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James Early [00:00:00]:

Hey, everyone, and welcome again to the Bible Speaks to You podcast. I'm so grateful that you've tuned in to listen today. I have probably the most special guest I've ever had on the Bible Speaks To You podcast today. It is my wife, Polly Castor. I'm so grateful you're here, Polly. Welcome to the show.

Polly Castor [00:00:19]:

Thanks for having me.

James Early [00:00:21]:

Yeah. We should've done this a long time ago. Now some of you you may know Polly because I know we have some cross pollination between her world and my world. So if you're familiar with her, I'm glad about that. If not, I'm glad that you're gonna learn about her because she's an amazing lady. Let me tell you a little bit about Polly. She grew up in Michigan, went to engineering school, and then she was a structural engineer in New York City renovating old skyscrapers, often dangling from the tops of them to inspect the work being done. And she shifted careers to the spiritual healing practice.

James Early [00:01:02]:

She helps people overcome challenges and find healing in their lives. And also in conjunction with that, as our kids grew up and got a little older, we decided to homeschool them. She planned all the curriculum, did an amazing job with our kids, being the homeschool mom supreme. She's also a fabulous cook. I am totally spoiled with her cooking, and she loves color, whether it's food on the plate, the flowers that she puts in a vase, or in her artwork. And now that the kids are all grown and on their own, in addition to her healing work, she's also an award winning artist. She's been in multiple international shows and won numerous awards.

James Early [00:01:48]:

She just loves her art. It's an expression of who she is and her spirituality. Polly also has a daily blog which is now in its 16th year. Now you can do the math if you want, but every day for 15 years, now going on 16, that's a lot of blogging, and I'll have that link in the show notes. It's pollycastor.com. And one more thing, if you'd like to hear how Polly and I met, I did an episode quite a while back called "How I Met My Wife." It's episode 53, and if you haven't listened to that, I think you'll really enjoy it. It kinda shows the dynamic that we have in our relationship and how we got started.

James Early [00:02:31]:

And as always, I'll have that link in the show notes. Polly, thanks again for being here. I'm so grateful to have you today, and the reason I really wanted to have you now on the show is because I know lately you've been focusing a lot on, well, I'll call them the action verbs in the Bible. You've been focusing a lot on what are we supposed to do. I know you've got pages and pages in your journals of things that the Bible says we're gonna do. So many times people in theological and religious discussions, they're talking about what we're supposed to believe and they get into all these theological debates, and that's really not what the podcast is about. It's

about, well, what did Jesus tell us to do? What are we supposed to do, some of those basic things. So that's what we're gonna talk about today.

James Early [00:03:24]:

I'd be interested to know how you got interested in in that focus. Can you give us a little background on that?

Polly Castor [00:03:33]:

I'm a doer of the word and not a hearer only as the Bible would say. I'm only really interested where the rubber hits the road. Theory is all fine, but if there's no practice to it, I'm not as interested. I guess that's probably why I ended up being an engineer. I was good at math, but why should I just do theory of math? I need to apply it to something. So here's the Bible. It's the same kind of thing. I wanna apply it to something.

Polly Castor [00:03:57]:

And how does it apply to me? I have also long lists of what god is and what god does and everything, but What am I supposed to do? I think that's an important focus too, and I've been really working on both making a list of what are the things that I am supposed to do as according to the Bible, but also then actually trying to do those things that are on the list.

James Early [00:04:21]:

Right. Right. Now it's kind of an obvious question, but I'd love to hear your thoughts about why that's important? Why does the rubber need to hit the road on on these ideas in the Bible?

Polly Castor [00:04:35]:

Then what's the point? We're not going anywhere.

James Early [00:04:39]:

I love that because yeah. If you get in your car and you don't turn the engine on and go anywhere, you're not Making any progress. So

Polly Castor [00:04:46]:

Why do you even have the car?

James Early [00:04:47]:

That's right. That's a very good analogy. So let's jump right in here. I know you've got some Bible verses that you've been thinking about. You wanna share some of those with us?

Polly Castor [00:05:00]:

First, I would like to get into discussing some terms, if you wouldn't mind.

James Early [00:05:04]:

Oh, yeah. That's a great idea.

Polly Castor [00:05:06]:

I assume everyone knows what a verb is. A verb is action. So I'm really looking at action verbs in the Bible. And I'm looking at short snippets, not usually even a whole parts of verses, but just really short bit. I do want to talk about imperatives and injunctions. Those are not words that everybody always uses all the time, but that's what we're talking about here. An imperative is something that's a vital command from an authority. And if you take the Bible as your authority, then Hello.

