

Witnessing Translation Guide

When sharing your testimony with people who are not familiar with Christianity and the “language of Zion,” it is important that you express yourself in a way that can be understood. This word chart should help you find a more effective way to share your faith with secular people and those from other cultures and backgrounds.

“Religious” Expression	Might be Interpreted by Some to Mean	“Translations” That More Clearly Express What You Want to Say
Christian	Non-Jew Church member Ethical, moral person	A follower of Christ. One who has a living relationship with Jesus Christ as a person whom he or she knows and loves.
Saved	Being religious You were rescued from some danger. All mankind was saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus.	Rescued from the power of living a self-directed life. Having experienced a breakthrough of God into your life. Transfer of ownership of your life from self to Jesus.
Revival	A comeback. New public interest in an old product.	A series of religious meetings to renew devotion to God. Feeling a barrier between yourself and God.
Under conviction	Conscience bothers you. You feel guilty. Found guilty of a crime.	God convinces you that you are living a self-directed life out of fellowship with God. Feeling a barrier between yourself and God.
Sin Lost in Sin	Specific acts that are considered wrong. Something you feel guilty about. Forgetfulness.	Man’s basic nature; rebellion against God. Living a self-directed life. A wrong relationship with God.
Repent Repentance	Being sorry you were caught doing wrong. A resolve to do better. Turning over a new leaf. A change of mind.	Admit our wrong relationship with God and ask God to help us turn from it. Willing to turn around and go the other way. Turn from living my way to follow God’s way.
Believe	To think something is true: head knowledge. Intellectual assent to Christian faith.	To know something is true by experience: heart knowledge. Experiential faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

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Invitation	Request for a person’s company. Temptation or attraction.	A time at the end of the meeting when the speaker asks for a public response. An opportunity to publicly state your faith in Jesus or request membership in a church.
Walk the aisle	Is this like “walking the plank?”	Walk to the front of the room in response to the speaker’s request.
Born again	Reincarnation. Baptized. Growing in Christian ways. Strongly committed (to anything) or having a change of opinion (about anything).	A radical change; the beginning of spiritual life. Receiving God’s kind of life. A personal experience with Jesus Christ in which God becomes real to you.
Baptism	To christen; to give a child a name. Joining a religious group. Accepting a religious belief.	Immersion in water to symbolize the Christian’s death to sin and new life in Christ. A public witness that one has a new life.

Adapted from a reprint of an article in the February 1982 *Royal Service*, a former publication of the Woman’s Missionary Union, SBC. Used by permission.