



KYLE LAURIANO

REAL TESTIMONIES.
RADICAL TRANSFORMATIONS.

BELIEVER

BUILDING A TESTIMONY MINISTRY: FROM PERSONAL STORY TO GLOBAL GOSPEL IMPACT

Real Testimonies. Radical Transformations.

KYLE LAURIANO MINISTRY



BUILDING A TESTIMONY MINISTRY: FROM PERSONAL STORY TO GLOBAL GOSPEL IMPACT

The Complete Guide to Creating, Growing, and Sustaining a
Powerful Testimony-Centered Movement Kyle Lauriano 2025

INTRODUCTION: WHY YOUR STORY MATTERS

In a world saturated with information, personal stories cut through the noise.

People don't believe what they're told. People believe what they see lived out. **Testimony—the story of what God has done in your life—is one of the most powerful evangelistic and discipleship tools available to the church.**

WHY TESTIMONIES WORK

✓ **Humanize faith** — Bring theology down to earth ✓ **Make Gospel concrete** — Show God's power in real life ✓ **Inspire hope** — If God did it for them, He can do it for me ✓ **Demonstrate God's power** — Living proof of transformation ✓ **Create connection and belonging** — Stories build community ✓ **Overcome skepticism** — Hard to argue against lived experience

THE CURRENT MOMENT FAVORS TESTIMONY

Skepticism of institutions: People don't trust organizations. They trust people.

Digital storytelling: Technology makes sharing accessible to everyone.

Hunger for authenticity: People are exhausted by polished religion. They crave real.

Mental health awareness: Testimonies of healing resonate in a struggling world.

Gospel urgency: The Great Commission requires every available tool.

Now is the time.

PART 1: FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES

UNDERSTANDING TESTIMONY

A testimony is:

- Your personal story of encountering God
- Evidence of God's work in your life
- Witness to God's power and reality
- Invitation for others to encounter God
- Encouragement to struggling believers

A testimony is NOT:

- Self-promotion or platform building
 - Entertainment or performance
 - Your credentials or achievements
 - Shame exposure or trauma dumping
 - Advice-giving (unless specifically requested)
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THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION: THE POWER OF TESTIMONY

Revelation 12:11 (KJV):

"They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

Testimony is identified as a weapon that overcomes spiritual darkness. Your story has power.

WHY TESTIMONY PREACHES

- 1. Testimony is undeniable** Opponents can argue theology. They can't argue what God did in your life. Your story is your authority.
- 2. Testimony is relatable** People see themselves in testimonies. If God worked in someone like them, God can work in them too.
- 3. Testimony is transformative** Hearing how God changed someone creates hope that He can change them. It's contagious.
- 4. Testimony is apostolic** The apostles didn't just teach doctrine. They testified to what they'd seen and heard. **"We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."** (Acts 4:20)
- 5. Testimony demonstrates reality** A changed life is proof that God is real. It's more convincing than any argument.

PART 2: YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

DISCOVERING YOUR STORY

Your story is powerful. You might not realize it yet.

WHAT MAKES A POWERFUL TESTIMONY

Clear turning point: Obvious before and after

Honest struggle: Real problems, not glossed over or dramatized

Jesus central: How Jesus specifically changed things

Specific details: Concrete moments, not vague generalities

Authentic emotion: Real feeling comes through

Gospel clarity: How someone could have what you have

FINDING YOUR STORY: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What was my life like before Jesus?

- Spiritually: What was I looking for? What filled my emptiness?
- Practically: What habits or patterns controlled me?
- Emotionally: How did I feel about myself and my life?

2. What brought me to Jesus?

- How did I hear the Gospel?
- What convinced me it was true?
- What was the decision moment?

- Who influenced me (if anyone)?

3. How has Jesus changed me?

- Specific ways I'm different
- Areas of healing or freedom
- New purpose discovered
- Relationships restored or transformed

4. What would I say to someone in my old situation?

- What hope would I offer?
 - What truth would I share?
 - How would I invite them to Jesus?
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STRUCTURING YOUR TESTIMONY: THE THREE-PART FRAMEWORK

PART 1: BEFORE JESUS (30 SECONDS TO 2 MINUTES)

Describe your life before faith:

- Paint a picture of your struggle or emptiness
- Don't glorify sin, but be honest about pain
- Show the problem clearly
- Help people understand why you needed Jesus

Example opening:

"Before I met Jesus, I was searching for meaning everywhere. I tried success, I tried relationships, I tried substances. Nothing filled the emptiness I felt inside..."

