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## Do You Have the Answer?

*By Johnny Caruso on September 6, 2021*

**TODAY'S READING:** 1 Peter 3

*“but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15).*

As Christ followers, when asked, we should be ready to share the reason for our hope. Over the years, I have learned and memorized many different approaches to sharing my hope, but I have a hard time with canned or pre-memorized presentations.

When people wonder why we talk the way we talk or act the way we act as Christ followers, we are to be ready to share the hope and why we believe what we believe. We should share why we trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not necessary to have all the answers. In fact, the reason they have asked you is because the Lord has prompted them to ask. It may be there is turmoil in their lives or they are going through some kind of tragedy. They may be looking for hope and they have seen something in you that looks like the hope they are seeking.

Ponder the benefits of being a Christ follower. It may be peace that only Christ can bring. It may be the grace and forgiveness that only comes through Christ. Whatever the reasons you have trusted in Christ, that is what the person is asking about. So take a minute and think about it. I can guarantee you, you will be caught off guard when asked the question. It will take you by surprise.

The next thing Peter says is to know your audience *“with gentleness and respect.”* You need to know, or at least ask why, they are asking. What prompted them to ask you a question? Be gentle and kind. Be loving and graceful, knowing the Holy Spirit has brought them to you to hear the gospel.

**PRAYER:** Lord, prepare me to be ready, in season and out of season, to give the reason for the hope I have in You.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** 1 Peter 4

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