

**Observations in Relation to Giving a Testimony, #8**  
**Selected Scriptures**

- I. Five Characteristics of a Good Testimony:**
  - A. First, a good testimony will show a changed life (Acts 26:9-12, 18, 20; 1 Timothy 1:12-13; Philippians 3:4-14).**
  - B. Second, a good testimony will be Christ centered (Acts 26:23).**
  - C. Third, a good testimony will be consistent with the Bible (Acts 26:22).**
  - D. Fourth, a good testimony will be comprehensive – understood by the hearers (Acts 21:40; 22:1-5).**
  - E. Fifth, a good testimony will end with a challenge to receive Christ (Acts 26:27-29).**
  
- II. Three Things to Remember regarding Testimonies:**
  - A. Responsibility – all born-again believers in Christ have a responsibility to share their faith (Acts 1:8; 26:19-22; 1 Corinthians 9:16; 1 Peter 3:15; cf. Ezekiel 33:1-9).**
  - B. Regeneration – the Holy Spirit is the one who regenerates or produces the new birth (John 3:3-8; 6:63; Ephesians 2:1, 5; Titus 3:5).**
    - 1. Never attempt to do the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (John 1:12-13).**
    - 2. We are instruments in the hands of God (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 3:6).**
  - C. Reactions – all believers can expect one of the following three reactions to their testimonies:**
    - 1. Derision – some will respond with ridicule or mockery or laughter (Acts 17:32; 26:24).**
    - 2. Delay or procrastination – some will claim that they will receive Christ at a later date (Acts 17:32; 24:25).**
    - 3. Decision – some will believe and receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior (Acts 17:34).**
  
- III. How to Give a Public Testimony:**
  - A. Some things to avoid when giving a public testimony:**
    - 1. Do not start by saying, "I don't know why I'm here," or "I don't know what I'm going to say."**
    - 2. Be careful about negative references to other people or organizations.**
    - 3. Do not embarrass relatives, friends, or guest in the audience.**
    - 4. Avoid excessive and inappropriate humor.**

5. **Do not avoid protocol – in some places, recognition of the MC, the Pastor, and other officials may be important.**
  6. **Do not ignore the audience – use eye contact.**
  7. **Do not speak in such a way that all cannot hear and understand you.**
  8. **Do not conclude without a challenge to receive Christ (Acts 26:27-29).**
- B. Some things to do when you give a public testimony:**
1. **Write out your testimony and practice giving it in private before you give it in public.**
  2. **Refer to the Scriptures when necessary to support your points and to give God's plan of salvation.**
  3. **Be honest – do not make things up to impress people.**
    - a. **Everyone needs to be saved (Romans 3:23; cf. Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21).**
    - b. **Jesus is the only one who can save (Matthew 1:21; John 3:16, 36; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:1, 5, 8-10).**
  4. **Include elements that will help people understand how you were before Christ came into your life.**
    - a. **Be careful about excessive details regarding your past sinful life.**
    - b. **One does not have to have had a bad past sinful life to be saved by Jesus Christ (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:23).**
  5. **Explain how you were introduced to Christ.**
  6. **Explain some of the things Christ has been doing in your life since you trusted Him.**
  7. **Stay within your time limit.**
  8. **Pray and depend upon God to use you.**
  9. **Explain how others may come to know Christ.**
  10. **Some of the Scriptures that may be used to explain God's plan of salvation: John 1:12-13; 3:16; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9.**

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