



SHARE
YOUR
STORY



*Your lives are echoing the Master's Word ...
The news of your faith in God is out.
We don't even have to say anything
anymore - you're the message!*

1 Thess. 1:8 MSG

DO I EVEN HAVE A STORY?

God has put a life message within you.

When you became a believer you also became God's messenger. God wants to speak to the world through you. Paul said, "... we speak the truth before God, as messengers of God."

You may feel you don't have anything to share, but that's the Devil trying to keep you silent. You have a storehouse of experiences that God wants to use to bring others into his family. The Bible says, "Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony of God in them." (1 John 5:10a GW)

Your testimony is the story of how Christ has made a difference in your life. Peter tells us that we were chosen by God "to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you." (1 Peter 2:9 MSG)

This is the essence of witnessing - simply reporting your personal experiences with the Lord. In a courtroom, a witness isn't expected to argue the case, prove the truth, or press for a verdict; that is the job of attorneys. Witnesses just tell what happened to them.

Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8 NIV)

HOW CAN MY STORY HELP?

Sharing your testimony is an essential part of your purpose on Earth. First, it is unique. There's no other story just like yours, so only you can share it, and if you don't, it will be lost forever. You may not be a Bible scholar, but you are the authority on your life, and it's hard to argue with personal experience. Actually, your personal testimony is more effective than a sermon because the unknowing see pastors as the person who has to say it. However, you get to say it!

Personal stories are also easier to relate to than principles, and people love to hear them; they capture our attention, and we remember them longer. Most would probably lose interest if you started quoting theologians, but they have a natural curiosity about experiences they've never had. Shared stories build a relational bridge that Jesus can walk across from your heart to theirs.

Another value of your testimony is that it bypasses intellectual defenses. Many people who won't accept the authority of the Bible will listen to a humble, personal story. That's why on six different occasions Paul used his testimony to share the Gospel instead of quoting Scripture. (Acts 22 to Acts 26)

HOW DO I WRITE MY STORY?

The Bible says, "Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15-16 TEV) The best way to "be ready" is to write out your testimony and then memorize the main points.

Divide it into four parts:

- What my life was like before I met Jesus?
- How did I realize I needed Jesus?
- How did I commit my life to Jesus?
- What difference has Jesus made in my life?

Of course, you have many other testimonies besides your salvation story. You have a story for every experience where God has helped you. You should make list of all the problems, circumstances, and crises that God has brought you through. Then be sensitive and use the story that your unknowing friend will best relate to.

Organize your story:

1. The Story Of Your Life – Tell a little bit about yourself (birthplace, parents/siblings, interests, etc.).

2. The Story Of Your Faith – What was your life like before knowing God personally? How did you come to know Jesus in your life? How are things different today?


3. Coming To Jesus – How did you find Cultivate? How has Cultivate helped you grow as a Christian?

4. Stories Of Grace – What has God been teaching you through his Word? How has He been providing for you, your family, etc.? What have you learned about serving God, living out your faith in daily life, or loving others? How do you hope to continuing growing in faith and serving God in the future? What plans or desires do you have?

HOW DO I SHARE MY STORY?

We often think that sharing our story has to be done from a platform in front of large crowds. In reality, that couldn't be farther from the truth. Sure, you can do that, but our story is much better shared in our every day lives. Here are a few great ways to share your story:

- 1. Show It** – The greatest way to share your story is to live it out. People are watching the way you live. You have more influence by who you are than what you say.
- 2. Say It** – There is a great quote, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." Next to simply living it is speaking it. Share with others how Jesus has changed your life.
- 3. Serve It** – Jesus modeled a life of servant-hood. When we give our lives for the good of others it only represents the true nature and personality of Christ. By serving others you are sharing externally what God has done internally.



We would love to hear your story. Share it with us at cultivatechurch.tv/share-your-story

