

Do You Love to Tell Your Story?

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God does not require perfection, but he does call us to be prepared to tell our story. 2 Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”

How to be prepared when called on to tell your story:

- 1. Pray**
 - a. Ask Holy Spirit to go before you. “And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.” Deut 31:8**
- 2. Develop a strong foundation of knowledge and faith.**
 - a. There’s no substitute for God’s Word. “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4**
 - b. Do not be afraid. “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10**
- 3. Get your tools ready.**
 - a. John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”**
 - b. Ephesians 6:10-20. Put on the whole armor of God**
- 4. Put Satan where he belongs**
 - a. Rev 12:10-12 “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY, and they did not love their lives to the death.**
 - i. Blood of the lamb always defeats Satan**
 - ii. Our testimonies of God’s goodness always defeat Satan.**
- 5. Tell your story**

- a. Be ready to tell your story. “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.” 1 Peter 3:15
 - b. Keep your story short.
 - c. Have before, how, and after parts of your story
 - i. Example of a 30 second testimony. “There was a time in my life when I was broken and had no real purpose for my life. A friend loved me enough to tell me that Jesus adored me and that I was precious to Him and that He had a better plan for me than I could ever imagine. I asked Jesus to show me what that plan was. He came into my life, and I have never been the same.”
 - d. Always follow up with “What’s your story?”
 - e. Follow up, if they will let you, by clearly presenting the gospel
 - i. Romans 3:23
 - ii. Romans 5:8
 - iii. Romans 6:23
 - iv. Romans 8:1
 - v. Romans 10:9
6. Then what? What if they accept the message? What if they reject the message?
- a. Realize that this same thing has been happening since creation and throughout time. Rejection/Acceptance is not new
 - b. Remember your role
 - c. Respond to their acceptance/rejection
 - i. Mourn if they reject
 - ii. Pray for the receiver.
 - iii. Rejoice that the gospel has gone out
 - iv. Go again.