

Testimonial – Part 2

Josh McDowell

I. Introduction.

- A. One of the greatest evidences of Jesus Christ is a changed life.
- B. The process of the speaker's conversion.
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that anyone who is in Christ has become a new creation.

II. The speaker's conversion.

A. He had a restless thirst for happiness and meaning (Aquinas).

1. He struggled with three questions:

- a. Who am I?
- b. Why am I here?
- c. Where am I going?

2. He wanted to be free, but one cannot be free unless one is fully capable to do what one wants to do.

B. Background.

1. He grew up in Union City, Michigan.

2. He went to church but still had not found God.

3. He thought that education could be the answer.

a. It was a big mistake to think that the university could provide truth.

b. Professors used to avoid him because he had questions to life that they could not answer.

4. He ran for political offices in college.

5. None of these things provided the answers he needed to life.

6. The speaker met some students and professors that changed his life - they had convictions and love for both each other and those outside their group.

a. He began attending the group.

b. He became upset when the subject turned to God.

c. He pretended to have what they had, but he really did not.

d. He asked a girl there what changed her life and she responded “Jesus Christ.” He responded by saying he was sick of hearing about religion and religious people. The group challenged him to intellectually examine the claims of Jesus Christ.

e. He accepted the group’s challenge to refute Christianity.

C. The speaker’s investigation.

1. He frequently heard a voice that told him that he did not have a leg to stand on, but he suppressed it.

2. He eventually learned that he was becoming intellectually dishonest, so he became a Christian.

3. He prayed four things that changed his life.

a. Thank you for dying on the cross for me.

b. I confess that I am a sinner.

c. I place my trust in Jesus.

d. Thank you for coming into my life.

4. Right after he made that decision he felt sick to his stomach - he was afraid that he made an emotional decision that he would later regret and that his friends would think of him.

5. The speaker had to deal with his hatred of his father.

a. His father was the town drunk and he was always embarrassed of him.

b. He would plot how to kill himself.

c. His oldest sister committed suicide.

d. One brother sued his family.

e. The other brother ran away from home.

f. His mother lost the will to live and died after his graduation.

g. Jesus has dealt with the pain of the memory, but not the memory of the pain - this is to remind the speaker of God’s power in his life.

6. Only the love of Christ could motivate him to love his dad again.

a. He asked Jesus to come into his life and found the incentive to love his father.

- b. His father said that if God could change his son, he wanted that same change.
- c. His life was changed and scores of people came to know Christ because of it even though he died only shortly after.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Christianity is not a religion.
- B. It is not about us trying to earn God's pleasure.
- C. It is about accepting the free gift of salvation that Jesus gave us through the cross.
- D. Christianity is a relationship.
- E. Prayer.
- D. If you prayed that prayer, share your decision with others.

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STUDY GUIDE

Part 1: What do you see?

1. What does the speaker say that one of the greatest evidences for Jesus is? What was most compelling for him when he accepted Christianity?

2. What were some of the things that the speaker tried to fill his life with? Why did these things fail to make him happy?

3. What kind of changes occurred in the speaker's life when he accepted Christ?

Part 2: What do you think?

1. What stood out to you the most about the speaker's testimony? Explain.

2. Why is Christianity more than a religion? Why is it, as the speaker called it, a "relationship"?

3. How might Christianity provide the answers to the speaker's original questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? Explain.

Part 3: What will you do?

1. Is there anything that is keeping you from accepting Christ right now, if you haven't already? Are these good reasons?

2. The speaker says that he was being intellectually dishonest with the facts. Have you been intellectually dishonest with the facts concerning Christianity? Or have you been too demanding of more proof? What step can you take right now regarding any doubt you might have?

3. Did you pray that prayer? The speaker suggests that you go tell someone if you did, especially the person who shared this video with you. In light of the speaker's testimony, who else can you share with? What might be keeping you from doing this? Once again, are these good reasons?
