



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#24)  
The nature of "witnessing";  
the myth of "silent witnessing."

## "WITNESSING"

### "Testifying" about the Good News

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my **witnesses** to **testify** about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.  
Acts 1:8 (GW)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole inhabited earth as a **testimony** to all the nations, and then the end will come.  
Matthew 24:14 (NET)

### IT'S ALL THE SAME

#### NEW TESTAMENT GREEK WORD GROUP...

(This includes various word forms, such as nouns and verbs.)

- ✓ WITNESS, WITNESSING, ETC.
- ✓ TESTIMONY, TESTIFY, ETC.

} **Two** different word groups in English.

**The words may refer to:**

- **Something** that is observed or known to be factual (such as "the testimony").
- **A person** who makes the observation (the "witness").
- **An act** of reporting the observations or facts to others (such as "testifying").

### IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A "SILENT WITNESS"?

**YES?** – You CAN be silent AS you observe ("witness") something happening.

**YES?** – You CAN keep silent AFTER you observe something, so nobody knows you saw it.

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**NO?** – You CANNOT silently tell others ("witnessing" or "testifying") about something you have observed or discovered to be true.

### THE MODERN-DAY CONCEPT OF "SILENTLY WITNESSING" ABOUT JESUS:

**THERE IS NO SUCH THING!**



I'M A "SILENT WITNESS"! I TELL PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS WITHOUT TELLING THEM ANYTHING!

- IT DOESN'T EXIST in the Bible.
- IT CONTRADICTS the very nature of "witnessing."

THEN WHY DO PEOPLE KEEP TELLING ME THAT I SHOULD:

"PREACH THE GOSPEL AT ALL TIMES. USE WORDS IF NECESSARY."

THEY SAY IT'S A FAMOUS QUOTE FROM ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI!  
(A Franciscan monk from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century)

**SURPRISE!**

- It's a "fake quote"! There is **NO EVIDENCE** that he ever said it.
- It **CONTRADICTS** his life – he was constantly preaching with words!

**MORE IMPORTANTLY...**

- It **CONTRADICTS** the BIBLE.



**THIS "FAKE QUOTE" HAS BECOME POPULAR  
ONLY IN RECENT YEARS...**

↳ As hostility to the existence of "truth" has increased, so has the use of this fake quote.



**THINK ABOUT WHAT THIS QUOTE IS REALLY ACCOMPLISHING!**

↳ People are using a "fake quote" to cancel direct commands of Scripture!!!

**HOW IS THIS ANY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN JESUS' DAY?**

**IF YOU'RE "WITNESSING SILENTLY," HOW DO WE KNOW IF YOU'RE "WITNESSING" TO THE TRUTH?**

↳ If those who are "hearing" you reach false conclusions, does that mean you were a false witness?  
→ **God condemns false witnesses!**

➤ IF IT WEREN'T A HEAVEN-HELL ISSUE, the whole idea of a "silent witness" would be humorous.



**I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING TRUE!  
SHE MUST BE FALSE!**

**I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING FALSE!  
SHE MUST BE TRUE!**

**"SILENTLY WITNESSING" JUST DOESN'T WORK ...**

**AND IF YOU STILL THINK IT DOES ...  
TRY IT AND FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!**

↳ Try to tell someone:  
**"Jesus died for your sins!"**  
WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING!

[ Don't cheat, by writing it out or using sign language, etc. ]

**YOU JUST CAN'T DO IT!**

↳ Try to "SILENTLY" tell someone ANY OF THESE EXPRESSIONS OF THE GOOD NEWS!

[I testify] ... that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles.  
Acts 26:23 (NIV)

I preached ... that all must turn from their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do.  
Acts 26:20 (NLT)

... righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, ...  
Acts 24:25b (NIV)

Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
Acts 2:38 (CSB)

**IF WE LOOK IN THE OLD TESTAMENT...**

↳ Perhaps we can find a couple O.T. verses that describe a "silent witness" ...

**But do you want any of them to describe YOU?**

1. The "silent witness" of a dead animal.

The condition of the carcass (the "autopsy") would testify to the way it was killed. (Here, translated as "evidence.")

[If one's animal dies while a neighbor has it...]

If it was attacked by a wild animal, the carcass must be shown as evidence, and no payment will be required.

Exodus 22:13 (NLT)

WE WILL EXAMINE THE CARCASS TO SEE WHAT THE EVIDENCE TELLS US.

Do you want to be a dead "witness"?



2. A "silent witness," described as a sinning witness.

If any of the people are called to testify about something they have witnessed, but they refuse to testify, they will be held responsible and be subject to punishment.

Leviticus 5:1 (NLT)

I SAW IT, BUT... NO WAY AM I GOING TO SAY ANYTHING!

IF ANY OF YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED, SPEAK UP!

Do you want to be a sinning witness?



THE ATHEISTS hate, and exclude God, the Bible, the 10 Commandments, heaven and hell (justice), etc. from all of life.

And they want us to silently go along with it.

GOD requires us to love and include God, the Bible, the 10 Commandments, heaven and hell (justice), etc. in all of life.

Who are YOU going to follow?

IF you include God in all of life...

THERE ARE MANY THINGS YOU CAN SAY ABOUT GOD, JESUS, SALVATION ...

However, you are chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, people who belong to God. You were chosen to tell about the excellent qualities of God, who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9 (GW)

ALL OF THEM are important and needed.

✓ IF YOU ARE IN THE HABIT OF BEING SILENT ABOUT GOD IN THE REST OF YOUR LIFE ...

You probably won't find it easy speak up about the Good News.

AFTER ALL ... Doing so would be the "opposite" of your normal life!

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✓ IF YOU DO TALK ABOUT GOD THROUGHOUT THE DAY ...

But it's only because you're taking his name in vain...

IN THAT CASE ... you should review what it means to be following Jesus... because you don't seem to be doing so.

THIS WEEK

Our focus has been on "silence."

NEXT TIME

We plan to focus on "speaking."

In the MEANTIME

Consider: "What type of a 'testimony' do you communicate to others?"

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