Polly Castor [00:05:39]:

We should be looking at these vital commands. Imperatives are considered essential and urgent. So what are the essential and urgent things that the Bible is commanding us do. Hello. Maybe we should be doing those things. And then injunctions are also another way to consider these little snippets that I'm gonna Interested in sharing with you? An injunction is a directive. It's an instruction. The Bible's instructing us how to be.

Polly Castor [00:06:08]:

Why wouldn't we pay attention? Why wouldn't we actually take note of that and then try to incorporate that into our lives? I would also like to talk about if-then statement. Lots of times, the bible talks in terms of if-then statements. If you do this, then that will happen. Or because this happened, then you should do this. And some examples are, you shall know the truth, then the truth shall make you free. Well, right now, for the purposes of this conversation, I'm focusing on the "you shall know the truth" part. All the then statements that follow doing the right thing are good. And we know they're good, and we can let the good upshot of our obedience come to pass, but instead of focusing on why we should be doing this, let's just focus on doing it.

Polly Castor [00:06:58]:

Okay? And another example is "Freely you have received, freely give." Okay. It's great we freely receive, but let's just focus on freely giving. So in this discussion, I'm trying to make it really honed in on just the little part that we're supposed to do without underserving the point that it comes in a context. I love the context it comes in. I'm grateful for the context it comes in, But let's focus instead on what we're supposed to be doing.

James Early [00:07:30]:

That's a really good point. Context, you're right, is so important, but If we get all those little action items by themselves, we almost are putting those in a context of their own, the context of what are the action items, and so if you look at all the little snippets as you call them together, you see a bigger picture of that. That's another context that we don't usually think about. That's what I just realized from when you were saying that.

Polly Castor [00:07:59]:

It helps to isolate them, is what I'm saying.

James Early [00:08:02]:

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Okay.

Polly Castor [00:08:05]:

The other thing that I would like to say before we launch into all these little bits that I have to share with you, is a little caveat here. We're not doing this all on our own. We're not doing this out of context. Even though we're taking these little bits out of context, we're not doing this all on our own. I would like to read a couple verses from 2nd Corinthians. "We are not sufficient of ourselves to think anything of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God. And God is able to make all grace abound towards you that ye, having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." And I'm sharing this before we get started because, it's because God is working with you and in you that you can do any of this.

Polly Castor [00:08:52]:

I can do any of this. Any of us can do any of this. And it's not because, oh, look at me. I'm doing this. I'm never doing anything all of on my own. Jesus says "I, of my own self, can do nothing", and then he went and did everything. So, you know, we're taking all these little bits out of context, but let's remember the bigger context That it is God that's working this in us as we attempt to be obedient and do these things.

James Early [00:09:17]:

I really appreciate you sharing that because A lot of people I talk to, they don't feel like they can do some of these things in the Bible. They don't feel like they're worthy, or they're not capable or they're not spiritually minded enough. All kinds of reasons. They're hurting too much from a past experience, but what you're really saying is maybe they need to realize it's not just them doing it. They obviously have God's help. Like you said, even Jesus said that he couldn't do anything without God's help. So that gives me comfort and encouragement that with God's help, I can do these things in the Bible. I mean, they wouldn't be there in the Bible telling us to do them if we couldn't do them.

James Early [00:09:59]:

Right?

Polly Castor [00:10:00]:

Well, what about the verse "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"?

James Early [00:10:05]:

Yeah. Exactly. It's not you doing it by yourself like you said. Right. I think that's a really good context to put our conversation in because it's only with God's help we can do any of this stuff.

Polly Castor [00:10:19]:

But given that, we still need to not rest on our laurels because God made us so fabulous. God did make us fabulous. Now what are we gonna do with it?

James Early [00:10:28]:

Right.

Polly Castor [00:10:29]:

It's like we're the fabulous car, but let's let's get down the road.

James Early [00:10:32]:

Get in the car and go. Okay. So let's do that. Let's get in the car and go here. Where would you like to start in this exploration?

Polly Castor [00:10:41]:

I think the obvious place to start is with the commandments. If we're gonna do some things, The Ten Commandments are a place to start, and I'm not gonna run through all of them. The first commandment though is worth mentioning. We're supposed to take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, it says in Joshua. Deuteronomy says, to love the lord your God and to walk in all his ways and to cleave unto him.

James Early [00:11:11]:

What does that mean to you to cleave unto God?

Polly Castor [00:11:16]:

Well, it's kinda like what we were just talking about. You're never doing something all on your own. It's remembering that you're at one with that higher power. It's present and all powerful in your own experience and that you can't be separated from that.

