

Paul's changed life was amazing to the Jews. Many believed at his word, because they could not deny that a miraculous change had taken place in his life and at the same time, other Jews who were once Paul's companions reacted much differently:

📖 Acts 9:23 And after that many days were fulfilled, the _____ took counsel _____:

Paul's changed life confounded the Jews, to the point that some were converted to Christianity, and others sought to kill him! Like Paul, when others can see a distinct and genuine change in us, they will be forced to explain it in their own minds. Some may be convinced that Jesus Christ has truly saved us, and others (even our friends) may decide to separate from us, or even persecute us.

📖 Matthew 5:16. **Q.** What do you think the "light" spoken of here means?

Q. What will men do when they see our good works?

📖 Acts 4:13. **Q.** What did the Jews "see" about Peter and John?

Q. How did they react? They m_____.

Q. What conclusion did they come to? They had_____.

The transformation seen in the lives of Paul, Peter, and John, had a great impact on those who heard their message. The Biblical Truths which they Declared were backed up by the Transformed Lives that they Bore!

Q. How do you think the response of the people would have been different toward Peter and John's message had they had no visible change in their lives?

The fact of the matter is, we cannot preach a life changing gospel message if we are not examples of a changed life! This is why it is of the utmost importance to maintain a proper testimony both in our character and our conduct.

📖 Romans 2:21-24. **Q.** According to verse 24, what affect does a hypocritical life have on the unsaved (Gentiles)?

The man who preaches Christ, but does not live like Christ, does not promote the Gospel but hinders it. He does not glorify the name of Christ but blasphemes it. If we are to preach Christ, we must Declare Biblical Truths, Share our Personal Testimony, and Bear a Life that has been Transformed!

This study is a continuation of lesson #12. In the last study we looked at some key Biblical truths that we must be familiar with if we are to be true witnesses for Jesus Christ. It is of the utmost importance that we understand and are able to share the Biblical facts regarding Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for us. But the qualities of a good witness for Jesus Christ do not stop there.

Harry Ironside said "*If lips and life do not agree, the testimony will not amount to much.*"

📖 James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and _____.

Our personal testimony is as important as our Bible knowledge. Our way of life (or our *works*) is the outward display of our inward nature. Therefore if the way that we behave does not reflect the character of Christ, there remains no reason for anyone to believe our personal testimony of salvation. The strength of our witness is determined by how well our manner of life reflects our message. For this reason, there are two other aspects of *Preaching Christ* that we must observe if we are to be successful witnesses for Jesus . First, *There is a Personal Testimony that we must Share*, and second, *There is a Visible Transformation that we must Bear*.

The Personal Testimony that we must Share

Everybody who has been saved, has a personal testimony. To "give your testimony" is simply a matter of telling the situations surrounding your own personal conversion. It doesn't matter if you were saved in prison, or saved as a young child, your testimony is a vital part of your witness! Over and over again in the New Testament we find the Apostle Paul giving his personal testimony. Let's look at Acts 26 where Paul testifies before King Agrippa, and see if we can answer some questions regarding Paul's conversion.

His Life Before His Conversion

📖 Acts 26:9-23 **Q. v9** How did Paul think he should behave toward Jesus?

Q. v10 How did Paul treat Christians?

Q. v11 How did Paul feel about Christians?

The Events Surrounding his Conversion

- Q. Where was Paul when he got saved?
- Q. What time was it when Paul got saved?
- Q. What other detail does Paul share about his conversion in v13?
- Q. Who did Paul meet on the road to Damascus?
- Q. v16-18. What plan did Jesus have for Paul?
- Q. v19. How did Paul respond to Jesus?

His Changed Life Since His Conversion

- Q. v20. What did Paul do after his conversion?
- Q. v21. How did his friends (the Jews) react to Paul?
- Q. v22-23. What message does Paul now preach?

The three aspects of Paul’s testimony; 1. His life before conversion; 2. The events surrounding his conversion; and 3. His changed life since his conversion, are aspects that each of us can share regarding our own salvation. Each of us has a story to tell about what we were before we got saved, how we felt about God, and our views regarding Jesus Christ. Each of us have a story to tell regarding the situation surrounding our conversion – the time, the place, our feelings at the time, and how we responded. And, each of us should have a testimony of how our lives have changed since we accepted Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Fill in the blanks below and let this be a record of your testimony.

My views about God and Christianity before I was saved:

Notable things about my life or lifestyle before I was saved:

Where I was when I got saved: _____

When I got saved (day/time): _____

How I heard the gospel message: _____

How I responded to the gospel: _____

How my life has changed since I was saved: _____

This is the testimony of how you personally responded to the Biblical truths regarding Jesus. We ought to become so familiar with our own personal testimony that we can share it with anyone at any time.

Now notice that Paul did not simply state how he responded to Christ on the road to Damascus, he went even further and told King Agrippa how his life had changed since his conversion. This is **The Visible Transformation that we must Bear**.

📖 Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but _____ by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Immediately after Paul’s salvation the Bible says *Acts 9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God*. This was an amazing change! The zealous Pharisee, Saul, who persecuted and sought to destroy the church, immediately became the Apostle Paul, the bold proclaimer of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Look at Acts 9:21, where we see the Jew’s reaction to Paul:

📖 Acts 9:21 But all that heard him _____, and said; _____ that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?