

# Miracle Story Interviews

By: Caron Oswald

Kristy pulled me aside one Sabbath when I visited her church. With tears, she told me about her ovarian cancer, months of painful treatment and that it was now in remission.

“It was you who got me through this. When I was lying on the bathroom floor in between long bouts of vomiting, I would remember what you said about your life and how Jesus will never leave us no matter what.” I didn’t know who Kristy was, but she had heard my testimony and it had made a difference in her life.

Sharing our personal experience of God’s involvement in our lives with other people can have a transformative affect on their lives. Testimonies have the abilities to give fresh hope, renewed courage, and deepened faith.

Testimonies of answered prayer are a wonderful way to enliven a church service or prayer meeting. When you hear an experience about answered prayer, a personal journey of faith or learning to trust God’s promises, you know this story will impact lives and you want to have it shared. But there is a problem... most people don’t how to share their testimony effectively. Hand them the mic and they may never stop talking. Or they may get stage fright and forget what God has done for them.

So, how do you help others to tell their story—in front of churches, events and retreats? The answer is two interviews: 1) an initial interview ahead of time so that you know the person’s story almost as well as they do, and then 2) an onstage interview in which you guide the person in telling their story.

A few facts to remember as you prepare to interview people:

- It is simple (I didn’t say easy) and anyone – that means you – can learn how to tell a miracle story! In Jesus’ power and for His glory.
- Trust the Holy Spirit. He knows what He is doing.
- God chose this story for this time in this place.
- It is harder to interview than to be interviewed.
- The story teller is more nervous than you.
- Too many words are the enemy.
- The interviewer’s job is to stay out of the way.
- No interview is perfect.
- Holy Spirit carries God’s message to the listener’s ear. No matter what you said or forgot to say, God is in charge.
- It is simple (I didn’t say easy) and anyone can learn how!

**Your Strengths:** The Holy Spirit and prayer support and encouragement of friends

**Your Challenge:** Time

**Your Obstacles:** Too many words and convincing someone to share in public

More Prayer Coordinator Resources are available at:

[www.ministerialassociation.org/prayer](http://www.ministerialassociation.org/prayer)

## The Initial Interview

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you, to hear His voice, for wisdom and discernment.

1. *What is the story you have to tell?* Ask the individual to tell you their story and then let them talk.
2. *How much time do you have.* Plan the length of your interview is accordingly. Longer is easier.
3. *Know the story.* Listen until the person is finished. People have to tell every detail – this could include partial or their whole life. If you don't listen, you will hear it up front. Interview in person or telephone. If you are at an event or retreat, interview the person as early as possible.
4. *Take notes.* On your computer or written.
5. *Pray together, claiming God's promises* and thank Him for an opportunity to share what He can do.

## Preparing for the Onstage Interview

6. *Re-read your notes* highlighting the facts, experience and results.
7. *Outline questions to ask to guide the interview.*
8. *Select the information/background* you will tell to begin the interview and before each question.
9. *Meet with your story teller* and go over the outline explaining how you will facilitate their story.
10. *Don't practice the answers.* A crafted or memorized response will block the real and honest responses to what God has done. Let the Holy Spirit impress and give them the words to speak.

## During the Onstage Interview

11. *Remember that you have the LEAST words.* Give the story teller center stage. Write an outline on an index card and take it on stage. Put it on a music stand or podium or hold it in your hand.
12. *Ask your questions simply* so that it is easy for the story teller to answer. Give a little background to your question where needed. This is where you can summarize parts of their story so that they can tell the most important parts.
13. *NEVER give up the mic.* You will lose control of time. If one is given to your person, gently take it away and stand next to them.
14. *Stand by the story teller.* He or she looks at you, not the audience. They tell you the story as the audience watches.
15. *Remember the story teller is more nervous than you.* Try to help them be at ease.
16. For the ending, ask the story teller how this experience has changed their lives, what they would want to tell the audience.
17. *No matter what happens, the Holy Spirit* will carry God's message to the ears of listeners. He chooses us to spread His story of redemption, the second coming and who He is and what He is doing in the meantime.

18. *Thank your interviewee* for sharing their story of God's intervention in their life.

**Note:** A fun way to learn is to prepare and do an interview with friends and/or family members. They are not teachers or advisors. Think of them as classmates getting ready for a play.