

# ANY ONE *BUT ME*

**10 WAYS** TO OVERCOME YOUR FEAR AND  
BE PREPARED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

**RAY COMFORT**

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**BakerBooks**

*a division of Baker Publishing Group*  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Published by Baker Books  
a division of Baker Publishing Group  
PO Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287  
www.bakerbooks.com

Printed in the United States of America

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Comfort, Ray, author.

Title: Anyone but me : 10 ways to overcome your fear and be prepared to share the gospel / Ray Comfort.

Description: Grand Rapids, Michigan : Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, [2020] | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019035138 | ISBN 9780801093999 (paperback)

Subjects: LCSH: Courage—Religious aspects—Christianity. | Fear—Religious aspects—Christianity. | Witness bearing (Christianity)

Classification: LCC BV4647.C75 C66 2020 | DDC 248/.5—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019035138>

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20 21 22 23 24 25 26 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and  
always be ready to give a defense to everyone  
who asks you a reason for the hope that is in  
you, with meekness and fear.

1 Peter 3:15

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# ONE

## Loving

### *Always Ready*

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3

*“I make fun of people like you! Okay? I take idiotic extremists like you and make them look like a fool!”*<sup>1</sup> These were the cutting words of high-profile atheist Jaclyn Glenn. It was back in 2013, just after she had seen our film *Evolution vs. God*. I had visited four evolutionary scientists at prestigious universities and pressed them on camera for *scientific* evidence for Darwinian evolution. They couldn’t think of any, and they looked foolish.

Jaclyn made her own video and posted it on YouTube. She was serious and furious, and she directed her anger at me personally.

Sometimes people like you deserve to be insulted. Sometimes people are *worthy* of being insulted in the worst possible way. And you at the top of the list, because you, sir, are certainly deserving of insult. You know what? You deserve worse than that in my opinion. You want to know why? Because you are so entirely #\$/!\*\$ that calling you stupid isn't good enough! You are a liar! *You* are a con man!

Then, in December 2017, she posted another video in which she said to her seven hundred thousand-plus subscribers:

If you don't know who Ray Comfort is, he is Banana Man. That's Ray Comfort. He is the guy who made the documentary *Evolution vs. God* that I debunked. Now this was a long time ago, and because of that video I made—that actually got quite a bit of attention [over one million views]—Ray Comfort %#@&\$! hates me.

After seeing the clip, I purchased a gift card, found out where she lived, mailed it to her, and forgot about it . . . until January 2018 when a friend directed me to another one of her videos. I found it and braced myself for another tirade. She said:

I just went through my mail, and I got this letter. And this is one of the craziest things that I've ever gotten in my PO Box. About this particular letter . . . when I opened it up, my jaw hit the floor. And you guys are going to see what



I got in my mailbox that totally blew my mind. So I first of all open the package, and I see this—and it says “Living Waters” on it. And I know Living Waters, what that is, because that is the YouTube channel that Ray Comfort uses to post his videos—like for example, the one that I just reviewed: *Christmas Gone Viral*. You know Ray Comfort, Banana Man. He says that bananas are evidence for God, as I explained in my last video. So Living Waters is something I recognized. This person sent me a \$100 gift card, which is a lot of money; so I was surprised when I looked at this letter. It’s a very short letter, but it says, “Jaclyn, from Ray and Sue Comfort. PS saw your review of Christmas Gone Viral. BTW I don’t hate you ☺.”

I’m not even kidding. I don’t think that this is a joke. I think this is *really* him, and that’s amazing, if he doesn’t really hate me. I think that is amazing, because I have not been censored, or I haven’t been gentle in going after some of the things he has posted on the internet. But if he wants to be friends . . . Ray Comfort, if you’re watching this, I would totally make a video with you. If you were interested in an interview or a kind of just silly video, saying hello; it doesn’t have to be anything too crazy, just have to be something we can both agree on. If you aren’t uncomfortable, I would totally make a video with you. *But this just blew my mind*. I can’t believe that I got a freaking card, a gift card too—from Ray Comfort. And he saw my video review. That made my day. I don’t know if you people understand the gravity of this for me. I have been feuding with Ray Comfort for like, four years. Like the first thing I made against him was like forever ago, and then he made a video back at me and then it was this crazy thing. So for this to happen now, after all of this time . . . I am super excited about it.

As I watched Jaclyn's reaction, *I* was the one who was blown away. Her comments were all because I had sent her a gift card. Christians are always ready to show love and kindness to each other. We give gift cards to each other without a second thought. It's not even unusual for a Christian to give another Christian a car. Our nonprofit ministry, Living Waters, often gets generous, unsolicited financial gifts to support our ministry, and we send gifts to other ministries. That's just the way it is within the body of Christ. Scripture says, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:9–10).

