

For more information on the
Business Men's Fellowship

Phone 1-800-BMF-8981

Fax: 1-800-BMF-9136

You may request information
by writing:

BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

National Service Center

3824 Buell St.

Oakland, Ca

•

Our email address is:

bmfusansc@aol.com

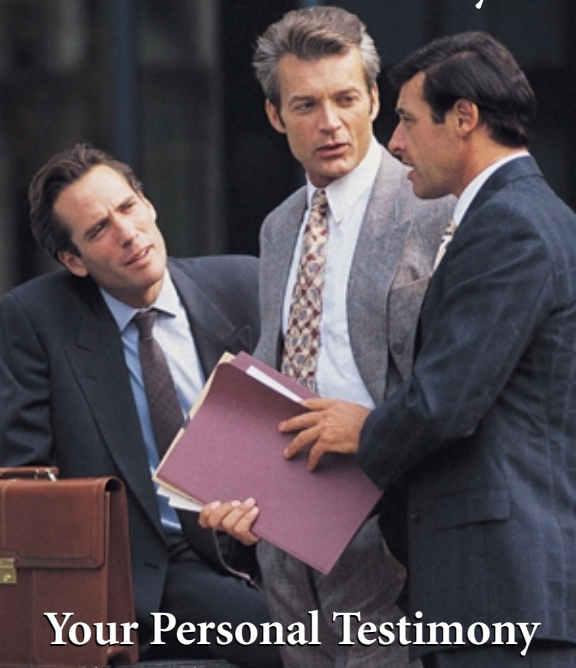
•

Visit our Web page:

www.bmfusa.com



Important point to remember when you share your **Personal Testimony!**



Your Personal Testimony

- What makes it important?
- What makes it effective?
- Where is the power?
- How to prepare it?
- How to share it?

What is a personal testimony?

A testimony is a true statement of an experience or happening in your life. Your personal testimony of your relationship with God tells of God's involvement in your life. It's special and unique, and the hearer is challenged to believe, even when it's beyond his/her understanding. No one else has a testimony exactly like yours.

A God related testimony is powerful

Focus your testimony on Jesus. There are special moments in the life of each believer when God's character (His love, mercy, peace, etc.) and His attributes (His omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence) are evident in a powerful way. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind when He manifested His presence this way in your life.

When you testify of your relationship with Jesus, your words become spiritual life to the listener. The Holy Spirit convinces the hearer that the supernatural work of God is involved--that you and God are personal friends.

God's Attributes at work...

The Answer magazine publishes men's testimonies that prove God's workings.

One example is the story of the Ford Motor

executive who, after bone marrow testing, was diagnosed with acute leukemia. He was given less than one month to live. He needed a miracle. One day, when he called out to God, the presence of God enter his room and touched him. He was miraculously healed. That was over 20 years ago. God is omnipotent--He is all-powerful.

Also in Answer was the testimony of an attorney. The Holy Spirit gave him thoughts, insights and knowledge, concerning a case he was working on. These were things of which he has not aware. This is an example of of God's knowledge of all things and how the indwelling Holy Spirit communicates those thoughts to the believer. God is omniscient--He knows all things.

A chapter president gave a testimony of the power of prayer and God's omnipresence. He was a Marine officer in Vietnam. He and his troops were ambushed. Many of his fellow Marines were mortally wounded. Under fire he cried out to God. At that very moment, thousands of miles away, his wife woke from a deep sleep feeling an urgent need to pray for him. God protected him. He and his wife found that there were many such urgent calls to pray at specific moments when he was in danger. God is omnipresent--He is everywhere.

Preparing your Testimony...

Your testimony witnesses to the fact that Jesus Christ is alive and working in the lives of believers today. It can be a snapshot of life--one or two incidents in a five-minute mini-testimony, or the main speaker's life testimony. Whichever you are asked to give, prepare using these principles:

1. Pray – Ask the Holy Spirit to recall the areas of your life or specific incidents HE wants you to share.

This is very important. You give the testimony, but the ministry belongs to the Holy Spirit. He will bring life to your words. He is the only one who knows the needs of every person who is about to hear your testimony. He will guide you to fulfill His purpose.

2. Keep Focused on Jesus – Share His personal involvement in your life.

It's easy to be distracted from the purpose of your testimony and dwell on insignificant details. Your testimony is powerful only when it is focused on Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit may lead you to share how He was with you and brought you through times of deep trial. On the other hand, He may have you tell of those times He brought wonderful blessings into your life.

3. Scripture – A Bible verse will bring authority to your testimony.

Brief passages of Scripture, shared from the heart, will confirm your testimony. Don't preach, but give testimony of God's workings in your life as confirmed by His word. As you live your life in Christ,

you become a "living" epistle. Paul talks about your testimony when he writes, "...being manifest that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."

(2 Corinthians 3:2)

4. Start with a current happening and then go back to where it began.

Giving a testimony is exciting! The Holy Spirit is doing something everyday in the believer. Start your testimony with a current happening.

Your excitement about your relationship with Christ can be contagious. Even though your first encounter with Him may have been years ago, tell how it happened. It's important to tell of the conditions which brought you to the place of surrender to Christ and why you needed Him. When you do this, those listening will understand that they need to do the same.

Remember to give God all the praise and glory for what He's done in your life. He has a plan and He's included you in it. When you face people - testify strong. You are a child of God, able to live a powerful life because of His love, mercy and grace and the power of the Holy Spirit at work within you. His saving grace deserves your praise.

5. Finally – Make eye-to-eye contact.

When you make eye-to-eye contact with people, you draw them into your story. Often, the Holy Spirit will cause you to look directly at one person. When that happens, it's because He's speaking to that individual.

Relax and smile. You've got a great story to tell.

Outline:

There are three basic points to consider when giving your testimony.

1. What was my life like before Jesus became my Savior?
 - What habits controlled me?
 - Was it alcohol? Sex? Gambling?
 - What was my disposition like?
 - How did I treat my family – wife and children?
 - Did I work honestly on my job?
2. How did the change take place?
 - When did I first realize that I needed Jesus?
 - When did I ask Him to be my Savior?
 - How did I do it? How did it takeplace?
3. How has my life changed as a result of receiving Jesus as my Savior?
 - What habits have been broken?
 - What sin has been overcome?
 - What is my inner makeup today?

Make some notes for your testimony:

My life before Jesus:

My Time of need:

The way I changed:

My life today:

Do's & Don'ts of a Testimony:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you prior to your introduction by the "MC".
2. Share those areas, which present Jesus Christ's involvement in your life.
3. Avoid Church Doctrinal issues.
4. Share Bible verses, which confirm your testimony.
5. Have a fresh, up to date testimony.
It demonstrates God's love, mercy and power in your life.

-
1. Don't speak negatively about churches, denominations, individuals, political parties, faiths or races.
 2. Don't give an invitation if you are giving a mini testimony, leave that to the main speaker.
 3. Don't lift up any organization or ask for donations to any organization.
 4. Don't speak more than the time allotted.
 5. Don't preach, give a personal testimony.