What’s Your Story: Building a Testimony

# We Have Something to Say:

Every believer has a story to tell, and whether you know it or not, we are all telling that story every day. Ralph Waldo Emerson’s words ring true when he said, “What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.” Each believer should keep that in mind. First Corinthians 5:17 calls us new creatures – creatures alive with the Spirit of God! We should walk, live, talk, act, and relate differently than the lost world (1 Tim.4:7-12). This does not mean we should put ourselves on a pedestal and separate from those who are lost, nor should we expect the lost to act like followers of Jesus. We are to let our light shine before men so that they will see our good works and give glory to God (Matt.5:16).

Living a godly life is great, and it is a great witness, but it is not enough. We must tell others why and by who’s strength we live the way we do. We must share the gospel. We have to use words to communicate the truth. Every Christian has a testimony or conversion story. Some of our stories are as dramatic as a block buster hit movie of redemption, and others are not as dramatic. DON’T be fooled into thinking that your story isn’t amazing enough to share. Scripture says every believer was once dead and now is alive…was once lost but now is found…was once blind but now able to see (Eph.2:1-5). Grace is always amazing!

# The Construction of an Effective Testimony:

The first thing to remember is that our story begins with God. He wrote it and continues to write it. So, we need to seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance as to what we should include. It is also extremely important to stay away from “christianese”. We need to use words that are easy to understand and require little explanation. We also need to remember that not everyone loves history…so be brief (two or three minutes) and avoid telling your life story. The most effective testimonies have (3) main features: a pre-conversion aspect, a conversion moment, and a post conversion description. To put it into more layman’s terms, a good testimony should include a brief description of your life before Jesus, when you met Jesus, and your life after Jesus.

# Writing Your Testimony:

Three Word Testimony:

* The first word should describe your life, feelings, situation, thoughts, etc., before you placed your faith in Christ.

*Angry, independent, manipulative, miserable, hopeless, empty, addicted, aimless, restless, striving, confused, insecure*

* The second word should describe how you came to place your faith in Christ.

*Creation, concert, studied, grew, Bible, tragedy, friend, trouble, observation, evangelist, spouse, loved one, witnessed genuine love*

* The third word should describe your life, feelings, situation, thoughts, etc., after you placed your faith in Christ.

*Approachable, passionate, peaceful, generous, loving, brave, caring, teacher, mentor, servant, elder, hopeful, compassionate, confident, purposeful*

* Once you have your three words, come up with one or two sentences for each word. Provide a brief explanation of how each word relates to your story. For the second word, be sure to include a clear presentation of the gospel.

Soularium:

Maybe you are the type that relates better to pictures. Ask the Global Outreach Dept. for Soularium cards. Browse through the pictures and complete the same exercise as the described in the Three Word Testimony.

Your testimony is your true story. No one would dare claim that what you described to them about yourself didn’t really happen. Utilize your testimony to turn your casual conversations into spiritual conversations.