James Early [00:11:31]:

Yeah. Yeah.

Polly Castor [00:11:33]:

So we're supposed to love the Lord thy God with all our heart and all our soul and all our might. And that's a huge thing to do, and we have divided loyalties all the time. All of us are challenged with that. That is one of the biggest and hardest and most valuable ones to really try to do. We're always being distracted in this world by other things than God calling for our attention. And if we can see the godliness behind everything and within everything, it blesses our whole experience, and it shows us how we're not separate. In Psalms, it says, I delight to do thy will, oh God. Yea,

Polly Castor [00:12:18]:

Thy law is within my heart. So we're not just doing the law, but we're delighting in it. It's not drudgery. It's fun.

James Early [00:12:30]:

Oh, yeah. That's a good point. It's fun to obey God.

Polly Castor [00:12:35]:

And I think people really miss that point way too much. Okay? So we need to follow all the commandments, All 10 of them, especially the first one, and then Jesus really added the other that is We shall love our neighbor as ourselves.

James Early [00:12:53]:

That's a lot of work too sometimes, isn't it?

Polly Castor [00:12:57]:

Well, The whole next bit I have to talk about is how to do that.

James Early [00:13:03]:

Okay. Well, let's go there.

Polly Castor [00:13:05]:

1st John says, let us love one another, for love is of God. So here again, love our neighbor as ourselves. I would put in there that I often preach that we gotta love ourselves before we love our neighbor, and I assume that's probably not news to anybody listening to your podcast either. We have to love ourselves and love who God made us to be before we're any good to anybody else. But let us also remember that Love is of God, I.e. that's why we can do it. We don't have to make it happen. We just have to Let that godliness flow through us. Ephesians says we should be rooted and grounded in love.

Polly Castor [00:13:47]:

We should walk in love. Are you walking in love? I love to walk in love. I go on my walk. And I love all the trees, and I love all the moss, and I love all the rocks, and I love the ripples on the water. I take pictures of all of it. I love walking in love, but it's not just the trees and the rocks. Can you walk in love and see every person down the hall that way, and you see everybody at your dining room table that way.

James Early [00:14:17]:

That's really, I think, an important thing, especially if you live in a big city and you're on the sidewalk and there are hundreds of people. We're usually so focused just on what we're doing. I remember one time I was in New York City, and I saw all these people on the sidewalk, and I had no idea who they were, of course, and I just felt so much love for them. I don't usually have that kind of feeling when I'm in the middle of the busy sidewalk, but is that what you're talking about?

Polly Castor [00:14:47]:

Well, that and, you know, that love love is of God. So I can walk down the street and I can see someone, and they could be in any state. They could be joyous or or hobbling, but I can see them see God Loving them and see that god loves them and what's lovable about them and what's lovely about them. And I can see them as loving. All those things are present in every single person you walk past, and It's really, really fun to spend your time seeing the world that way. And I believe that when you see the world that way, You're seeing it the way God sees it.

James Early [00:15:30]:

Wow. I know from many years of living with you. We've been married for 34 years now. I know from talking to you and watching you over these many years, Polly, that you've had lots of experiences where well, I'll share one that I remember. When we were first married and we were living in New York City, there was a guy on the subway we were going home from the city taking the subway up where we lived. And there was a guy on the subway and somebody shouted, he's got a gun. And you could see his gun and people ran off the subway, and you just stared at this guy.

James Early [00:16:09]:

You looked him down with love. There was so much love just pouring out of you, And he looked at you kinda like dumbfounded. He didn't know how to respond almost. It sort of quieted him down till next stop. The police came in and got him off the the train. Do you remember that. Right?

Polly Castor [00:16:27]:

Yes. I remember that very much. And everybody else fled off the train. They they went into the other cars, and I just sat there. And I wasn't having any of it because that's not who God made him to be. And I knew that God loved him. Like I said, our sufficiency is of God. I didn't have to figure out how to love him in that moment. I have to love my neighbor as myself.

Polly Castor [00:16:53]:

If I'm loving myself and knowing that God loves me and I am the beloved of God, then this dear man who might have had a confused moment was the beloved of God too and could feel that right then. Wasn't that I had to manufacture any love for him. It was just what was true for me was true for him.

James Early [00:17:17]:

Sometimes I think when we don't feel love for someone, we think we have to manufacture it, but What you just said is really powerful.

Polly Castor [00:17:25]:

It's interesting that you bring up that example because he just melted, kinda.

James Early [00:17:31]:

Yeah. He did.

