
YOUR STORY MATTERS

A Guide to Writing & Sharing Your Testimony

*“They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony.”*

— Revelation 12:11

WHY YOUR STORY MATTERS

You might be thinking: “My story isn’t that special. Nobody wants to hear about my mess. I’m not a good writer. I wouldn’t know where to start.”

Here’s the truth: Your story is powerful precisely because it’s messy, real, and human. The people around you aren’t looking for perfect testimonies from polished speakers. They’re looking for honest stories from real people who’ve walked through darkness and found light.

Your story has the power to:

- Give hope to people who think they’re too far gone
- Show others they’re not alone in their struggles
- Point people to the transforming power of Jesus Christ
- Break shame’s power by bringing darkness into the light
- Encourage brothers and sisters who are in the middle of their own battles

This guide will walk you through the process step-by-step. You don’t need to be a professional writer. You don’t need to have it all figured out. You just need to be honest and willing to share what God has done in your life.

Remember: Sharing your story isn’t about you looking good or having all the answers. It’s about Jesus getting the glory and other people finding hope.

THE SIMPLE THREE-PART FRAMEWORK

Every powerful testimony follows a simple structure. Don’t overthink it. Just tell your story using these three parts:

Part 1: BEFORE — Life Without Christ

This is where you were before Jesus transformed you. Be honest about:

- What you were struggling with
- How you were trying to fill the God-shaped hole in your life
- The consequences of your choices
- What you believed about yourself, God, and life
- The pain, emptiness, or bondage you experienced

Don’t sanitize this section. People need to see the real you — the broken, struggling version. That’s what makes the transformation powerful.

Part 2: BREAKING POINT — The Turn Toward Christ

This is the moment (or season) when everything changed. Describe:

- What brought you to the end of yourself
- When you realized you couldn't save yourself
- How you encountered Jesus (through a person, event, crisis, etc.)
- Your decision to surrender control to Christ
- What it cost you to say yes to Jesus

This doesn't have to be dramatic. Not everyone has a "Damascus Road" moment. Some surrenders are gradual. Both are valid. Just be honest about your journey.

Part 3: TRANSFORMATION — Life in Christ

This is where you are now and what God is doing in you. Share:

- How your life has changed since surrendering to Christ
- What freedom looks like for you today
- Ongoing battles and areas where you're still growing
- What you've learned about God's character
- Hope you want to offer others who are struggling

Be real about ongoing struggles. Transformation is a process. People need to see that following Jesus doesn't mean you never struggle — it means you're not fighting alone anymore.

GETTING STARTED: GUIDED PROMPTS

Don't stare at a blank page. Use these prompts to get the words flowing. You don't have to answer every question — just use what's helpful.

Part 1: BEFORE — Prompts

- What was my childhood like? What wounds or pain was I carrying?
- What was I using to numb pain or fill emptiness? (substances, sex, work, achievement, control, etc.)
- What did I believe about myself? What lies was I agreeing with?
- What were the consequences of my choices? Who did I hurt?

- What was I running from? What was I chasing after?
- How did I view God during this time? (distant, angry, non-existent, etc.)
- What did I think would make me happy or fulfilled?

Part 2: BREAKING POINT — Prompts

- What brought me to the end of myself? (crisis, loss, consequences, etc.)
- When did I realize I couldn't save myself?
- Who or what did God use to reach me? (person, event, message, etc.)
- What did surrender look like for me? Was it dramatic or gradual?
- What did it cost me to follow Jesus? What did I have to give up?
- What was my prayer or cry for help?
- What Scripture or truth broke through to me?

Part 3: TRANSFORMATION — Prompts

- How has my life changed since surrendering to Christ?
- What chains has Jesus broken in my life?
- What do I believe about myself now that's different from before?
- What battles am I still fighting? Where am I still growing?
- What have I learned about God's character through this journey?
- How do I experience God's presence in everyday life now?
- What hope do I want to give people who are where I was?
- What's one thing I want people to know about Jesus from my story?

WRITING TIPS: MAKING YOUR STORY POWERFUL

1. Write Like You Talk

Don't try to sound fancy or use religious language. Write the way you'd tell the story to a friend over coffee. Use your natural voice. If you wouldn't say it out loud, don't write it.

2. Show, Don't Just Tell

Instead of: *"I was really struggling with addiction."*

Try: *"I was spending \$300 a day on drugs. I'd stay up for three days straight, then crash for 24 hours. Everything I owned ended up in a pawn shop."*

Specific details make your story real and relatable.