PART 2: MEETING JESUS (1 TO 2 MINUTES)

How you came to faith:

- How did you hear the Gospel?
- What convinced you it was true?
- The moment you believed

- What you immediately understood about Jesus

Example structure:

"A friend invited me to church. At first I thought it was weird, but then the pastor said something that stopped me cold. He said, 'Jesus died for YOU.' That's when it clicked. He didn't die because I deserved it. He died because He loved me..."

PART 3: AFTER JESUS (30 SECONDS TO 1 MINUTE)

Specific transformation:

- Healing, freedom, or purpose discovered
- Relationships transformed
- Character changes
- Why following Jesus is worth everything

Example closing:

"Today my life is completely different. I have peace I never knew existed. My family is restored. And I wake up knowing my life has meaning. That's what Jesus did for me."

STRUCTURING YOUR TESTIMONY: WRITING EXERCISE

Write your testimony using this template:

Before Jesus: [Write 2-3 sentences describing your pre-faith life]

Meeting Jesus: [Write 3-4 sentences about your conversion]

After Jesus: [Write 2-3 sentences about your transformation]

PRACTICING YOUR TESTIMONY

Reading your testimony once isn't enough. Repetition builds confidence.

FOUR-WEEK PRACTICE PLAN

Week 1: Write and refine

- ☐ Write out full testimony
- ☐ Read it aloud 5 times
- ☐ Note awkward phrases or transitions
- ☐ Refine and rewrite

Week 2: Memorize structure (not exact words)

- ☐ Memorize key points and stories
- ☐ Practice natural, conversational delivery
- ☐ Record yourself on your phone
- ☐ Listen and identify areas to adjust

Week 3: Practice with people

- ☐ Share with accountability partner or mentor
- ☐ Share in small group setting
- ☐ Get honest feedback
- ☐ Refine based on feedback received

Week 4: Live delivery

- ☐ Share in church or public setting
 - ☐ Video record if possible
 - ☐ Final refinements based on actual delivery
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REFINING THROUGH FEEDBACK

Ask people who hear your testimony:

- What stood out to you?
- Where did you feel emotion?
- What wasn't clear or confusing?
- Did the Gospel come through clearly?
- Would you want to hear more?
- How did it make you feel about God?

Common feedback and how to address it:

Feedback	What It Means	How to Fix
"Too many details"	You're overwhelming with information	Simplify; focus on key moments
"Jumped too fast"	You skipped important transitions	Slow down; explain the journey
"Didn't explain the Gospel"	People don't understand how to have what you have	Make Jesus's role crystal clear
"Felt like bragging"	Too focused on your accomplishments	Refocus on God's work, not yours
"Too rehearsed"	Sounds memorized and stiff	Practice sounding conversational

PART 3: TESTIMONY MINISTRY LAUNCH PLAN

MONTH 1: FOUNDATION AND RECRUITMENT

WEEK 1: VISION AND PLANNING

- ☐ Define your vision for this ministry clearly
- ☐ Write your vision statement
- ☐ Identify 2-4 core team members
- ☐ Schedule first planning meeting
- ☐ Establish communication channels

WEEK 2: STORY RECRUITMENT

- ☐ Identify 4-6 people with powerful testimonies
- ☐ Have personal conversations with potential sharers
- ☐ Get initial commitments
- ☐ Schedule recording dates
- ☐ Begin testimony coaching

WEEK 3-4: CONTENT PREPARATION

- ☐ Choose primary platform (YouTube recommended)
- ☐ Set up account and channel
- ☐ Create basic branding/graphics
- ☐ Write compelling channel description
- ☐ Record your personal testimony video

- ☐ Record 2-3 additional testimonies

Success metrics for Month 1:

- ☐ 4-6 testimonies recorded
 - ☐ Platform set up and ready
 - ☐ Team aligned on vision
 - ☐ Launch date scheduled
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MONTH 2: LAUNCH AND GROWTH

WEEK 5-6: CONTENT LAUNCH

- ☐ Publish your testimony video
- ☐ Publish 2-3 additional testimonies
- ☐ Create social media graphics for each
- ☐ Write blog posts accompanying videos
- ☐ Share across all platforms
- ☐ Set up email newsletter

WEEK 7-8: GROWTH ACCELERATION

- ☐ Develop social media posting schedule
- ☐ Create share-able graphics
- ☐ Record 2-3 more testimonies
- ☐ Implement engagement strategy
- ☐ Reach out to networks for promotion

Growth targets for Month 2:

- 50-100 subscribers
- 10-20 views per video
- Growing email list
- Consistent weekly content
- Community beginning to form