Polly Castor [00:17:33]:

All the resistance in him just kind of collapsed. There was all this hysteria around. You know, everyone was screaming and all this hysteria around. The car emptied, and then he got off at the next stop into the arms of the police. I mean, it was almost like a there was some grace in it.

James Early [00:17:57]:

You're right. I think that word grace is perfect, and I felt like thinking about it now, it's almost like time stopped for a little bit, and it was just love. And I think he felt that to some degree. So

Polly Castor [00:18:10]:

Right. So that's what it's like to walk in love even though I was sitting on a subway in New York City.

James Early [00:18:15]:

Yeah. You can sit in the subway and love too. Right? I think it's important to have this example because that's the kind of thing we're talking about, and it can apply to any situation.

Polly Castor [00:18:28]:
2nd Corinthians says, be perfect. Be of good comfort. Be of one mind. Live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

James Early [00:18:40]:
Yeah.

Polly Castor [00:18:41]:
We can be of comfort even when there's the guy with the gun on the train, and when we were at one mind with god, we're one mind with him, and it all works out. 1st Thessalonians says, wherefore, comfort yourselves together and edify one another.

James Early [00:18:58]:
Oh, that's really good. I love that.

Polly Castor [00:19:01]:
How much do we edify one another? I enjoy doing that.

James Early [00:19:06]:
Yeah. Sometimes we tear each other down. We tear ourselves down.

Polly Castor [00:19:11]:
And God does not want that for us either way.

James Early [00:19:15]:
Right.

Polly Castor [00:19:16]:
I often think of the 1st chapter of Genesis. It was a really eureka moment when I realized that God made us in his image and likeness and made us very good. And I realized that, that there was approval there, That we are approved of of God.

James Early [00:19:36]:
Yeah. Well, I was gonna ask you, How do we edify one another? And I think that's really the answer when we can see someone else as approved of God, the child of God, the image and likeness of God. Maybe not what they're doing doesn't reflect that, but way down deep, that's who they are. That really edifies them like you did with that guy on the subway. He didn't know what was going on, but he felt it anyway.

Polly Castor [00:20:02]:
Well and and it's just it's really fun to do that all the time. I mean, you can do that when you are watching the news or reading the newspaper, you could do that when you're in the grocery store line and the frazzled woman in front of you has a screaming kid. You can see them that way, and you can edify them in your thought, and it makes the situation better.

James Early [00:20:28]:

Yeah. Yeah.

Polly Castor [00:20:30]:

So I think this is how to "love one another" as we were talking about.

James Early [00:20:35]:

Yeah.

Polly Castor [00:20:36]:

Then, here's a less popular verse from 1st Thessalonians. Warn them that are unruly. Comfort the feeble minded, support the weak, and be patient unto all men. Patience is not my strong suit, folks. I work on it. I do. I do. And I'm happy to comfort the feeble minded.

Polly Castor [00:21:00]:

I always gravitate to supporting the weak. I don't really warn the unruly too much. I'd rather love on them. But every once in a while, you know, that's the appropriate thing to do. I've been a mother. We've had to do that.

James Early [00:21:15]:

I think some of those harder ones that may be harder for you or me are not the hard ones for someone else. The things that come easier to you might be harder for someone else. So, you know, wherever we are in this process, I think we have to be open to well, like you said earlier, doing all these things that the Bible is encouraging us to do.

Polly Castor [00:21:38]:

Right. And I think we're all capable of all of them and maybe we just learn some sooner than others, and other people learn different ones sooner than others. I think we're all gonna arrive at having learned all of them. Let's hope, at least. Matthew talks about how we're supposed to be reconciled with our brother. And I remember on the podcast, there was a story James told about being reconciled with his brother. So I know this listenership has already thought about that, but I think that's important. We need to be reconciled to one another, not just edify one another and love one another, but be reconciled with one another.

Polly Castor [00:22:16]:

What does that mean? Who do you need to be reconciled with? I know who I need to be reconciled with. You know, we all need to work on on that. And then in 1st Corinthians, it says that we're all to speak the same thing, That there are no divisions among us. That we might be of the same mind and the same judgment. Woo hoo. How's this country doing on that? All speak the same thing.

James Early [00:22:46]:

So where do we start on that? Because, I mean, you just think about what's going on in Congress or even on a very small local level or sometimes even within a family.

Polly Castor [00:22:58]:

I think there's a reason why I put this under the heading love one another. Oh. Because if you love one another and love is of God, then all of a sudden you're of one mind. But we get all distracted with what we think are differences.

James Early [00:23:14]:

So What are you saying? How do we do that then? How do we become more of one mind?