We focus on "especially to those who are of the household of faith" and run with it. We often overlook "let us do good to all." Giving to others is the outward expression of the indwelling love of God. It's easy.

But the atheist world isn't like ours. It is a barren, dark desert of selfishness. *Any* acts of love and kindness from the hand of a Christian stand out. For Jaclyn, that small gift was a big bright light that burst into her dark world, and it came close to bringing her to tears.

Look at what some other Scripture passages say about Christians doing good to others—whether or not those others are Christians.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts *and establish*

*you in every good word and work.* (2 Thess. 2:16–17, emphasis added)

Paul’s prayer is that those in the Thessalonian church would be *established* by God *in every good work*. Later in the same letter, he writes, “But as for you, brethren, *do not grow weary in doing good*” (3:13, emphasis added).

In all things showing yourself to be a *pattern* of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, *that one who is an opponent* may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. (Titus 2:7–8, emphasis added)

Our pattern of good works confounds the *unsaved* who oppose us. They will be ashamed and have nothing evil to say about us. Paul is not referring to giving money to our church or a Christian organization secretly—but it’s true that we are not to let our left hand know what our right hand is doing within the body of Christ. These good works aren’t an effort to earn points with God or to make us look holier than thou. God forbid. If I ever do any good, I want it to be known that I’m not boasting of personal virtue.

When I do something nice for an unsaved person, I am saying, “I love you. But I have another motive too. I desperately want to bring you to the cross so that you will escape hell. That’s my deepest desire.” Our aim is love, welling up from a pure motive: “Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith” (1 Tim. 1:5).

The Christian life should be an established pattern of good works, a lifestyle of *doing good that can be seen by the ungodly—to the end, their eternal salvation.*

The video Jaclyn Glenn made about my gift card received over 120,000 views, and here are just a few of the more than one thousand comments:

Well I'll be d\*\*\*ed. That's legitimately nice. Never thought I'd say this but good on you, Ray Comfort. DG

Ray Comfort sent a fruit basket to Hugo and Jake from *The Bible Reloaded* after Life Water flagged their #@!% as an apology, so I wouldn't doubt the legitimacy of your gift. He seems like a nice guy in spite of his #@!% beliefs. JG

While I don't agree w/Ray Comfort, I've heard that he's a pretty nice guy . . . (He's still wrong, though). P

A lovely example of the phrase "Love thy neighbor." The only phrase from religious text which I agree with. JJ

That's really actually cool of Ray. CK

Wow. You got free money from one of the dumbest people on the planet. SB

I can't repeat the disgusting language normally used by atheists to describe me, but this gift turned me from Hitler to Mother Theresa in a moment of time. I'm not a nice guy at all. Rather, this is what happened: "For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish [people]" (1 Pet. 2:15).

It was part of a pattern of good works that we do so that those who are opposed may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of us.

### **Those Who Have Ears**

I love the words Jesus used to precede the command to love our enemies. He said that what He was about to say was *for those who could hear Him*. It was for those slaves of Christ whose ear had been fastened to the Door (see John 10:9; Exod. 21:5–6). Jesus said to those who were truly His disciples: “But I say *to you who hear*: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you” (Luke 6:27, emphasis added).

Do you *hear* what Jesus is saying? Can you see the faith, the wisdom, the effort, and the obedience that it takes for you and me to love our enemies? Our unconditional love sets Christians apart from the world and stops the ignorant mouths of evil men. Loving enemies is a light that glorifies God.

Stephen loved his enemies, even though it cost him his life. His faithfulness to the gospel stirred hateful demons that frothed at the mouth and shed his blood. He stepped onto a bed of rattlesnakes—that is, he infuriated the religious leaders of his day.

Let’s talk about religious leaders for a minute, so we know what Stephen was up against—because we’re up against it too. John the Baptist’s words help us understand: “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, ‘Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’” (Matt. 3:7).

Jesus said to the religious leaders, “Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?” (Matt. 23:33).

When we deal with the “religious”—those whose worldview is steeped in self-righteousness and rooted in idolatry—we are dealing with those who would kill us while thinking they were doing God a service (see John 16:2). We are stepping on rattlesnakes. My nastiest opponents to the gospel are those who profess to speak for God but who disbelieve the Bible. They have a form of godliness, they give lip service, but with it comes the devilish wisdom from below (see James 3:15). In speaking of human nature, Scripture says:

Their throat is an open tomb;  
With their tongues they have practiced deceit;  
The poison of asps is under their lips. (Rom. 3:13)

Never forget that when you are dealing with snakes, they can turn on you in a second. As the religious leaders struck out at Stephen with deadly force, love poured from his lips: “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep” (Acts 7:59–60).

Love also filled his heart in his earlier words, though they were words that cut his hearers to the heart. It was love that quelled Stephen’s fears when he said to them:

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it. (vv. 51–53)

If open rebuke is better than secret love (see Prov. 27:5), how much better is a *loving* rebuke that has our hearers' eternal salvation in mind? They had not kept God's law, and Stephen told them so.

