

Leap of Faith

Scripture Base

John 3:16 -17 -

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him.

Concept(s)

We all should have a testimony. Few pastors tell their testimonies more than once, and they rarely ask members to tell their stories. Many Christians have more than one testimony. Our testimonies can be from other times in our lives, not just our time of salvation. Good testimonies include other times we drew nearer to God. Our best testimonies recount seasons of rededication, discovering our need for God's love.

Purpose

People should share their testimonies to confess their sins, as we are commanded, and encourage others in their faith. Personal testimonies bring revival and members closer together. Testimonies are a great way to witness and testify about what God has done in the life of a Christian. Testimonies are powerful and cannot be denied.

(Background)

The author's testimony.

Spur

I grew up in a Christian family of five boys and one girl. We had always gone to Sunday school and church as a family. I was the youngest, and my oldest brother was eighteen years my senior. My third-oldest brother was home for Christmas one year, and I had just turned ten a few weeks before. He was in the Air Force serving in Morocco. He had recently rededicated his life to Christ, and his ambition was to lead his little brother to Christ, too.

Right before Christmas each year, our mother would ask me to get up in the attic and get out the Christmas stuff. All the boxes, wrapping, ornaments, lights, and decorations needed to be unboxed to decorate and display. My dad had built our house in the early 40s, and he designed and built the attic door right over the stairwell going upstairs. He made a little 1-foot landing and put a door above that landing to get into the attic. Being the

youngest and small for my age, my older brothers would lift me from the stairwell to the landing, where I would open the door and crawl inside to get the Christmas boxes. It saved someone from going to the garage to get a ladder. I would open the door, crawl inside, and hand the boxes down till everything was out, and then I would crawl out on the landing, close the door, and they would help me get down the stairs. This Christmas, my brother stood on the stairs below and told me to jump. He assured me that he would catch me. I had no fear; after all, this was my big brother. I jumped, and he caught me in his arms, set me down on the steps, and we all celebrated Christmas.

Later, when we were together and had time to talk, he asked me if I remembered that jump from the attic. I said, "Sure." He said, "You know you have grown quite a bit since I left. When I said, 'Jump,' I forgot about that, and I wasn't quite sure I could catch you. I thought maybe I made a mistake when you were in mid-air. We could have both fallen down the stairs and broken our necks." Then I got scared. I, too, had forgotten I had grown and that I was a few pounds heavier since my brother was home last. I was thinking how lucky I was that he could still catch me when he asked, "What if you had broken your neck? Do you ever think about dying and what it would be like if you died? Where will you go?"

I said, "No, I don't think so."

He said, "I think about it. I know lots of people who are afraid to die." He went on to say, "I'm not afraid of dying. I think it will be just like you jumping off that ledge. For most kids, that would have been scary." But, he said, "You weren't scared, you just jumped. You were sure I was going to catch you, and you weren't scared." I had to admit that was true.

He said, "Are you afraid to die?"

I said, "Yeah."

He said, "You don't have to be afraid. Jesus will be there to catch you just like I did. I wasn't quite sure I could catch you, but Jesus will catch you, and all you have to do is believe He will, just like you believed I would. That's faith, and if you believe in Jesus and that He will save you from falling down to hell, He will. He'll be there."

He had my attention, and from there, he explained all about repentance and that I was a sinner, Jesus's salvation, God's grace, and forgiveness. That was the first day I had faith and believed in Jesus. I am honestly not afraid to die, and I know I'm saved from hell. Are you?

Can it be that simple? It is. Your testimony isn't likely like mine, but somewhere, somehow, someone led you to Christ. If you don't have a story of when you accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, maybe you haven't met Him yet. It is not too late. Do you want to be saved from hell and death, and know where you go when you die? Talk to someone

whom you trust to lead you to Christ. From God's own Word, they will show you how easy it is to be saved. Take a leap of faith.

Pray

Lord, God, and Father, thank You for my brother, Mearl. Thank You for Your saving grace and Your sovereignty in my life. It took me years to understand what surrendering to You meant, but that day You revealed who You were and how You died for me. Thank You for Your Word and how You showed me the path designed for me. You are great and mighty, Lord. Thank You for loving and choosing me. Amen.