

Testify

“...in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.” - 1 Peter 3:15-17 ESV ⁱ

Sharing who you are in Christ is so important for the calling you have as a believer. Even if it means you must suffer for doing it.

Paul shared an abbreviated version of his faith story to Timothy – (1 Timothy 1:12-14):

¹² “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. ¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”

DANIELLE DAVISON – TESTIMONY

Why is it important to share your story?

The PURPOSE of sharing your personal faith story is to celebrate our eternal inheritance and expand the kingdom of God.:

We benefit from this experience in several ways because...

We gain clearer UNDERSTANDING of our personal story.

- Remember what life was like before Christ!

Ephesians 2:12-13

¹² "...remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Ephesians 4:22

You were taught, with regard to **your former way of life**, to put off **your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

- Remember the day you were rescued!

Ephesians 2:4-5

⁴ "But because of his great love for us, **God**, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ **made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.**"

Exodus 12:3

"**Moses** said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the **LORD** brought you out of it with a mighty hand."

Luke 15:7

⁷ "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Because...

We HONOR Christ as Lord.

1 Peter 3:15-16

*"...in your hearts **honor Christ the Lord as holy...**"*

*"...those who revile **your good behavior in Christ** may be put to shame."*

2 Timothy 2:8

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,

Philippians 1:20-21

*"I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that **now as always Christ will be exalted in my body**, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."*

Because...

We develop a life of FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE for the Lord.

You will need help with this.

The Holy Spirit will be the force in your new life in Christ...

Acts 1:8

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Choose to allow the Spirit to change you from the inside out.

Galatians 5:21-25 NASB

"I warn you, as I did before, that those who live [according to the flesh] will not inherit the kingdom of God."

²² But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ *If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.*”

Start the change in your family, then let the world around you see and hear the difference God has made in your life.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

⁶ “These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ **Impress them on your children.** Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

We should never retreat from opportunities to confess our faith and understanding of God’s grace to us.

Romans 1:16-17 NLT

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. ¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

To provide a spiritual CONNECTION with someone else.

Proverbs 15:30

*“Light in a messenger’s eyes brings **joy to the heart,** and good news gives **health to the bones.**”*

Paul knew the purpose of his calling/faith journey...

1 Timothy 1:15-16

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.** ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

Paul was also a mentor to Philemon, Luke, Timothy, and Onesimus – among many others.

Paul acknowledges God’s servant, Philemon, and his witness for the Lord.

Philemon 1:7

⁷Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because **you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord’s people.**

Romans 10:13-14

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And **how can they hear without someone preaching to them?**

Be sure of this,

- This is God’s **STORY!**
- This is God’s **STORY** for **ME** to share!
- This story of **GOD’S WORK** in me is not yet **FINISHED!**

ⁱ All scripture will be using the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.