heals the broken heart and gives sight to the blind. If not in you, I wonder who will show them love alone can make things new. If not from you, how will they learn, there’s one who’ll trade their hopelessness and give joy in return. So let him shine, let him show, let them see Him in you, you’ve got to let them know. Cause You’re the only Jesus some will ever see and you’re the only words of life some will ever read. So let them see in you the One in whom is all they’ll ever need. Cause you’re the only Jesus, some will ever see.