

What Does REAL Life Look Like?

Jesus said...
"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
John 10:10



READ: 1 John 5:9-13

We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 5:24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

"When we are securely rooted in personal intimacy with the source of life, it will be possible to remain flexible without being relativistic, convinced without being rigid, willing to confront without being offensive, gentle and forgiving without being soft, and true witnesses without being manipulative."

Henri J.M. Nouwen
REFLECT: What IS the kind of LIFE Jesus wants to give us?



How DOES it become FULL?
"abundant life": (Gk: perisson zoen)

What evidence does a follower of Jesus have that they have "full life"?
(Galatians 5:22-23)

RESPOND: Why is our testimony about Jesus so important?

John 12:24-26 ²⁴ *Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.* ²⁵ *Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.* ²⁶ *Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.*

"testimony" (marturia): evidence given -- record, report, witness.

Sharing Your Faith Story

Skeptics may debate the validity of Scripture or argue the existence of God, but no one can deny your personal experiences with him. When you tell your story of how God has worked a miracle in your life, or how he has blessed you, transformed you, lifted and encouraged you, perhaps even broken and healed you, no one can argue or debate it. You go beyond the realm of **knowledge** into the realm of a **relationship** with God.

These steps are designed to help you write your story, your testimony of coming to Christ. These tips and steps will help you tell others with sincerity, impact and clarity what God has done in your life.

1 - Realize the Power of Your True Life Story (Testimony)

First and foremost - remember - there is power in your testimony! Remember Romans 10:14-15... *"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"*

2 - Study an Example of a Testimony from the Bible

Read Acts 26. This is where the Apostle Paul gives his testimony.

3 - Spend Time in Thought Preparation

There are a few things to consider before you start writing your testimony. Think about your life before you met the Lord. What was going on in your life leading up to your conversion? What problems or needs were you facing at the time? How did your life change after that?

4 - Start with a Simple *Before -- How -- Since* Outline

A three-point approach is very effective in communicating your personal testimony. The outline focuses on **before** you trusted Christ, **how** you surrendered to him, and the difference **since** you've been walking with him.

Before: Simply tell what your life was like before you surrendered to Christ. What were you searching or longing for? What was the key

problem, emotion, situation or attitude you were dealing with? What were your actions? How did you try to satisfy your own inner needs?

How: How were you changed? Simply tell the events and circumstances that caused you to consider Christ as the solution to your searching. Take time to identify the steps that brought you to the point of trusting Christ. Where were you? What was happening at the time? What people or problems influenced your decision?

Since: How has your life in Christ made a difference? How has his forgiveness impacted you? How have your thoughts, attitudes and emotions changed? Share how Christ is meeting your needs and what a relationship with him means to you now.

Sharing the Gospel (from Dare2share)

G – God created us to be with Him ([Psalm 100:3](#)).

O – Our sins separate us from God ([Romans 3:23](#)).

S – Sins cannot be removed by good deeds ([Romans 5:8](#)).

P – Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again ([Romans 5:8](#)).

E – Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life ([John 3:16](#)).

L – Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever ([John 10:28](#)).

Sharing Your Faith Story

Before I came to know Christ...

I was changed in this way...

Since that time, God has continued to show me...

In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15