#### Lesson 9 Sharing the Truth in Love

**I. Personal Testimony**

A. There are different types of Testimonies.

1. **Conversion Testimony** tells specifically why you came to accept the Lord as your personal savior. This is the testimony that should most be used in witnessing to a non-Christian. It should focus on your realizing that you needed a savior and you called on the name of the Lord. He or she is not so much interested in all the great things God has done for you, but why you accepted him as your savior.

 *See Acts 26th chapter*

2. **Deliverance Testimony** tells how you have been delivered from a particular sin, addiction or trouble. This could be part of your conversion testimony, but I suggest it not be over emphasized for a few reasons.

 a. A person may be seeking only deliverance not a savior.

b. It takes the focus off of they need to repent, change and live for Christ. For example; a person may be in prison and wants to be delivered from there. They are willing to say or do anything to get out. Our testimonies should be designed to change lives not circumstances. *See 2 Cor 12:9-10*

3. The, "I've been **Blessed" Testimony** tells how the Lord has blessed you with a job, money, husband, wife etc. We do not want to make God out to be a cosmic genie. The greatest blessing God can give has already been given; His son Jesus Christ. This type of testimony is best used to encourage other believers. It will not do as much for those who do not believe.

*John 5:15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. (NIV)*

B. The most effective and exciting way of sharing Jesus Christ is your personal testimony

Read *1 John 1; 1-3* - This is John's personal testimony. These verses tell what a testimony really is…"these things we have seen and heard…"

In other words, a testimony is: A simple account of what has happened to you in your relationship to Jesus Christ.

**C. Three Characteristics of a Personal Testimony**

1. It has **UNDENIABLE AUTHORITY -** It is you and your experience with Jesus. Your expression of what Christ has done and is doing in your life.

2 It **COMMUNICATES** - It reaches out and expresses to people the very expression of your being.

3. It **RELATES** - It relates to people your life touches today. I take the story of Christ out of history and relates it to today through your changed life

*Read Acts 22:1- 8 and Acts 26: 9-18. Here is the foundation of Paul's testimony*

**D. Four Points Presented in Paul's Testimony**

1. His life **before** Christ

2. He realized he **needed** Christ.

3. How he **received** Christ.

4. Hs life **after receiving** Christ.

**II. PREPARING A TESTIMONY**

A. Your testimony is important -

1. It's an eyewitness account of a life changes by Christ.

B. Let God guide you.

C. Take time to prepare

1. God honors preparation.

2. Your testimony should be clear and complete.

D. Your testimony should be simple and short -

1. **350 words - around 2 minutes.**

2. Better too short than too long.

E. Keep it to the Point -

1. You're not describing the theology of how to become a Christian.

2. You're simply sharing what made you decide to accept Christ as your savior.

3. You are sharing an intangible experience, so give adequate details that would relate what has happened to you.

F. Relive your testimony -

1. Share the good and the bad.

2. Preparation and sharing should never be mechanical

3 Let God bring it to life again.