

## Are You Ready?

By Christine Anderson

*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)*

I really love a good testimony.

There is nothing better than hearing a fellow believer tell of God's awesomeness. To see God's hand work so powerfully in a person's life is amazing. Testimonies allow us the opportunity to stand in awe of God's ability to deliver people from addictions, to turn people from lives of crime, to rescue people from the clutches of prostitutions, and to be a guide and support through times of personal tragedy. I marvel at God as I hear how He has healed people and how He intervenes in our lives to save marriages, prodigal children, and relationships. Testimonies give us the chance to say with the Psalmist, "Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy." (Psalm 107:21-22)

Scripture tells us that we are to be ready to tell people about how God has worked in our lives. To "give the reason for the hope that you have."

Are you ready?

I know some aren't ready since I've actually heard some believers say they don't have a testimony!

What?

The only way you do not have a testimony is if you aren't a believer. What they are really saying is that they've never been addicted to drugs or been delivered from some other evil, therefore their testimony isn't "good enough."

Now I may not be the brightest bulb on the 'ol Christmas tree, but I'm getting pretty good at spotting a big, fat lie when I see one.

See the truth is this: Satan doesn't want you to tell people your testimony, so he convinces you that yours isn't "good enough." He tells you it isn't dramatic enough or powerful enough. Listen to me, everyone who has ever known Jesus Christ has a testimony and it is awesome. Whether you were raised on the streets with parents addicted to drugs or whether you came from a Christian home where everything went smoothly – you were a sinner bound for hell. If you have accepted Christ's work on the cross, you are a sinner going to heaven. That is an awesome testimony!!!

Another misconception is that when we give a testimony that means we have to tell how we accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior. And there is definitely a time and a place for that. But as much as I love to hear people's conversion stories I sometimes wonder if God has done anything in their lives since then. I hear people giving testimonies from 30+ years ago. Please don't misunderstand, I want to hear those testimonies, but what about what God is doing NOW?

What about today? Isn't He still working in your life? What is He teaching you? How is He rebuking and correcting you? Your current testimony to God's faithfulness may be even more relevant to the people God places in your path!

So I am issuing a challenge. I want you to write your testimony and send it to me. BUT because I want you to think outside the box, I'm putting a time limit on it. If you had to tell people your testimony of God's presence in your life...the reason for the hope that you have, using only the last two weeks – what would you say? How has God been working in your life during those two weeks? What has He taught you? How is He stretching you? How is He demonstrating His faithfulness to you?

Please send it to me at [christine@hopeinthelord.org](mailto:christine@hopeinthelord.org). You don't have to give me your name and I won't share it with anyone. It will be good practice in thinking about God's faithfulness so you will be ready when the opportunity presents itself to tell others of the hope you have in Christ.

I cannot wait to marvel at the awesomeness of our God! Like I said – I really love a good testimony!

*Christine* ☺

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