



Billy Graham Rapid Response Team chaplains pray for a resident after a devastating hurricane ripped through several neighborhoods in the Bahamas.

INCLUDING YOUR CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY IN YOUR WILL

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” —1 PETER 3:15, NIV

In the first article of Billy Graham’s will, he wrote, “When you read this, I will be safely with Jesus in Paradise. I will be awaiting the reunion of our family in Heaven.” He also encouraged “all who read this document to read and study the Scriptures daily and to trust only in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.” You too can point your loved ones to the hope of the Gospel by including your testimony in your will. Use the guide below to get started.

Your Christian testimony—the story of how you came to know Jesus Christ and how He’s changed your life—should not surprise your hearers but should simply confirm and clarify your lifestyle, values, and decisions. As you write it out, think about how you’ll be sharing your faith—both in your will and in conversations with others—and that will help you choose your words and determine what to include. Remember, the purpose of this exercise is two-fold: to remind you of Jesus Christ’s faithfulness and to share Him with others.

As you write your story, keep these tips in mind:

- Use everyday words and a conversational tone.
- Avoid religious phrases and jargon.
- Share from the heart—don’t preach.
- Be concise.

THE THREE-POINT TESTIMONY

God's Word offers the best outline for your testimony. Acts 26 records how the Apostle Paul stood before King Agrippa and gave his testimony—boldly, simply, and logically. Paul used three points: his life before Christ, how he met the Lord, and what his life was like after he became a Christian. Your testimony can follow the same pattern:

1. **My Life Before I Came to Christ:** Set the stage by sharing relevant information like your age, your friends and family, and your lifestyle, like Paul did in Acts 26:4-11. Include information you know unbelievers will be able to relate to. Connect your own experience to universal needs like love and forgiveness.
2. **My Conversion Experience:** In Acts 26:12-20, Paul describes how Jesus confronted him. Consider the circumstances that led you to encountering Christ—think about key events and highlight turning points. Include the steps you took, people you talked to, prayers you prayed, and Scripture passages that touched you.
3. **My New Life:** Finally, share how Christ has changed your life. Since you started following Him, how has your behavior, motivation, or values changed? In Acts 26:21-23, Paul declares his identity is now in God. How has your identity changed?