MONTH 3: COMMUNITY BUILDING

WEEK 9-10: DEVELOP COMMUNITY

- ☐ Host first online Q&A with testimonies
- ☐ Create private community group
- ☐ Host first monthly gathering (virtual or in-person)
- ☐ Develop small group discussion materials
- ☐ Record testimonies from community members

WEEK 11-12: EVALUATE AND ADJUST

- ☐ Review progress from Months 1-3
- ☐ Analyze what's working and what isn't
- ☐ Adjust strategy based on data
- ☐ Plan ongoing monthly production schedule
- ☐ Begin planning for scaling phase

Growth targets for Month 3:

- 200-300 subscribers
- 30-50 views per video
- Active community group
- Regular engagement and participation
- Foundation set for sustainable growth

PART 4: PLATFORM STRATEGY

CHOOSING YOUR PLATFORM

Platform	Best For	Time Investment	Reach	Best For Starting
YouTube	Video testimonies	High	Very High	YES
Podcast	Audio stories	Medium	Growing	Later
Blog/Website	Long-form writing	Medium	Organic	Complementary
Email	Direct connection	Low	Very Loyal	YES
Instagram	Short clips	Medium	High	Later

Recommendation: Start with YouTube + email list. This combination maximizes reach and retention.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL SETUP

Channel Name: Clear, memorable, branded

Channel Description Example:

"Stories of transformation through Jesus. Real people. Real faith. Real impact. Join our community discovering what God can do."

Channel Art:

- Professional banner (2560 x 1440 pixels)
- Recognizable logo/profile picture
- Consistent branding throughout

Organize with playlists:

- "My Story" — Your testimonies
 - "Healing Stories" — Restoration testimonies
 - "Faith Journey" — Spiritual growth stories
 - "New Believer Stories" — Recent conversions
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YOUTUBE STRATEGY FOR GROWTH

Upload consistency: Weekly, same day and time

Video length: 15-30 minutes optimal

Title optimization: Include keywords + curiosity hook

Thumbnail: Eye-catching, professional, text overlay

Description: Include clear call-to-action and links

Tags: 3-5 relevant tags

First 30 seconds: Hook viewers immediately

PART 5: CONTENT CREATION WORKFLOW

CONTENT TYPES

1. Solo Testimony

- You sharing your story
- 15-30 minutes
- 1-2 times monthly

2. Interview Format

- You interviewing someone
- 20-40 minutes
- 2-4 times monthly

3. Quick Clips

- 2-5 minute excerpts
- Perfect for social media
- Multiple from each full video

4. Behind-the-Scenes

- Production, interviews, authentic moments
- 3-8 minutes
- Bi-weekly

PRODUCTION WORKFLOW

Phase 1: Pre-Production (1-2 hours)

- Contact and schedule interview
- Research their story
- Develop interview questions
- Tech setup and test
- Environment preparation and prayer

Phase 2: Recording (45-90 minutes)

- Record main testimony (30-45 min)
- Record supplementary footage
- Capture closing comments

Phase 3: Post-Production (3-5 hours)

- Download and organize footage
- Edit and timeline
- Color correction
- Audio mix
- Graphics and titles
- Final export

Phase 4: Optimization (1-2 hours)

- Write title and YouTube description
- Create thumbnail

- Generate accompanying blog post
- Create social media graphics

Phase 5: Publishing (1-2 hours)

- Publish on YouTube
- Post on blog/website
- Share on social media
- Email to subscriber list
- Personal outreach to networks

Total production time: 8-12 hours per full interview

INTERVIEW BEST PRACTICES

Before the interview:

- Research their story thoroughly
- Develop thoughtful interview questions
- Create comfortable environment
- Test all technical equipment
- Pray for openness and anointing

Interview structure:

1. **Their story (15-20 min)** — Let them tell the full narrative
2. **Their faith (10-15 min)** — How their faith has developed
3. **Their impact (5-10 min)** — How their story impacts others

After the interview:

- Send them clips immediately
- Thank them genuinely and personally
- Share their story in your networks
- Check on them after public sharing

PART 6: RECRUITING TESTIMONY SHARERS

FINDING POWERFUL STORIES

Where to look:

- Your small group or church community
- Friends and family
- Partner churches and organizations
- Online communities
- Recovery and support groups
- Professional networks

What makes a powerful story:

- Clear transformation (obvious before/after)
 - Recent healing (fresh perspective)
 - Relevant to your audience
 - Specific details (concrete, not vague)
 - Authentic emotion
 - Gospel clarity (Jesus is central)
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INVITING PEOPLE TO SHARE

The personal ask (one-on-one is best):

"Your story is powerful. I'm building a testimony ministry and I believe your story could impact people. Would you be willing to share your testimony on video? I'll coach you through it and we'll make it comfortable."