Polly Castor [00:23:21]:

We have to have the same love for one another. We have to edify one another. We have to be reconciled to each other. We have to support the weak. We have to be patient toward each other. We have to comfort the feeble minded. We have to love as brother, and we have to have compassion to one another. We have to edify one another.

Polly Castor [00:23:39]:

We have to walk in love. We have to be rooted and grounded, love all the things we're just talking about. If we're doing that, then we'll be in one mind. Jesus came to show us how we're supposed to live, among other things. And if we were actually doing that, guess what? We would be of one mind. But we can't wait for the next guy to be of one mind first, and then it'll work out.

James Early [00:24:03]:

Right. Well, in all those things that you just shared, Polly, I think that thing that gets me is that it's not about theological doctrine or what you believe, it's like, how do we act? Jesus came to tell us what to do as you said, it's about how we're living, what we're doing. And to use your car analogy, it's are we going down the road? It's not about how fancy your car is or what kind of engine you have, that might make a difference, but you're it's about going down the road.

Polly Castor [00:24:35]:

Yeah. I'd like to talk about something that really applied directly to Jesus, but I think it's true for us too. He read the prophecy about himself that he would preach the gospel to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, preach deliverance to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, and setting at liberty them that are bruised. And I'd like to say that if we're supposed to follow Jesus, which is one of the injunctions that we're supposed to do as he did, he's our way shower, then we too should be preaching the gospel to the poor, healing the brokenhearted, bringing deliverance to the captives like you, James, going to the prison, recovering sight to the blind. All of us have blind spots, and sometimes we need somebody to let us know what's in our blind spot. And setting at liberty those that are bruised. We all know people that are bruised. And are we loving them, and are we edifying them, and are we helping them up?

James Early [00:25:39]:

That's a lot to think about. Yeah. There's always someone that's in our sphere of influence that we can, and sometimes we don't even know that someone's struggling in those ways. But if you're really asking God for an opportunity to do these things, I think it's gonna show up in a way that you'll recognize what to do. Don't you think?

Polly Castor [00:26:02]:

And I think if you're really loving your neighbor as yourself, then you might be doing it unwittingly.

James Early [00:26:09]:
Oh, you're right. Yeah.

Polly Castor [00:26:11]:
If you're just being, if you're really doing all these injunctions, you're being Godlike, Even Christ-like. Right? And look at what the ripple effect of Jesus being Christ-like was.

James Early [00:26:26]:
Right.

Polly Castor [00:26:27]:
The same effect can happen if you or I are Christ-like.

James Early [00:26:31]:
Right.

Polly Castor [00:26:32]:
And we don't even have to try to make the ripple effect happen. We just have to we're in charge of being our being.

James Early [00:26:39]:
I think that's a really good point. It was like you can't force something to happen. You're just who you are, you do what you need to do, do what God is directing you to do, and let Him take care of everything else.

Polly Castor [00:26:50]:
Right. Right. Yeah. Like, God isn't doing all those things too. God's preaching the gospel and healing the brokenhearted and delivering the captives. It's not like God's just leaving all that for us. The point is we're participants. We've gotta be doing this because God's doing it.

Polly Castor [00:27:07]:
It's not the other way around.

James Early [00:27:09]:
So how do we be more Christ-like?

Polly Castor [00:27:12]:
We can get into that, but first, before we go there, can we talk about choosing who we're gonna serve and overcoming some of the crud?

James Early [00:27:21]:
Yeah. Sure.

Polly Castor [00:27:23]:

Okay. I love this from Joshua. Choose you this day whom ye shall serve. Woah. Okay. Usually, we get up and we just, you know, barely lumber along. Do we actually choose each day that we're gonna serve God? Do we actually choose each minute and in each situation that we're gonna serve God? God, what do you want me to do here?

James Early [00:27:49]:

That's a really thought provoking question. Yeah.

Polly Castor [00:27:52]:

Ezekiel says, Turn yourselves and live ye. And I was long ago very new in the Bible and having a really bad time and opened up the Bible because I had heard that maybe that would be one way that God would talk to me. And, oh my gosh. I opened up to turn yourselves on live ye. Turn yourselves on live ye. I was like, woah. Okay. I guess I'm supposed to turn myself and and, you know it was totally what I needed at that time, and I did it.

Polly Castor [00:28:29]:

And let me just tell you, a lot of people could use that injunction in their life right now. Turn yourselves and live ye.

James Early [00:28:37]:

What does that mean?

Polly Castor [00:28:39]:

People are spiraling down so much, and you just turn from that and turn toward God and Live out from that Godlike place instead of from all the fears and all the anxiety and all the bad news and all the, oh, sludge.

