

The story of how you became a Christian is called a testimony. Everyone has a different story to tell and over the next few weeks we are going to help you discover and share your story.

Revelation 12:7-11 teaches us that:

- 1. Your story reminds you and other people of the power of God in your life.**
- 2. Your story reminds Satan of the authority you have over him.**

How Do I Write My Story?

Here are some questions to help you get started. Answer them honestly and openly. Don't feel like your story has to be like your friend's story. This is about when you asked Jesus to come into your life and how God has worked in your life since then.

When we share our story, we should:

- **Keep it Brief** – Be able to tell your story in 45-60 seconds
- **Keep it Clear** – Stick to one key point.
- **Keep it Simple** – Avoid "Christianese" talk.
- **Keep it Humble** – Don't appear "holier than thou."

3 Parts of a Clear Testimony

I was...

Then Jesus...

Since then...

Part I

I was...

- 1 minute on life before Christ

1. What was my life like before I asked Jesus into it?
Why did you think you needed to have Jesus in your life?

A couple examples might be:

Story #1: You grew up in the church, but your faith wasn't your own. You were in church, but not necessarily in Christ.

Story #2: You had an experience that drove you away from God: your parents divorced, or you suffered abuse, and you held that against "god" for not preventing it. As a result, you wanted nothing to do with "god."

Story #3: You grew up in a family or an environment in which you didn't have much, if any, exposure to God

Part II

The Jesus...

- 1 minute on what made you choose to follow Him

2. How did I commit my life to Christ?

Who told you how to get to Heaven? Where were you? When did this happen?

A couple examples might be:

Story #1: Something happened that made you choose faith for yourself. That is to say, something made the story of Christ (that you'd heard all your life) finally sink in. It became *your faith* and not *your family's faith*.

Story #2: Something happened that brought redemption to the wound you believed God caused. Through counseling, conversation, or a friend, you came to realize that you couldn't change the past, but God could change your future, and you stepped into his healing arms.

Story #3: Something happened that allowed you to encounter God. You met new friends and later found out they were Christians; stumbled into a church meeting or a Bible study group (more by accident than anything) and next thing you know, you're responding to the Gospel.

Part III

Since then...

- 1 minute on life since then

3. What does it mean for me to have Jesus in my life?

How is my life different now that I know Jesus is in my life? For

example: Now I treat people differently, I have a better attitude, when I'm afraid I know God is always with me.

Some examples:

Story #1: Though you grew up surrounded by your family's faith, you are now living out your own faith. You're far from perfect, but now you make daily choices to live out your faith.

Story #2: Though your life was once defined by hurt and brokenness, Now you're living in the restoration. What once was a wound, is now a source of new life, and healing.

Story #3: Though you grew up not knowing about "god," you now know, and are known by, the Living God!

Putting it all together

Take the answers to your questions and write them below in story form so you can share your story from start to finish.

Example

My name is Ty. I grew up in Pearl City. Before giving my heart to God, my life and heart was empty and lonely, looking for acceptance. I believed I would be happy if I was a good person and made my family happy. After awhile, that left me feeling lost and hopeless and that wasn't working for me. At this point in my life, my belief about God was that He was distant and didn't really care about me.

It wasn't until I heard the testimony of a friend in school whose life I saw changed dramatically, that Jesus stirred my heart and I began to consider trusting God with my life. I decided that I wanted to receive Jesus as my savior so when I went to New Hope Hilo, I prayed and asked God to forgive me of my sin.

Afterwards, I didn't view what others thought about me as my ultimate source of happiness anymore. I know my only way to receive joy and contentment is by following Jesus with all my heart. After I received Jesus, I... have never been alone again. My life has changed dramatically. Though I still struggle with my doubts, fears, and insecurities, things are getting better as God teaches me how to live my life from His Word – the Bible.

Let me encourage you to trust God with your life. He has been faithful to me and has never let me down, and I know He will do the same for you.

- A – Admit you're a sinner in need of a Savior.
- B – Believe Jesus Christ died for your sin and rose again.
- C – Confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

If you want to acknowledge Jesus as your Lord and Savior, say a prayer like this one

"Heavenly Father thank You for Jesus. Lord Jesus, thank You that You came, to give Your life in my place. I believe You died and rose from the dead. I believe You are the Son of God who rose again to give me new life. I surrender my life to You and receive You today as my Lord and Savior. I pray this in Jesus' name, amen."

What do I do after I've written my story?

Now it's time to share your story with your friends and family. Here's how you can be SALT-E in your community:

S – Start talking. Engage in ordinary conversation.

A – Ask questions. People love to talk about themselves.

L – Listen to them. Be genuinely interested in them and their story.

T – Tell your story. Tell them about what God has done in your life. Use your:
I was...

Then Jesus...

Since then...

E – Encourage them to trust Jesus.

- A – Admit you're a sinner in need of a Savior.
- B – Believe Jesus Christ died for your sin and rose again.
- C – Confess Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Use the space below to write down the people you can SHARE with. Pray for them each day and make time to SHARE your story with them:

- 1 –
- 2 –
- 3 –
- 4 –
- 5 –