



INTRODUCTION – September 10, 2023

I. Purpose: To help believers use their testimony as an effective evangelistic tool by thinking biblically about their salvation and communicating clearly about how Christ has saved them.

II. Topics

- A. The Power of a Biblical Testimony
- B. Limitations of Testimonies
- C. Using Your Testimony as a Gospel Tool
- D. Thinking Biblically about Your Conversion
- E. Essential Elements of a Clear Testimony
- F. The Challenge of “Fuzzy” Testimonies
- G. How and When to Use Your Testimony

III. Schedule

- A. **Week 1:** The Power of a Biblical Testimony
- B. **Week 2:** Common Problems in Testimony Telling
- C. **Week 3:** Crafting Your Testimony as a Gospel Tool
- D. **Week 4:** Ideas for Using Your Testimony

THE POWER OF A BIBLICAL TESTIMONY

Testimony Workshop: Session One

I. **Definition of a Testimony:** The personal declaration of an individual or group about what they have witnessed, experienced, done, or said.

A. **Legal Testimony:** In a court of law, a witness or expert testifies about their knowledge of events or circumstances.

B. **Customer Testimony:** In advertising a customer may testify about his experience with a product or service.

C. **Notarized Testimony:** An individual makes an official declaration about his desires, intentions, decisions, etc.
Example: Last Will and Testament or Testimony or Testament

D. **Religious Testimony:** An individual describes their religious conversion or some experience with the supernatural.

E. **Christian Testimony:** The religious testimony of a Christian on how he came to have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

II. Kinds of Testimony in the Bible

A. **Legal Testimony:** Statements by witnesses to be used in legal proceedings, whether true or false.

a. The Law Against False Witness. Exod. 20:16

b. The Law of Two or Three Witnesses. Deut 19:15; Matt 18:16

c. **Lying** Witnesses Used against Jesus. Matt 26:59-60

WORD STUDY

The Hebrew term "witness" (*ed*) is related to the word for "testimony" (*eduth*).

B. **God's Testimonies:** Official Declarations of God's Will

1. Old Testament: The Revelation of God's Covenant & Law

a. The Ten Commandments & the Covenant Which It Governs. Exodus 25:22, 26; Psalm 25:10

b. Any commandment of God to His Covenant People. Deut. 4:45; Psalm 19:7b; 78:5; 119:2, etc.

2. New Testament: God's Authentication of His **Son**. John 5:37; 8:18; 1 John 5:9

C. **Salvation Testimonies:** Religious testimonies about God's deliverance.

1. Old Testament: Poems of Thanks for God's Deliverance.

a. Examples: Ps 40:1-3; Jonah 2:1-9.

b. Often intended to accompany a thank offering. Ps. 116:14, 17

2. New Testament: Stories of **Deliverance** in Jesus' name.

a. Physically Delivered by Jesus. Mark 1:39-47.

b. Spiritually Awakened by Jesus. John 4:29

c. Example: Paul's story told three times. Acts 9, 22, 26

IMPORTANT NOTE

Most references to "saved" & "salvation" in the Psalms relate to deliverance from some perilous situation, not salvation from sin unto eternal life.