



Servant's Corner

November 2011

“Do I Have To Say Anything?”

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

*...preach the word; 2 Timothy 4:2a
... adorn the doctrine of God... Titus 2:10b*

“Preach the gospel at all times, if necessary, use words”. What do we do with this famous quote from St Francis of Assisi? Is it possible to live such an exemplary Christian life that we won't have to use words to explain the gospel? It's an attractive proposition isn't it? Wouldn't it be nice to fulfill our Biblical responsibility to evangelize without actually having to say anything? We could then completely avoid the persecution that comes from what the Apostle Paul refers to as “the stumbling block of the cross” (Galatians 5:11)—the message that we are all sinners in need of a Savior.

I once heard Chuck Swindol say, “None of us walk the walk so well that we don't have to talk the talk”. He's right. Even as saintly a Christian as St Francis found it necessary to use words to preach the gospel. Joel Belz, founder of World Magazine, summarized well the need for both words and deeds: *That's the way, I think to myself, it should be for every follower of Jesus. Word and deed people—never just abstract ideas, and never just random acts of kindness. The two always need to be wrapped up with each other. As a friend told me 40 years ago, “The deeds are there to validate our words. The words are there to explain our deeds.” (World Magazine September 24, 2011)*

So live a life that “adorns” the gospel—a life so distinctively Christian that it makes people stop and take notice. However, understand that at some point you will have to say something.



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