



# criteria for testimony publishing/speaking

1. **PURITY:** You must be free from **all** addictive sexual impurity, (including habitual masturbation, pornography addictions, phone sex, sexual relating, all forms of cyber-sexual activity via chat, etc.). You **MUST** be free from any physical sexual encounter with another for at least (2) two years. You must also be free from emotional idolatrous relationships for at least (2) two years. You must demonstrate that you walk with purity in your relationships with others and carry a good report in your community as a person of integrity.
2. **AUTHORITY:** You must have the blessing of spiritual leadership in your life, e.g. pastors, parents, elders, deacons, mentors etc.; they must know everything. (e.g. no surprises in your testimony or printed story with those in authority over your life).
3. **5th COMMANDMENT:** You must have the blessing of your parents, believing or unbelieving in Christ. At the very least, your parents should clearly understand what you are doing and have given no specific reason why you should not give your testimony publicly or to publish it. The motive to honor, comfort, cover shame and guilt in the family is vital to you. You are considering your parents, grandparents and family first.
4. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** You have established accountability. You regularly confess your sins and your places of vulnerability to all forms of your particular temptations. You are consistently vulnerable to confess the areas of shame, fear, rejection and self-hatred to expose spiritually dark oppression in your soul. You embrace this as a lifestyle of joy and freedom, not restriction.
5. **COMMUNITY:** You are in consistent attendance or are a member of a local Bible-believing fellowship of Christians where you are developing healthy friendships. You are consistently seeking growth in this community to be conformed to Jesus' ways and to be His follower.
6. **LOVE:** Consideration must be given to your immediate family members and close friends to communicate with them **first**, before they hear your story/testimony from another source. It is not always necessary to have their blessing or permission; however, you have demonstrated that you have considered and shown love to your family and close friends by being gracious to first tell them your story or share what will be distributed or shared publicly before others can read/learn of it.
7. **CLEAR OF OFFENSES:** You **MUST** have cleared all issues of personal offenses, especially if they were sexual in nature. You must have a clear conscience that you have done your best to reconcile with anyone you may have offended, sexual or otherwise. You have demonstrated you are a person of forgiveness. Likewise, you must have a clear conscience in forgiving anyone who has offended you. You must demonstrate that you have a good reputation as being a person of integrity and above reproach in Christian conduct in your community.
8. **SPIRITUAL WARFARE & PRAYER LIFE:** You **MUST** demonstrate you are aware of spiritual warfare and have a mature knowledge to fight the good fight of faith. You must have maturity to walk consistently through the tactics and trails of any opposition you may face from preparing or giving your testimony. You should have a consistent prayer life and know how to pray to be free from oppression. We recommend you start slowly in a small community and grow slowly in your exposure to allow yourself to grow in being tested, before putting anything in writing for distribution or public speaking at large.
9. **COUNTING THE COSTS – CONSIDERING FUTURE RAMIFICATIONS:** You must know that God has truly led you to be open with your story. You must have counted the costs of being known by the content of your story for the rest of your life. You must count the cost that it could possibly affect future relationships, including employment. You must also realize that our culture has changed concerning freedom from a life identified as LGBTQ+ and the Biblical message calling LGBTQ+ behaviors sinful. Persecution is rising rapidly towards real sincere Bible-believing Christians. You should take time to think about your future relationships and your family, and receive godly counsel so you can be resolute, full of faith in God and without any regret in your future.