Stephen was a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit (see Acts 6:5). The love of Christ compelled him to speak "the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15) because he loved his hate-filled hearers. Paul told Timothy to reprove and rebuke with all patience and doctrine (see 2 Tim. 4:2). That was Stephen's mission and motive, and it should be ours when we reprove stubborn sinners for violating that same law.

Whether they fall down on their knees in contrition for their sins or—like Stephen's hearers—are cut to the heart and gnash on us with their teeth like mad dogs, love them unconditionally. Love them because we are *commanded* to love our enemies. Love them because it is a witness that glorifies God. And who knows, in their midst may be a lone bystander: "Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul" (7:57–58).

Stephen witnessed to Saul by dying. Saul became Paul and wrote half of the New Testament. You don't know who is

standing on the sidelines of your own testimonies, so always witness boldly, even when things are going south.

## So What?

Look at the word *so* in the following verse: “Let your light so shine before [others], that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

The word *so* indicates *this is the reason* you should let your light shine before others: that they may *see* your good works and glorify God—not you.

There are many other admonitions for us to “do good to all” so that by doing so we may “put to silence the ignorance of foolish people” (the unsaved), which leaves us with the question, How do we practically do that? How can the average Christian have an established *pattern* of good works that is *seen* by the ungodly?

I have found an effective way.

Since 2016, I have given away \$5 Subway gift cards after I share the gospel. This habit began after I heard that thousands of atheists were meeting in Washington, DC, for what they called a “Reason Rally.” Atheists normally don’t have a real reason to exist. They believe they are products of a random explosion in space, caused by nothing and for no reason. But I guess they thought of a reason. I decided to take a camera crew and film a couple of episodes of season five of our television program *Way of the Master*. This rally was a unique opportunity to show atheists that we loved them, so we purchased \$25,000 worth of Subway cards to give to those who were attending the rally.



When we applied for a film permit, the DC police asked how many would be attending the shoot. About a thousand Christians had committed to help us film and give out cards. But the police decided that the last thing they wanted was violence breaking out between “religious extremists” and atheists, and they told us that if we approached any atheists we would be arrested.

I ended up with \$25,000 worth of Subway cards in my pocket, most of which were given to the homeless in Los Angeles. However, a thousand or so were left over, and I began giving them to anyone with whom I shared the gospel.

Giving someone a gift card for no obvious reason was my way of saying, “Here’s proof that I *really* care about you.” It added *evidential* love to my witness. The person I spoke to may not have been convinced of the truth of the gospel, but I hoped they would think about what I said when they took the card to Subway and ate their free lunch. These small cards have become my big way of expressing unconditional love.

### **Giving People a Lift**

A friend and I stepped into an elevator in a parking building after a day of open-air preaching in Huntington Beach. Two men who were obviously a couple stepped in with us. I handed one of them one of our movie gift cards (which point people to [FullyFreeFilms.com](http://FullyFreeFilms.com))<sup>2</sup> and said, “Hello. Do you like free movies? We’ve produced eight movies. Six are award-winning, and they all are completely free.”

We arrived on the first floor and the doors opened. As one of the men began moving forward, I held out a Subway card, saying, “And here’s dinner for you and your friend.”

He was taken aback and said, “Thank you.” Then they were gone. A few minutes later, we prayed for both men and trusted God that they would be moved to watch the movies because of our small but evident token of love.

That cost me ten dollars. Perhaps you are thinking that you couldn’t afford to do that every day—that’s seventy dollars a week! I wouldn’t consider myself to be wealthy, but here’s the way I look at it: I can afford to be generous because I don’t have a hobby or play a sport or belong to a fitness club.

Don’t get me wrong. I enjoy sports and watching golf on TV, but by not being part of a club, I save money: “In 2008 *Golf Digest* surveyed more than 200 private-club members . . . [and] found that the average annual cost of a golf club membership was \$6,240, or about \$520 per month. Newer data doesn’t show much change.”<sup>3</sup>

How much is your hobby or sport costing you? Maybe you don’t need to play so much. Could you give some of that monthly money away in the form of five dollar gift cards to unsaved people you witness to? Where else is your money going? Maybe you spend money on sodas or bottled water, or you’re paying five dollars for a fancy cup of coffee you could have made yourself for about twenty cents. Perhaps you’re going to nice restaurants instead of eating at home.

How do you create opportunities to show unconditional love? Here is my challenge to you: limit your spending and

open a benevolence bank account for the money you save. Use that money to pay for some tokens of evident love. This is part of denying ourselves legitimate pleasures and taking up our cross daily (see Luke 9:23). But I have to say that I don't consider doing this a denial. It is a great joy to see unsaved people react to love. Almost every day I get to see reactions like Jaclyn Glenn's up close and personal. Seeing unsaved people moved by love is nothing short of a delight. Doing this daily also helps me to be free from the subtlety of the love of money (see Matt. 6:24).

