**Testimony Service**

*Steps on leading your congregation to share spiritual lessons learned in their daily lives*

“Never think that you can be Christians and yet withdraw yourselves within yourselves, each one is a part of the great web of humanity, and the experience of each will be largely determined by the experience of his associates.” 6T 362.2/CCh 265.7

“You will gladly bear testimony of the love of Christ before the congregation.” MYP 122

**What is appropriate to share in a testimony service?**

* Daily living experiences: daily trials, conflicts, temptations, victories, and the great joy gained through daily walking with Jesus.
* Praise and thanksgiving
* Thoughts, observations and feelings
* Expression of your desire for divine enlightenment
* How you found Jesus (your testimony)
* Precious experiences gained in serving others
* Dealings of God with His people (see Hebrews 10:32)
* Aspirations, hopes and dreams you have to serve God and others
* How God has led in your life
* What you have learned from your trials
* How God turned your trials or tragedies into triumphs
* It is OK to repeat testimonies … “Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, (repeated the angels as they praised the King of Kings), but God is glorified by it.” EW 115.3
* Praise for the blessings of the light of truth, which has come in messages of warning.
* “The Lord loves simplicity and humility”. EW 115.2

**What is not appropriate to share in a testimony meeting?**

* Trails that “appear” to be grievous (we are to witness that service to God is good)
* Expressions of doubt and unbelief
* Complaints

**When are testimony meetings appropriate?**

* Church service
* Prayer meetings and small groups meetings

**Who should testify in testimony meetings?**

* Anybody with a tongue (stammering is OK—remember Moses)
* Those who love God

**Who should not testify in testimony meetings?**

* Those who do not take their troubles to God in private prayer

**Blessings Promised:**

* The whole religious life will be uplifting, elevating, ennobling, fragrant with good words and works
* Many will awake as from a dream. (Review & Herald 1905-11-23.021)
* Strength to the soul and encouragement to others
* One hundred fold blessings
* Sharpen perceptive faculties
* Make us glad
* Gives pleasure to the entire heavenly universe
* God will honor them
* Talents will increase
* Strengthens the soul of the speaker and results in the benefit of those who listen
* Will give light, strength and knowledge that will aid others in their advancement in the divine life
* Names will be written in the Book of Remembrance
* All will be in sweet harmony
* There will be no danger of being affected by the evil angels
* Accounted by God as precious as gold (Letter 38, 1890)
* Increase in efficiency in God’s service
* Drive back the power of Satan
* Expel the spirit of murmuring and complaint
* Cultivates character attributes which will fit them for heaven
* No more effective means can be employed for winning souls to Christ
* The meeting will be as meat in due season, bringing to all present, new life and fresh vigor

**Results of non-compliance:**

* Failure to obtain the experience that the Lord wants him to have
* Becoming dwarfed and sickly for lack of opportunity to use their spiritual muscles
* Angels are grieved
* God’s Spirit leaves them
* Coldness and death reign in their midst
* Angels cease watching over them and they are left to the buffetings of Satan
* Church members become religious weaklings
* Great spiritual feebleness will result

Resource compiled by Dr. Bob Spady from the Pullman Church Plant … Information taken from the writings of Ellen White

Further Quotes:

"The gospel of salvation must be proclaimed to others. Every man who has felt the converting power of God becomes in a sense a missionary. There are friends to whom he can speak of the love of God. He can tell in the church what the Lord is to him, even a personal Savior, and the testimony given in simplicity may do more good than the most eloquent discourse.” CH 33

“We should not come together to remain silent; those only are remembered of the Lord who assemble to speak of His honor and glory and tell of His power; upon such the blessing of God will rest, and they will be refreshed.” EW 115

“Whenever believers are privileged to meet together, it is appropriate that they speak often one to another, giving utterance to the gratitude and love that results from thinking upon the name of the Lord. Thus shall God be glorified as He hearkens and hears, and the testimony meeting will be considered the most precious of all meetings.” OHC 168:4

“The testimony that Lord desires us to bear to the world is one that His praise should continually be in our hearts and upon our lips.” 6T 64

Remember…

Before sharing, prayerfully ask God to help you identify what He would have you share and to speak through you. Remember that a testimony service is for the uplifting of God and fellow believers, not for own self-gratification or recognition.