James Early [00:28:56]:

So it's really about what direction you're going. Is that what you're saying? I mean

Polly Castor [00:29:01]:

Yeah. Yeah. It's like, okay. If it's not good, then maybe you shouldn't be focused on that. And it it's not about denial. What it is about is you thought only can be filled with one thing at a time. So we might as well fill it with something productive and something beautiful and something, you know, joyous and and uplifting and inspiring.

James Early [00:29:27]:

Yeah. Absolutely.

Polly Castor [00:29:29]:

And then in Romans it says, be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of god. I used to pray all the time, God helped me know and do your will. And finally, God cut through all the static and said, you are my will. Oh. That blew my mind.

James Early [00:29:53]:

Yeah. That's a completely different take on that. Wow. We are God's will. Obviously, he created us because he wanted to.

Polly Castor [00:30:03]:

Yep.

James Early [00:30:04]:

He made us just the way he wanted us to be in his image and likeness. Oh, that's powerful.

Polly Castor [00:30:09]:

So Romans, be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Oh, hello. Why are we spiraling down? Let's be renewed. Prove what is good and acceptable. And what is the will of God?

James Early [00:30:26]:

And what comes to me just as you're saying that is the way we do that is these very things you're talking about is do all these things that the Bible is telling us to do, and that's what helps renew us. Right?

Polly Castor [00:30:40]:

Right. Right. Well, we're never really unrenewed spiritually in the kingdom of heaven. We're just, you know, who we should be. But we stray from that because we didn't choose ye this day whom we should serve. We get all mucked up in the problem at work or the family dispute or whatever it is. You know? We have to turn and live ye, which is, you know, literally turning in a different direction and seeing what God is doing in the situation. And every time I've done that, see what God's doing in whatever situation that would wanna distract me, the situation is transformed.

Polly Castor [00:31:23]:

And that's what it says, be transformed by the renewing of your mind. It literally, by transforming my mind, it transforms the situation. And some people, like, oh, I don't have time to pray because all this problem is going on. No. I don't think it works like that. Should we talk about sin?

James Early [00:31:41]:

Let's do.

Polly Castor [00:31:45]:

Well, Romans goes on to say, sin shall not have dominion over you, so we can turn from it. Ezekiel says, Cast away from all your transgressions. Make you a new heart and a new spirit. Proverbs would tell us, hear counsel and receive instruction. Romans would say, Overcome evil with good. In James, it says draw nigh unto God. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double minded. If we can know the truth, the truth can set us free.

Polly Castor [00:32:29]:

Back to turning and living. Ephesians says, be renewed in the spirit of your mind. Put on the new man. Turn away from the mistakes and the sin and go and sin no more, The Bible says, go and sin no more.

James Early [00:32:48]:

That's easy to say. It's hard to do sometimes. Yeah. How do we do that?

Polly Castor [00:32:55]:

I think this is where we get to what you wanna know how to be Christ-like. And I think we have to take up the cross, And we have to follow Jesus.

James Early [00:33:03]:

Yeah. That's really the answer, isn't it?

Polly Castor [00:33:07]:

But there's there's a lot of imperatives in the bible that tell us how to do that. We're not left with trying to figure it out. We're not left to just kind of read between the lines. I mean, it's easy to do that too, but there's some blatant things that we're told to do that would help us be Christ-like, That will help us not be sinners. We're turning away from our transgressions. And where are we walking? We're seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, that's what Jesus did. He'd go up on the mountain. We talked to God for a long time.

Polly Castor [00:33:44]:

Romans says, become servants of God. Have your fruit unto holiness. Titus would say, in everything, set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness. Are all of us making an example of ourselves by doing good all the time? It's being Christ-like. If you're doing good all the time, what kind of sinner are you?

James Early [00:34:10]:

Right. It's keeping our eyes focused on following Jesus.

Polly Castor [00:34:15]:

Choose ye this day whom ye shall serve. Right? Yeah. Back to that. Psalms says, walk uprightly. Also, we were walking in love, and now we're walking uprightly. It's actually doing good and seeking God and focusing on bringing forth good fruit. Does sin bring forth good fruit? No.

James Early [00:34:38]:

No. Obviously.

Polly Castor [00:34:40]:

But being Christ like does. And a little later, we maybe we can talk about what some of that good fruit is like. The Bible tells us it doesn't actually make us wonder and have to figure it out.

James Early [00:34:52]:

So, Polly, you're talking about being Christlike, and that's so important. But what would you say are some of the qualities of Christlikeness that we can focus on.