You and I aren't the first ones to be challenged when it comes to giving our abundance back to God. When the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth about giving a financial gift, he said:

Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written:

“He has dispersed abroad,  
He has given to the poor;  
His righteousness endures forever.” (2 Cor. 9:5–9)

Paul outlines the three stages of giving: grudgingly, out of necessity, cheerfully. I don't know about you, but I go through a wrestling match almost every time I have a conviction to give money to someone or to some cause. At first, I don't want to (grudgingly). Then I yield to what I feel I should do (out of necessity). Then I give cheerfully. What happens when *you* feel the call to give?

### Get Out of Here!

I want to end the chapter on loving with an incident I found so moving, I couldn't relate it to anyone for days because my voice would crack and tears would come to my eyes.

I approached two young men who were sitting at a table in a park and politely asked, "Would you like to do an interview for YouTube?" In retrospect, they may have been dealing drugs.

The man on the left immediately responded, "Get out of here!" He raised his voice and repeated, "I said, *get out of here!*"

I looked at the man on the right and asked, "May I give you a gift?"

He calmly replied, "Sure."

"Here's a gift card for dinner tonight for you, and here's one for your friend."

As I turned to walk away, I heard a sound I'll never forget. It was a deep groan from the angry man on the left. "I'm so sorry," I heard him say.

I replied, "That's okay" (without looking back) as I walked away.

*Evidential* love has the power to immediately dissipate anger. If you share your faith, you will undoubtedly come across some angry responses. Most Christians don't realize that humanity hates the God of the Bible. Sinners don't hate *their own concept* of God as a father figure, friend, or divine butler.

The Scriptures say that before we came to Jesus, we were enemies of God in our minds through wicked works (see Col. 1:21) and that our minds were in a state of enmity with God (see Rom. 8:7). We were friends with the world and therefore enemies of God (see James 4:4). There is no greater example of contempt and hatred toward somebody than to use their name as a cuss word. Such is the contention between humanity and the one real God.

But when contentious sinners suddenly see their own selfish sins, then the *evidential* love displayed on the cross, they let out a deep groan. And from there, they are able to find a place of “godly sorrow [that] produces repentance” (2 Cor. 7:10). Biblical repentance is a change of mind about God and sin, which is evidenced by a change of direction—away from sin. The Bible says, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ *depart* from iniquity” (2 Tim. 2:19, emphasis added).

That is why we must preach Sinai before we preach Calvary. We preach Moses before we preach Jesus. The moral law must precede grace and bring the knowledge of sin, as we see happening in the case of Jesus and the rich young ruler (see Mark 10:17–18). The darkness of the law makes the light of the glorious gospel shine.

God's unconditional love is hidden from the world. But when it is seen, it is the light that shines in our hearts, glorifies God, and at the same time exalts the Savior:

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 4:3–6)

Only when a sinner sees their sin can they truly see the Savior, and it's on that bloodstained cross that they will see the expressed love of God. Jesus Christ was *evidently* set forth and crucified (see Gal. 3:1). They see God *commending* His love for us while we are yet sinners. Only this will dissipate the enmity between humankind and God—in a moment of time.

If you have a bad witnessing experience, if someone rejects you because you are a Christian, rejoice. Rejoice because you've been told to rejoice. Rejoice because of the truth of Romans 8:28. Good can come out of something bad. Sweetness can come from the lion (see Judg. 14:14). Jesus has a way of turning the tables on moneychangers. That horrible experience of being rejected that day at the park became one of the most precious and unforgettable moments of my life. It continually reminds me of the power of unconditional love and motivates me to witness.

The love for unsaved people that God has given me is the foundation for my readiness—and willingness—to share the gospel. As I go through the nine additional qualities you need

to be both an effective evangelist and effective in evangelism, remember that unconditional love is the base. If you find you are hesitant to share the gospel, thinking *anyone but me*, check in with your understanding of God's unconditional love for you. Do you believe in the power of the gospel? Remember, you were once unsaved. Someone was willing to share the gospel with you.

I can't emphasize enough the biblical truth that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood (see Eph. 6:12–20). Our battle is against an unseen enemy who will continually try to feed us propaganda. If you listen to his lies about you being unworthy, unequipped, unintelligent, unhinged, and unprepared, it will undermine your efforts to understand evangelism. You don't need much to plant seed because the quality is in the seed, not the sower. And that's all we are doing—planting precious seed. Just tell the underworld that you are both uninterested and underwhelmed and that what they are saying is unmistakably unwanted. Slam the door on the lies, and lock it.

All right. Let's dive in and consider more characteristics you need to be ready to share about the love of God.