3. Be Specific About Emotions

Don't just say "I felt bad." Dig deeper:

- "I felt like a complete failure."
- "Shame was crushing me."
- "I was terrified I'd never change."
- "I felt completely alone."

4. Give Jesus the Credit

This isn't a story about how awesome you are or how hard you worked to turn your life around. This is about what Jesus did for you when you couldn't save yourself. Make it clear: transformation is God's work, not yours.

5. Don't Glorify the Sin

Be honest about your struggles, but don't give detailed play-by-plays that could be triggering or sound like bragging about how bad things were. Focus on the impact and consequences, not the graphic details.

6. Include the Ongoing Journey

Don't end with "and now everything is perfect!" People need to know that following Jesus doesn't mean you never struggle. Share honestly about areas where you're still growing, still learning to trust God, still fighting battles. This makes you real and relatable, not fake and distant.

7. End With Hope

Your story should leave people thinking: "If God can do that for them, maybe He can do it for me too." Point them to Jesus. Invite them to experience the same grace, freedom, and transformation you've found.

WHAT TO AVOID

Don't Make It About You Looking Good

The point isn't to impress anyone with how far you've come or how spiritual you are now. Humility and honesty are more powerful than polish.

Don't Use Church Language Normal People Don't Understand

Avoid: *"I was sanctified through my justification in Christ and experienced pneumatological renewal."*

Try: *"Jesus saved me when I couldn't save myself, and His Spirit is changing me from the inside out."*

Don't Overshare Inappropriate Details

There's a difference between honesty and graphic detail. Be wise about what you include, especially regarding sexual sin, violence, or illegal activity.

Don't Throw Others Under the Bus

You can share about being hurt or wounded without naming names or making your story about blaming others. Focus on your journey, not exposing someone else.

Don't Pretend You Have It All Figured Out

People can smell fake from a mile away. Don't present yourself as someone who's "arrived." You're still on the journey. That's what makes you relatable.

EDITING & REFINING YOUR STORY

Step 1: Write the Rough Draft

Don't edit as you go. Just get the story out. Write messy. Write more than you need. You can always cut later.

Step 2: Read It Out Loud

Seriously. Read your testimony out loud to yourself. If something sounds awkward or fake when you say it, it'll sound that way to readers too. Rewrite anything that doesn't sound like you.

Step 3: Cut the Fluff

Every sentence should serve the story. If it doesn't move things forward or add important context, cut it. Tighter is better.

Step 4: Share With Someone You Trust

Have someone you trust read it and give honest feedback. Ask them:

- Does this sound like me?
- Is Jesus clearly the hero of the story?
- Would this give hope to someone struggling?
- Are there any parts that are unclear or confusing?

Step 5: Pray Over It

Before you finalize it, pray. Ask God:

- "Is there anything You want me to add or remove?"
- "Who needs to hear this story?"
- "Use this for Your glory, not mine."

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Writing your testimony isn't easy. It requires vulnerability, honesty, and courage. You're going to relive painful memories. You're going to expose parts of yourself you've kept hidden.

But here's what we know:

Somewhere out there, someone is sitting in darkness thinking they're too broken for God to love them. They think they've made too many mistakes. They think there's no hope for someone like them.

Your story could be the thing that breaks through that lie.

Your honesty about your struggles could give them permission to be honest about theirs. Your testimony about God's grace could help them believe that the same grace is available to them too.

Don't let fear or shame keep you silent. Your story — messy, imperfect, and unfinished as it is — has the power to change lives.

"They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

— Revelation 12:11

The enemy is defeated not just by the blood of Jesus, but also by the testimony of what He's done in your life.

So write your story. Share your testimony. Let God use your mess for His glory.

The world needs to hear what Jesus has done for you.

Your story matters. Now go write it.

WORKSHEETS

Use these pages to organize your thoughts before writing.

Worksheet 1: BEFORE — Life Without Christ

1. What wounds or pain was I carrying from childhood?

2. What was I using to numb pain or fill emptiness?

3. What lies was I believing about myself?

4. What were the consequences of my choices?

5. How did I view God during this time?

Worksheet 2: BREAKING POINT — The Turn Toward Christ

1. What brought me to the end of myself?

2. When did I realize I couldn't save myself?

3. Who or what did God use to reach me?

4. What did surrender look like for me?

5. What did it cost me to follow Jesus?

Worksheet 3: TRANSFORMATION — Life in Christ

1. How has my life changed since surrendering to Christ?

2. What chains has Jesus broken in my life?

3. What battles am I still fighting?

4. What have I learned about God's character?

5. What hope do I want to give people who are where I was?