Polly Castor [00:35:04]:

Well, Micah says that we should do justly and love mercy and walk humbly with our God. I would say that's pretty Christ like. Jesus told us to let our light shine that they may see our good works and glorify God. So letting our light shine is definitely quality of Christ. Right?

James Early [00:35:29]:

Wow. Yeah. So sometimes people are afraid to, share their their faith, their truth, their inspiration, and they keep it all to themselves. That is not Christlike. Jesus didn't stay in a cave somewhere. He didn't stay up on the mountain the whole time. He came down and shared what he had with people. I hadn't really ever thought of it quite that way as being Christlike, but that sharing, that shining forth, freely giving, that's really a Christlike quality, isn't it?

Polly Castor [00:36:00]:

Well and we're also told in the Sermon on the Mount, you know, to be like a candle on a candlestick and not to put it under a bushel. And I always tell people, look, what happens to the candle under the bushel? It suffocates. It goes out. You know, people think that they wanna protect their light, you know, and well, they're shy or they're, you know, insecure about it, so they're gonna protect it under the bushel, and hello, it suffocates itself there. You know, the safest place for your light is on the candlestick, letting it shine to all that are in the house. Let's talk about what the fruit of the Spirit is. When you let your light shine, the fruit of the spirit according to Galatians says, is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Those are all Christlike qualities, all qualities of letting our light shine. When we do those things, when we express love and joy and peace and gentleness and goodness and faith, even meekness and temperance. That's letting our light shine.

Polly Castor [00:37:12]:

Psalms says, I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. You asked about being Christlike. Am I walking in my house with a perfect heart?

James Early [00:37:29]:

Yeah. That's a lot to think about.

Polly Castor [00:37:32]:

Letting your light shine assumes that you're reaching out to someone else and someone's seeing that light. Right? And you're blessing all that are in the house. But when I walk within my house with a perfect heart, I am just, like, just by myself in my house. I'm supposed to be that way.

James Early [00:37:50]:

That's a really good point because sometimes people behave differently when they're with other people, and then they're not really being that way with themselves. Jesus was the same when he was by himself on the mountain than when he was with the people. He didn't change. Well, he was being authentic at all times. That's kinda what you're saying.

Polly Castor [00:38:15]:

Well, you know authentic is a big word for me. I love that word. I love encouraging people to be authentic. The Bible doesn't actually use the word authenticity, but I think back to the 1st chapter of Genesis when God saw us as very good and we're made in the image and likeness of God. When you wanna talk about Christ like qualities, those are the ones that are the image and likeness of God, and there's a whole bunch of them. I have I have some real pithy ones here to share with you. I'm just gonna run down them without their citations, and you can find those citations in James' show notes later. Prosper and be in good health.

Polly Castor [00:38:54]:

Follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. In her tongue is the law of kindness. Oh, don't I want in my tongue to be the law of kindness? Wash your hands in innocency. I walk in my integrity. Be filled with the fullness of God. Humble yourselves. Add to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, charity. As you abound in everything in faith, in utterance, and in knowledge, and all diligence, and in your love to us, see that you abound in grace also.

Polly Castor [00:39:37]:

Let patience have her perfect work. Put on immortality. That was Christlike. Right?

James Early [00:39:45]:

Yeah. That's a big one. We usually think of immortality way off in the future somewhere. But if we're putting it on now, that gives a very different sense, doesn't it? Or yeah. Living out from that instead of trying to get up to it.

Polly Castor [00:40:02]:

Yeah. That's a great way to say it. It's like walking in our house with a perfect heart. That's immortality because you have the kingdom of heaven at hand and on Earth right now. That's immortality. I always try to remember that, you know, it's not what happened in the past. You know, people look at the past with longing or regret, and they look at the future with anticipation or fear. But right now is the only time.

Polly Castor [00:40:35]:

Now is the accepted time. And so immortality is now just as much as kindness is now. Just as much as integrity is now or love is now. This is something that we reflect because it's true about god. Therefore, we're made in God's image and likeness. That immortality is true about us. I love this one from Psalms. I shall be satisfied when I wake with thy likeness. So again, even though we have to do all these things, we already are these things.

Polly Castor [00:41:10]:

It's almost like we just have to utilize who we are.

James Early [00:41:13]:

God made us in his image and likeness, but we've got to realize that and act with that information, with that understanding, with that sense of who we are. It's like knowing that you have a car in the driveway isn't the same as driving it. You're saying to go back to your analogy,

get in the car and go somewhere. You're God's image and likeness. That's your car. Get in and drive.

