### YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

## I. The Value of a Personal Testimony

- 1. **It is biblical.** Paul shared his personal testimony twice in Acts 22 and 26. In both cases he won people's attention and reached their hearts.
- 2. **It is authentic**. How you came to know God through Jesus Christ is unique and carries conviction.
- 3. **It is effective.** People who may be resistant to discussion will be open to listening to your personal story.
- 4. **It is needed.** Jesus Christ is alive today. People are searching for meaning and purpose only Jesus can give.

# 2. The Value of a Prepared Testimony

- 1. **It is expected**. Peter says "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15)
- 2. **It is enabling.** You will always be ready to share your faith.
- 3. **It is reliable**. It will ensure you focus on Jesus and the gospel not yourself.
- 4. **It is concise.** It helps you to be brief and interesting rather than lengthy or boring.

## 3. How to Write your Personal Testimony

- 1. Pray for wisdom and guidance. (James 1:5-6)
- 2. Follow this simple three-point outline:
  - a. What my life was like before I came to know Jesus
  - b. How I came to know Jesus as my Lord and Saviour
  - c. How Jesus has and is changing my life
- 3. If you became a Christian a long time ago, emphasize b. & c. If recently, focus on a. & b.
- 4. Begin and end with a memorable sentence to get you started and to enable you to finish well.
- 5. Emphasize the difference Jesus has made in your life but be realistic. He does not always remove our problems but helps us cope with them.
- 6. Include the facts of the Gospel so that a person listening to you can trust in Jesus also.
  - o God loves you and wants you to know him
  - o Sin separates us from God now and forever
  - o Jesus Christ came to die in our place to forgive our sins
  - o We must receive Christ to become children of God
- 7. Include one or two Bible verses that have helped you or explain the gospel clearly such as John 3:16-17 and Revelation 3:20.
- 8. Write out your personal testimony and rewrite it until you become familiar with the outline and content. Aim to memorize it.
- 9. Practice sharing your testimony with believing friends until it becomes natural. Pray for opportunities to share it with seekers.

## **My Personal Testimony**

1. What my life was like before I came to know Jesus:

2. How I came to know Jesus as my Lord and Saviour:

3. How Jesus has and is changing my life: