Tips in Sharing your Testimony and the Gospel

This theological compendium provides an overview of differentiating the gospel from sharing a testimony while always prioritizing the gospel.

Pray that God will open a door for us to speak and that you will know how to respond to each person (Col 4:2-6)
Always being ready to give an answer for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15)

I. Sharing your Testimony[1]

Your testimony is your unique, personal story of how the Lord saved you and how He is working in your life. Any testimony needs to share the gospel but also include your personal story of receiving the gospel. You should describe the events around your conversion, major spiritual transitions, and your ministry passions. The purpose of your testimony is to share that you have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Share your testimony in a manner that a stranger could get a snapshot of your Christian life and hear the gospel. A testimony is not a doctrinal paper, nor a fireside chat, nor a counseling session. It is a personal statement sharing how you came to Jesus Christ, major spiritual transitions, and your ministry passions.

II. Sharing the Gospel.

Oftentimes believers confuse sharing their testimony with sharing the gospel. Believers should learn how to share the gospel in one minute.

Sharing the gospel entails conveying the wonderful, scriptural news that God alone saves sinners by His grace-alone through faith-alone in the work of Christ-alone. Everyone is sinful and separated from God. But God provides a way of salvation through the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ when we believe/ exercise faith in the work of Christ. Focus on the facts of 1) what God did through Jesus, 2) an understanding of those facts and 3) personal faith/ belief/ trust in God accepting us based on the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for our sins. Importantly, our personal faith is never viewed by God as a good work that deserves or merits salvation. Personal faith is simply the instrument through which salvation comes.

A. **Study the gospel passages**. The following key passages will help refine an understanding of the gospel (John 1:12; 3:16-17; 20:32; Acts 16:30-32; Romans 1:15-17; 3:23-28; 4:25; 5:10; 6:23; 8:1; 10:9-8; I Corinthians 15:1-11; II Corinthians; 5:14-21; Ephesians 2:1-9). We suggest reviewing the online commentary notes by Constable at https://soniclight.com/. You can also do further study from the BibleHub https://biblehub.com/ or Bible Project https://bibleproject.com/.

B. **Always offer to pray** with the person, offer a follow-up visit and if appropriate invite them to receive Christ.

C. **Avoid getting sidetracked** or being drawn into a discussion about political or current events. Rather use those comments as a bridge to share the gospel.

D. **Maintain prayerful alertness** looking for opportunities to share the gospel. Practice transitioning to sharing the gospel in a one-minute response to following comments/ questions.

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III. Some Examples in Making a Transition to Sharing the Gospel.

A. “Why are you even here helping in the church anyway?”

Well, I just love serving the Lord by ministering here in the church. I get to meet new people, make friends, and pray for them. And honestly, I never thought of myself serving the Lord. I grew up going to church but was not real serious about the Lord. And then I heard this sermon, and I understood about how much God loved me and how He …

B. “I don’t have any money; I’m in poor health and I just don’t know what to do.”

I am so sorry, and I would like to pray for you right now if that’s okay. I can’t imagine being in poor health with no money. I did have a time once in my life when I just didn’t know what to do and a Christian friend shared with me about the Lord Jesus and how He…

C. “Our country is just falling apart.”

It certainly seems that way. We really need to pray for our nation and leaders. And to be honest I used to think that if we just had a strong country then everything would be okay. But then I realized that each person needs God and …

D. “I love my job and I’m doing so well right now.”

Thank you for sharing that. It is so good to hear that good news and I’m glad you are doing well. We certainly have a lot to be thankful for. When I was growing up my dad lost his job, and we went through some rough times. I was amazed at how the Lord provided for our family and at my parent’s faith in the Lord and that’s how I came to understand about Jesus …

E. “I’ve just gone too far away from God?”

I will certainly be praying for you. I wonder if the criminal on the cross besides Jesus felt the same way and then he asked Jesus to remember him. Jesus came to our world to save all of us since we all have sinned and have not followed the Lord. I love the Bible verse, John 3:16 …