

Acts 26 - A Testimony Like Paul

John Cole

Testimony; Salvation; Obedience; Transformation; A Witness / Acts 26; Acts 26:22–23

Paul, a seeing, hearing obedient former Pharisee continues in faith and ministry with Jesus.

INTRODUCTION:

10,000 Sermon Illustrations Testimony

Testimony

A rather pompous-looking deacon was endeavoring to impress upon a class of boys the importance of living the Christian life. "Why do people call me a Christian?" the man asked. After a moment's pause, one youngster said, "Maybe it's because they don't know you."

Our life testimony is a powerful thing.

Our testimony can be a tool to help others see their need for Christ and to help those in Christ to continue.

After looking at the context of Acts 26, we will look at five ways our testimonies are like Apostle Paul's, and we will see how we can use our testimony like Paul did in his ministry.

1) A Past: We all have one

Acts 26:4–5 KJV

⁴ My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;

⁵ Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

Our pasts are all different.

Our similarity is that we should be different from our past.

If we are not different from our past, we are not growing.

In what ways are you different?

10,000 Sermon Illustrations Learn from the Past

Learn from the Past

Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" You do not move ahead by constantly looking in a rear view mirror. The past is a rudder to guide you, not an anchor to drag you. We must learn from the past but not live in the past.

Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe

2) A Revelation: God reveals Himself to us

Acts 26:12–13 KJV

¹² Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

¹³ At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

God reveals himself to us in different ways: Scripture, people, Holy Spirit, divine influence within circumstances, etc.

3) A Call: God calls and commissions us

Acts 26:14–18 KJV

¹⁴ And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? *it is* hard for thee to kick against the

pricks.

¹⁵ And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

¹⁶ But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

¹⁷ Delivering thee from the people, and *from* the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

¹⁸ To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

4) A Decision: Our response is our responsibility

Acts 26:19–20 KJV

¹⁹ Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

²⁰ But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

5) A Commitment: We continue to this day

Acts 26:22–23 KJV

²² Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

²³ That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

Acts 26:25 KJV

²⁵ But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

Acts 26:27–29 KJV

²⁷ King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

²⁸ Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

²⁹ And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

CONCLUSION:

Reminds me of D. L. Moody's testimony:

10,000 Sermon Illustrations D. L. Moody

D. L. Moody

D. L. Moody made an covenant with God that he would witness for Christ to at least one person each day. One night, about ten o'clock, he realized that he had not yet witnessed; so he went out in to the street and spoke to a man standing by a lamppost, asking him, "Are you a Christian?" The man flew into a violent rage and threatened to knock Moody into the gutter.

Later, that same man went to an elder in the church and complained that Moody was "doing more harm in Chicago than ten men were doing good." The elder begged Moody to temper his zeal with knowledge. Three months later, Moody was awakened at the YMCA by a man knocking at the door. It was the man he had witnessed to. "I want to talk to you about my soul," he said to Moody. He apologized for the way he had treated Moody and said that he had had no peace ever since that night on Lake Street when Moody witnessed to him. Moody led the man to Christ and he became a zealous worker in the Sunday school.

ILL: Testimony of Edward Kimball witnessing to Moody>Chapman>Sunday>Ham>Billy Graham

Who will one day recite your testimony and how it impacted lives?