Handling objections:

Objection	Response
"I'm not a good speaker"	"This isn't about being a polished speaker. It's about your authentic story."
"I'm not far enough along"	"Your journey matters right now, exactly where you are."
"I'm too private"	"We'll make this comfortable. You control what you share."
"My story isn't dramatic"	"The most powerful stories are often quiet ones of steady faith."
"What if I mess up?"	"We record multiple takes. We'll get it right."

COACHING TESTIMONY SHARERS

Preparation session (30-45 minutes):

1. **Review** — Explain format, show examples, answer questions
 2. **Structure** — Work through before/during/after Jesus
 3. **Practice** — Record practice version, provide feedback
 4. **Refine** — Adjust together
 5. **Record** — Final version
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PASTORAL CARE FOR SHARERS

For heavy topics (trauma, abuse, addiction, suicide attempts):

Before recording:

- Pastoral conversation to assess readiness
- Set clear boundaries about what to share
- Get written consent
- Plan for emotional support

During recording:

- Go slowly and compassionately
- Allow breaks
- Don't push for maximum detail
- Stop if person becomes too upset

After recording:

- Debrief and support
- Check in regularly
- Provide resources
- Thank them genuinely

PART 7: COMMUNITY BUILDING

CREATING BELONGING

The goal: People feel part of something bigger than themselves

Elements of healthy community:

- Connection (people know each other)
- Purpose (shared mission)
- Voice (people feel heard)
- Contribution (people can participate)
- Support (people help each other)

BUILDING CONNECTION

Online:

- Private community group (Discord, Facebook)
- Monthly Zoom calls
- Active comment engagement
- Email conversations
- Online Bible studies

In-person:

- Monthly gatherings
- Quarterly conferences
- Annual celebration event
- Small group meetings
- Coffee meetups and fellowship

SMALL GROUP INTEGRATION

Create discussion materials for each testimony:

Sample discussion guide structure:

Opening (5 min): Thought-provoking opening question

Video (20 min): Watch the testimony

Discussion (25 min):

1. What moment stood out to you?
2. How does this story relate to your life?
3. What does God want you to know from this?
4. What would you say to someone in their old situation?

Application (5 min): Personal reflection: Who needs to hear this story?

Prayer (5 min): Pray for each other

PART 8: THEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR TESTIMONY

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (KJV):

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort ourselves receive from God."

Key principle: God doesn't waste our pain. He redeems it. Our comforted hearts become comfort for others. **Your pain becomes your platform.**

WHY STORIES HEAL

1. **Normalization** — Shows we're not alone in struggle
 2. **Hope** — Demonstrates transformation is genuinely possible
 3. **Permission** — Gives people permission to be honest about their struggles
 4. **Connection** — Creates bond through shared human experience
 5. **Power** — Demonstrates God's actual power in real life
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CONCLUSION: YOUR TESTIMONY MOVEMENT

THE VISION

You're not just building a ministry. You're building a movement.

A movement where:

- Real people share real stories
- Jesus is glorified and centered
- Broken people find hope and healing
- Skeptics encounter Jesus
- Communities are transformed
- Believers are discipled

This starts with you.

YOUR NEXT STEPS

This week:

- ☐ Write your personal testimony
- ☐ Identify 4-6 people with powerful stories
- ☐ Begin initial conversations

This month:

- ☐ Finalize your vision statement
- ☐ Set up YouTube channel
- ☐ Record your testimony

This quarter:

- ☐ Launch initial content
- ☐ Build your team
- ☐ Create community

This year:

- ☐ Establish consistent growth
 - ☐ Develop sustainable systems
 - ☐ Begin multiplying leaders
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THE PROMISE

Revelation 12:11 (KJV):

"They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

Your testimony is a weapon in God's arsenal. It will do kingdom work. It will point people to Jesus. It will never return empty.

KEY RESOURCES

On testimony:

- "Telling Your Story" — Annabel Cole
- "The Miracle of Storytelling" — Chaplain Ray Leonard

On content creation:

- "Steal Like an Artist" — Austin Kleon
- "Platform" — Michael Hyatt

On community building:

- "The Art of Community" — Charles Vogl

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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

This comprehensive resource equips ministry leaders, content creators, and believers with the tools to build powerful testimony-centered movements that glorify Jesus and transform communities through authentic stories of God's grace.