



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#56)
The Good News... it needs communicated!

The Good News needs → **COMMUNICATED!**

Those who are willing to accept what the *Bible* says will conclude that this is *obvious!* After all, the Good News involves concepts and obligations that a person *cannot* know without being *told* them (verbally or in written format).

This fact would not even need stated, except that there are people today who promote a concept they call "silent witnessing" – as though we could somehow communicate what the Bible says *without* communication!

Scripture would probably describe it more accurately, as being a "sinning witness."

HOW DOES THE GOOD NEWS GET COMMUNICATED? NOT BY "SILENCE"!

TYPICAL WORDS YOU WILL FIND IN THE BOOK OF ACTS:
(Check it out for yourself!)

TELL	TALK	(try to) PERSUADE	PROVE
	DEBATE		
REASON (with them)	SPEAK	REFUTE (wrong views)	
	PROCLAIM	PREACH	DECLARE
EXPLAIN			DISCOURSE
	TESTIFY	(try to) CONVINC	
	TEACH		

YOU DO NOT FIND: (remain) SILENT

WHO IS SUPPOSED TO COMMUNICATE THE GOOD NEWS?

SOME HAVE SPECIAL ABILITIES...

EXAMPLES:

Stephen... *... the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.*
Acts 6:10b (NET)

Apollos... *... with great enthusiasm he spoke and taught accurately the facts about Jesus, ...*
Acts 18:25b (NET)

★ **BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US?** ★

THE REST OF US...

God did not forget the rest of us,
or leave us lacking in abilities!

- We have *other* abilities and opportunities.
- We need to *work together* to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

- BASIC ABILITIES** – to communicate the Good News.
- SPECIAL ABILITIES** – to help the church in other ways.
- SUPPORTING ABILITIES** – to help those who are gifted with special speaking abilities.

FIRST OF ALL...

REALIZE THAT ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE ABILITIES.

WHATEVER THEY ARE, they must be used for the good of others.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.
Romans 12:6a (NIV)

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit ... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the **common good**.
1 Corinthians 12:4, 7 (ESV)

Some activities may have specific abilities as prerequisites.

Now the overseer must be ... able to teach, ...
1 Tim. 3:2 (NIV)

SECOND...

REALIZE THAT ALL PEOPLE* HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO LIVE LIFE IN A WAY THAT HONORS GOD... AND TO DO IT ALL OF THE TIME.

THIS OBLIGATION APPLIES TO BOTH ACTIONS AND WORDS.

Whatever you eat or drink or **whatever you do**, you must do all for the glory of God.
1 Cor. 10:31 (NLT)

And **whatever you do or say**, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father.
Col. 3:17 (NLT)

* (Even the unsaved have this obligation – though they are unwilling to do it.)

IT'S PART OF THE BASIC "COST" OF FOLLOWING JESUS. WITHOUT IT, YOU AREN'T FOLLOWING!!!

Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me."
Luke 9:23 (NET)

Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.
Luke 14:27 (NET)

IF WE ARE DOING THIS... WE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITIES OF MANY KINDS.

✓ We will have opportunities to do good!

Let us not become weary in **doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have **opportunity**, let us **do good** to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV)

✓ Our lives will become a demonstration of wisdom!

So be careful how you live, **not as fools** but as those who are **wise**. Make the most of every **opportunity** for doing good in these evil days. **Don't act thoughtlessly**, but try to **understand** what the Lord wants you to do.
... let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.
Ephes. 5:15-17, 18b (NLT)

✓ It will influence how we act and how we talk.

Be wise in the way you **act** toward outsiders; make the most of every **opportunity**. Let your **conversation** be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to **answer** everyone.
Col. 4:5-6 (NIV)

THIS APPLIES EVEN TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT GIFTED WITH SPECIAL SPEAKING ABILITIES!

NOW WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE NOT GIFTED WITH SPEAKING ABILITIES?

1) We who don't have special speaking abilities must still be willing to speak!

GOD TELLS US TO BE READY!

And if you are asked about your Christian hope, **always be ready** to explain it.
1 Peter 3:15b (NLT)

If Scripture is the basis for how we live, something related to the Good News will eventually come out in our conversation.

❖ Even if it's just a basic "I'm following Jesus" statement!

I CAN'T SPEAK!

Do you have vocal chords? Do you talk about other things?

[If so...]
Then why do you choose to exclude the Good News from the list of topics you converse on?

[MORE about this LATER.]

2) If speaking is NOT our special gift, we have other abilities, and must use them for the good of others.

GOD TELLS US WE HAVE ABILITIES!

God in his kindness gave **each of us** different gifts.
Romans 12:6a (GW)

GOD TELLS US WHAT WE MUST DO WITH THOSE ABILITIES!

Each of you ... must use **the gift** that God has given you **to serve others**.
1 Peter 4:10 (GW)

3) We who don't have special speaking abilities can help those who do have those abilities.

What can we do? Lots of things... A few examples...

✓ **Prayer.**

Also **pray** that God will give me the right words to say. Then I will speak boldly when I reveal the mystery of the Good News.
Ephes. 6:19 (GW)

And **pray** for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. **Pray** that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.
Col. 4:3-4 (NIV)

✓ **Financial support.**

You will do well to **support** them on their trip in a way that proves you belong to God.
We must **support** believers who go on trips like this so that we can work together with them in spreading the truth.
3 John 1:6b, 8 (GW)
[THIS EXAMPLE: TRAVELING EVANGELISTS OR MISSIONARIES.]

✓ **Encouragement.**

APOSTLE PAUL, WRITING TO THE CHRISTIANS AT ROME:
For I long to see you, ... that we may be mutually **encouraged** by each other's faith, both yours and mine.
Rom 1:11a, 12 (ESV)

THE PROBLEM?
WHY DO SO FEW SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS?

[We'll have to look at this next time.]

For now...

YOUR MISSION – CONSIDER THIS:

We ALL have some type of role in the communication of the Good News.

BASED ON YOUR GIFTS AND ABILITIES:

- ✓ What role does Scripture give YOU?
- ✓ How are you fulfilling (or not fulfilling) your role?

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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