



What's Your Story?

If these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. —2 Peter 1:8

A powerful [testimony](#) comes from a pure life that's vertically connected with the right Person and horizontally concerned. And your testimony can be one of the most useful fishing-tools in your tackle box! Do you share it?

"They overcame him [the devil who deceives] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death" (Rev. 12:11, emphasis mine).

There was once a hardworking farmer named, H. C. Morrison, who became the founder of *Asbury Theological Seminary* due to his good testimony. Can you believe it?—from sowing mere physical seeds to sowing spiritual ones for God's glory. He was simply plowing in a field one day when he saw an elderly Methodist preacher riding by the farm on a horse.

The rider wasn't preaching at the time, but Morrison already knew that this older man was the real deal among many others who only claimed to be authentic. Yes, this equestrian holy man was a faithful, wise, and gracious guy, but not by his own determination. As Morrison watched this saint ride by, he became convicted of his sins and then Morrison quickly dropped to his knees to pray. Right there between the dirt clods and furrows in his field, alone, he repented and gave his heart to Christ. The Lord showed up just like He promised! Jesus forgave and entered his human spirit and Morrison was never the same again. And that can [happen to you](#) as well!

Augustine said, "Do you wish to be great? Then begin by *being*." That's what the Methodist minister did. Real greatness comes from what we are in relationship to Christ. Though we may seem to be doing nothing at all, we can be doing a whole lot that's worthwhile if our lives are godly and being guided by God's Spirit of grace. And even if we are one day set aside due to old age, sickness, or seclusion, we can still be prayerfully productive. Are you living in obscurity bedridden or house-bound? Your *holy life* can still bear fruit!

In a context of Jesus talking about cleansing, effectiveness and holiness through the Word, He commanded, ***"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me"*** (See Jn. 15:1-11). At any given time, Christians are either abiding in the Spirit or striving in the flesh. What are you doing? Dutch Christian Holocaust survivor, Cornelia Johanna ten Boom, used to put it like this: *Don't wrestle, just nestle!* Do you want to be holy with a good testimony in a non-spooky way? You *can't* make yourself that way.

Please know Christ; learning of Him well! I'm not talking about gaining mere head-knowledge and college degrees that can puff you up. You must know Him better than your best earthly friend, looking to him to meet all your needs instead of to the world or to yourself. You need to have a firsthand power-encounter; a supernatural experience that's biblical—you need to hear

His voice and obey! And God's Message to you will always jive with the Bible, His written Word. You could hear what I or others say about God all day, and you should test what we say against the Scriptures too, but please hear from Him directly. Stay close to God and His growing kids—just *be* a doer of what His Word says, as you reach out and serve those around you. That's how you and I can enjoy fruit that "**remains**" (v.16).

Holy faithfulness is God's standard for a good testimony.

"This is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 Jn. 5:11).

I lived so that all whom I met could see His Holy Spirit shining through me; O friend, is this what our hearts can say as we sit and think at the close of day? —Nicholson

What's Your Story? Every *real* Christian has a testimony to tell! My own family, for all practical purposes was a proper churchgoing clan—we hardly ever missed a Sunday. But we were some rowdy sinners too and proud of it. When I was a child, I guess you could say that we were somewhat religious folk on Sundays and non-religious for the other six days. On Sundays we were hoping to somehow earn some points with "*the Man upstairs.*" I sure wanted to go to this place that I'd heard a little bit about called, Heaven, and I wondered if our family's sterling attendance record would count for anything upon our arrival at the final Judgment. Surely good intentions and keeping most of the "rules" would help. I had real good timing in bell-ringing as an altar boy. I hated to dawn those typical black and white vestments though, but maybe that would gain me some extra favor.

We were far from perfect, but my brothers and I where out to make the most of every single day! How could we simultaneously be God's friends and go for the gusto? How could we hang out with our worldly surfer friends and still get through to the Lord when we said our prayers in church each week? If we were clever, we might be able to at least stay home from church and watch TV a few days a year ...if we could just look pale and pathetic enough. We'd have to lie real good, cough with a straight face, and act weak and sickly enough. I know this because I succeeded at it a few times, but somehow I also knew (erroneously) that if God graded on a curve, we'd all squeeze past Saint Peter and in through those pearly gates.

What I couldn't deal with in my teen years—what I couldn't seem to overcome by my own determination and efforts—was my addiction to the party lifestyle. I wanted so badly to get past all that dead religion and the junk that hindered me, but my sins of getting blasted-falling-down-drunk, and having sex with different surfer girls, or doing THC at rock concerts in bongos or by smoking Thai and Columbian joints or hashish ...it had a hold on me! It was my fault and I'm not proud of it. I didn't want to let my parents down, but the sin was fun for a season ...just like the Bible says it is. In 1977 I was starting to reap the pay check so to speak. It was like a living hell—DEATH INSIDE! It was scary to see some of my surfer friends dying young. Bad trips, hangovers, broken friendships, apathy, lack of good ambition, irresponsibility, crushed dreams—what a drag! I couldn't seem to get away from snorting lines of snow (cocaine) and my party buddies were always there to offer me more. I was going downhill fast without any brake lever to grab. And it's hard to take life sober without Jesus and the comfort of the Holy Spirit inside of you! I came as a dirty bum, repented the best way I could, and surrendered all. He washed me squeaky clean when no one else could. What a relief to find Jesus!

[Want To Read More Of Kurt's Story?...](#)

Tell Your Own Story With Confidence! Explain How Christ Saved You!

1. My Life before Christ

Don't glorify your past, but talk about what it was like before you became a Christian:

"I felt empty inside and nothing could fill it" (see Ecclesiastes 3:11).

"I felt separated from God" (see Isaiah 59:2).

"My life was dominated by sin and with pleasing myself" (see Luke 15:11-24).

2. My Life Changed by Christ

Talk about how you came into a relationship with Christ. Be sure to mention the important parts of the gospel:

1. *"I realized that I'm a sinner" (see Romans 3:23).*

2. *"I recognized that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins" (see Romans 5:8).*

3. *"I repented, or turned away, from my sins" (see Acts 3:19).*

4. *"I received Jesus Christ as Lord of my life" (see Revelation 3:20).*

3. My New Life in Christ

Talk about how your life is different now that you are a Christian.

○ *"God has given me peace" (see Romans 5:1).*

○ *"God has a wonderful plan for my life" (see Jeremiah 29:11).*

○ *"I know that I'm going to heaven" (see John 3:36).*

Have these fishing devos helped you get closer to God? [Let us know!](#) Tell us your story or how the Lord is using you to fish for lost people.