



Series: *Men Reaching Men*

How to Prepare a 3 Minute Elevator Testimony

Three things usually happen when a man comes to faith in Jesus. First, he sees the life of Christ exemplified in a man who shows a personal interest in him. Second, he hears that man's personal faith story. Third, he hears how he also can embrace the life-transforming gospel of Jesus. Use this worksheet to prepare a 3 minute "elevator speech" of your story (testimony). Time it to about one minute for each of the three sections. You can always talk longer if you're not on an elevator but, by doing it this way, you'll always "be prepared" (1 Peter 3:15).

BEFORE (150 words): What was your life like before you embraced Jesus? Empty, confused, lonely, disillusioned, futile, lacking significance, without purpose or meaning, discontent, successful but still not happy? As much as possible, relate your story to what you know about his story.

HOW (150 words): How did you come to profess faith in Jesus? Where? Who showed you the way? Why did you respond? Mention the love and holiness of God, conviction of your sins, hunger for truth, understanding who Christ is, repentance, and faith in Jesus.

AFTER (150 words): What has Christ done in your life since? Pick areas that have changed which relate to his struggles.

A CHALLENGE: If you want to get serious about sharing Christ with men (or already are), don't shoot from the hip. Take a couple of hours and write out, time, practice, and memorize your 3 minute "elevator" testimony. Pick words that sparkle and emote. Mark Twain said, "A powerful agent is the right word." And you already know what would happen if an athlete doesn't practice.



SELECTED QUOTES

"The chief conviction of the Christian is that Christ was not wrong." Unknown

"If you do not long to see the conversion of your hearers...you are not likely to see much success.... But, let all who preach for Christ and men's salvation be unsatisfied until they have the thing they preach for." Richard Baxter, 1656

"Never doubt the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. That's about the only way it has ever happened in the past. Margaret Mead, anthropologist. Think "twelve disciples."

"Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood." Daniel Burnham, on devising Chicago's Plan, 1909.

In the early 20th century Bruce Barton wrote, "Jesus brought forth men's greatest efforts by the promise of obstacles not rewards."

"Superficiality is the curse of our age. . . . The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people." Richard Foster

"I tell you that this sweet and loving gaze of God insensibly kindles a divine fire in the soul which is set ablaze so ardently with the love of God that one is obliged to perform exterior acts to moderate it."
Brother Lawrence

"One of the greatest reasons people cannot mobilize themselves is that they try to accomplish great things. Most worthwhile achievements are the result of many little things done in a single direction." Nido Quebin

Brother Lawrence wrote in *The Practice of the Presence of God*, "I have quitted all forms of devotion and set prayers but those to which my state obliges me. And I make it my business only to persevere in His holy presence."

"Your system is perfectly designed to produce the result you are getting." Unknown

"The wisdom of the years is confusing. Only the wisdom of eternity is edifying." Kierkegaard in *Purity of Heart Is to Will One Thing*.

Spurgeon once lamented that he could find ten men who would die for the Bible for every one who would actually read it.

Andrew Carnegie, "As I grow older I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do."



"Each generation of the church in each setting has the responsibility of communicating the gospel in understandable terms, considering the language and thought forms of that setting."
Francis Schaeffer

"Many Christians estimate difficulties in light of their own resources, and thus attempt little and often fail in the little they attempt. All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on his power and presence being with them." Hudson Taylor, taped to my Bible

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." Mark Twain

Andre Gide, "You cannot discover new lands unless you leave shore for a very long time."

Many of life's failures are men who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. Unknown

It is a great deal better to do all the things you should do, than to spend the rest of your life wishing you had. Unknown

Our tendency is to overestimate what we can accomplish in one year and underestimate what we can accomplish in ten years. Richard Foster

I do not pray to be successful. I ask to be faithful. Mother Teresa

One man has enthusiasm for 30 minutes, another for 30 days, but it is the man who has enthusiasm for 30 years who makes a success of his life. Edward B. Butler, American Scientist

I am a little pencil in the hand of God. Mother Teresa

"I would rather wake a slumbering church than a slumbering world." Dwight L. Moody

"I have missed more than 9,000 shots, lost almost 300 games; and, on 26 occasions, I've been entrusted to take the game-winning shot...and missed. I have failed over and over again in my life. And that is precisely why I succeed." Michael Jordan

"If you think you're too small to make a difference, you've obviously never been in bed with a mosquito." Michelle Walker

International Committee for the Study of Victimization: Looked at people who had suffered serious adversity—cancer patients, prisoners of war, accident victims, etc—and survived. Found people



generally fell into one of three groups: permanently dispirited, back to normal, and those who used the experience as the defining event that made them stronger. (Collins, Good to Great, 82).

"Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors." African proverb

The loss of the leader in some sense or other, the birth of misgivings about him, brings on the outbreak of panic. Sigmund Freud

T. S. Elliot, "Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go."

J.C. Ryle, "He must dig down very low if he would build high."

John Haggai says, "Attempt something for God so great that it is doomed to fail unless God is in it."

"Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God." Wm Carey, Cobbler: 1792, Baptists, Mission Movement

"God, send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. And sever any tie in my heart except the tie that binds my heart to yours." David Livingstone, missionary to Africa

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored." Aldous Huxley, 2 co 10:7: making decisions based on appearance of things.

"Every now and then go away -- even briefly, for when you come back to your work your judgment will be surer; since to remain constantly at work will cause you to lose power." Leonardo da Vinci, Italian painter and architect

"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but God, hate nothing but sin and are determined to know nothing except Christ and Him crucified, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth." John Wesley



SELECTED SCRIPTURE

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." Paul, Romans 1:16

"He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. . . . Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows. . . . He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities." Isaiah 53:2-5

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." Paul, 1 Corinthians 2:2

"Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" --Paul, 1 Corinthians 9:16

"But if I say, 'I will not mention him or speak any more in his name,' his word is in my heart like a burning fire, shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot." Jeremiah 20:9

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him. Job 13:15

"I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Jesus, John 3:3

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. . . . 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'" Paul, Romans 10:9,13

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Peter, Acts 4:12

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

"In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33

"You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious." Ezekiel 2:7

"I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds." Paul before King Agrippa, Acts 26:20



"My word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." God, Isaiah 55:11

"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh." God, Ezekiel 11:19

"They [God's priests] are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean." God, Ezekiel 44:23

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me." Paul, Philippians 1:21-16

"But before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into synagogues and prisons, and you will be accused before kings and governors of being my followers. This will be your opportunity to tell them about me. So don't worry about how to answer the charges against you, for I will give you the right words and such wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to reply! Even those closest to you—your parents, brothers, relatives, and friends—will betray you. And some of you will be killed. And everyone will hate you because of your allegiance to me. But not a hair of your head will perish! By standing firm, you will win your souls." Jesus, Luke 21:12-1

"And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, 'Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his *Father with the holy angels.*'" Jesus, Mark 8:34-38