

God's Story: Your Story

Since an essential condition for water baptism is personal faith in Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Saviour (e.g., Acts 2:41; 8:12; 16:14, etc.), it can be helpful to stop and carefully think through your own personal story of Christian conversion. What has God been up to in your life, before, during, and since the prayer you prayed when you were converted? And what was that prayer like? What's your story? Every Christian has a story to tell and a confession of faith (Romans 10:9-10). So, if you need a little help to focus your thoughts and clarify them for listeners, try answering the questions below. These three suggested questions are based on the threefold pattern of the Apostle Paul's recorded testimony found in the book of Acts (9:1-19; 22:1-21 & 26:1-32).

1. What was I like before I became a Christian? (Without glorifying your sin, or ignoring your sin, how would you describe your lost condition, your sinful ways, before God saved you from them?)

2. How and when did I repent and believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour? (What kind of influences, conversations, experiences did God use to lead you to Jesus, and what specifically did you pray on the occasion when you placed your faith in Jesus for salvation?)

3. What difference has it made becoming a true follower of Christ? (Although none of us is perfect, in practical ways how has your life changed (attitudes, behaviours) since you placed your trust in Jesus your Lord?)

(Not that you have to read your testimony word-for-word, but by jotting down your thoughts it may help you to crystallize them so that they communicate exactly what you mean by what you want to say. Feel free to run your first draft past me or past someone you trust to gain some helpful feedback. Blessings, Pastor Bill)