

# Do EVERY THING Better for God

Pastor Tom Gang

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## YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY – ACTS 26

Our corporate and personal \_\_\_\_\_ (goal, aim, endeavor) for 2023 is to *Do Every Thing Better for God*. Therefore, our summer series will focus on very important issues to help us achieve it. Today we will address your \_\_\_\_\_ salvation testimony. While there are many differing types of Christian testimonies—salvation, life experience, Christian service, evangelism, discipleship, and answered prayer, your salvation testimony is perhaps the most important as it impacts all the others. Sadly, most believers do not know how to properly present their own personal story. Our text takes us back to the time when the apostle Paul used his salvation testimony to \_\_\_\_\_ king Agrippa and his affluent entourage. Through this inspired narrative we have a valuable pattern to follow.

### 1. Paul's pattern to follow – 1 Ti. 1:16

#### a. His personal salvation testimony before king Agrippa – Acts 26

#### b. The method he employed

- Who he was before he knew Christ – verses 4-11
- How he received Christ – verses 12-18; 1 Cor. 15:8
- Changes that took place after he received Christ – verses 19-23

### 2. A proper pattern for your personal salvation testimony

#### a. Notes about personal testimonies

- Some people do not have a salvation testimony
- Testimonies vary from one believer to another

Everyone is valuable and important to God

Everyone has a story, no one is left out, no testimony is “better” than another

Your story is just as important as anyone else's story

- A salvation testimony must be founded upon the biblical gospel – 1 Cor. 15:1-4

It includes recognizing, admitting, believing, confessing and praying to receive Christ –  
Jo. 1:12; 3:14-20; Ro. 10:9-17; Heb. 11:6

- Be prepared

Know your story and consider what great things God has done in order to save you...

Proper preparation is so important. By spending time organizing your points, writing out your statements, and rehearsing your delivery, you can produce a testimony the hearers are more apt to ponder or respond to. If, on the other hand, you decide to “wing it,” the results can be disappointing. You may stumble at critical points or drone on and on, losing whatever interest the hearer may have.

Remember, others nearby may be listening...

b. Some important details to consider when presenting your testimony:

- Make it personal. Tell what Christ has done for you. Use “I,” “me,” “my,” etc.
- Be Flexible. You should be able to give your testimony in one minute, three minutes, five minutes, whatever. Anytime you give your testimony you must give the essential facts but be aware of the situation and the amount of time you are dealing with.
- Keep Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_. A good testimony always highlights what he has done.
- Make sure people understand that you came to a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. Many people think that they are “Christian” because they believe in the existence of God, their church affiliation, their baptism, etc. Also, religious or church-going people will not have a testimony and will have to come to grips with your point of decision and their lack of one.
- Always \_\_\_\_\_ for opportunities to share your testimony because God will oblige by opening doors of opportunity with the unsaved.

c. The three elements are crucial:

- 1) Before I knew Christ, I lived and thought this way – In this part of your testimony you want to share your spiritual background: what you thought of God, the Bible, religion, etc. You want to mention other things that characterized your life and how these things affected your outlook on life and on God.
- 2) How I received Christ – At this point you will share the simple plan of salvation and what you actually did to become a Christian. You will explain what thoughts went through your mind and how you made the decision to receive Christ. Make \_\_\_\_\_ that they can do for themselves what you are describing.

- 3) After I received Christ, these changes took place – Explain how your outlook of God, the Bible, etc. have changed. Then explain how this has affected your behavior, your thoughts, and your life in general. Make it \_\_\_\_\_ and concise. If you became a Christian as a child, the emphasis should be on the benefits Christ has made in your life compared to either what it might have been like without knowing him, or to those times when you haven't been close to him.
3. Today's date is important to me – July 2<sup>nd</sup>
- a. This is my story...
- b. What is your story?

**Next week:** Another message in the summer series – **Do Every Thing Better for God**