Polly Castor [00:41:36]:

You have this incredible gift. What are you gonna do with it? Yeah. So now let's think about this: Let's come boldly unto the throne of grace. Are we coming boldly unto the throne of grace?

James Early [00:41:50]:

Wow.

Polly Castor [00:41:51]:

It's kind of like that light on the candlestick that's standing there fearlessly and with integrity. Like, here I am, in all my authenticity, let it rip. Come boldly unto the throne of grace.

James Early [00:42:05]:

That's powerful.

Polly Castor [00:42:07]:

Hebrews says, let us run with patience the race that is set before us. That's kinda different.

James Early [00:42:13]:

Yeah. That's an interesting metaphor because usually, if you're running, you're going as fast as you can. I guess, in the sense of a marathon, you you're pacing yourself, you know, to get through the longer race. Maybe that's where that metaphor is going.

Polly Castor [00:42:30]:

Immortality is a very long race.

James Early [00:42:33]:

Oh, but you said it's right now.

Polly Castor [00:42:35]:

It is. It's right now and forever. Yeah. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Stand ye fast in one spirit with one mind, striving together for faith in the gospel. Stand fast in the faith. Be strong. You know, there's a lot of reiteration about stick to itiveness, patience.

Polly Castor [00:43:03]:

Must have a perfect work. You gotta wait. You gotta work, and you gotta pray, and you gotta watch, and you gotta wait. But it's gonna happen, so you keep clinging fast like we talked at the very beginning.

James Early [00:43:14]:

I think that's an important thing to remember because sometimes we're in a situation, and it resolves very quickly. Other times, it's a lot slower, and it's tempting to give up sometimes. But that standing fast is being faithful, standing on the rock of Christ even if the wind and the waves

are blowing against you. Stick it out. Like you said, stick to itiveness. Stay with it. Stay with God. Keep choosing to follow Christ, and that puts you in in a good place.

Polly Castor [00:43:45]:

I love the story of Nehemiah because I'm that structural engineer. Let us rise up and build.

James Early [00:43:51]:

There you go.

Polly Castor [00:43:52]:

And be strengthened for this good work. Okay. So all that standing fast and all that, you know, needing to be strong and stuff. It's God that's strengthening us to do God's work. It's not that we have to do anything of ourselves. We have to prove all things. We have to hold fast with that, which is good, the Bible says. But it's law that makes that proving possible.

Polly Castor [00:44:19]:

It's not something that we have to manufacture.

James Early [00:44:22]:

I'm glad you brought that back up again. You talked about that with God's love. We get in trouble actually, we create more problems when we think we have to manufacture something, or we have to love someone without God's help, or we have to solve a problem. It's really this complete dependence on God that you keep talking about. I think that's really, really important. And that's an overall theme in the whole Bible, really. Don't you think?

Polly Castor [00:44:50]:

Yeah. And I think it was, one of the reasons that I was initially not interested in the bible was I was a, you know, independent. I wanted to be independent, and I realized at some point that I needed something bigger than myself. You know, I didn't wanna be obedient. I was too much of a free spirit or too much of a rebel or something. And I didn't want somebody telling me what to do. Right? But then when you realize that it's really about being authentic to who I actually am and learning how to do that, then that feels very different. The obedience is not hard when I'm being obedient to my authenticity.

Polly Castor [00:45:30]:

It's like, why wouldn't you wanna do that? Right?

James Early [00:45:33]:

Right. Yeah. That's a really good point because who among us likes to be told what to do because it seems like somebody's trying to manipulate us. If you realize all these imperatives as you call them in the Bible, they're really there so we will discover who we really are, that that authentic identity as the image and likeness of God is God's beloved child. I'm just seeing now how all this is falling together is that all these things are there for our edification, for our discovery of who we are as a child of God and how much he loves us. If we're not doing these things, it's kinda like keeping the curtains drawn and the blinds down, the light doesn't come in your bedroom. When you open it up, you let all that light in. You let in these imperatives as you

call them, and you do them. It lets god's love into our lives, and we feel that, and then it's a very different situation.

James Early [00:46:36]:

We're in the light instead of in the darkness.

Polly Castor [00:46:39]:

And that's a classic metaphor. Another one I'm thinking of is it's a toolbox. And all these imperatives are things that we have in our toolbox that we can utilize. Oh, in this situation, I can haul out kindness. Oh, in this situation, I need to turn and live. In this situation, I can love my neighbor as myself. In this situation, I can know the truth. In this situation, I can be spiritually minded because that's life and peace.

Polly Castor [00:47:03]:

In this situation, I can so, you know, it's like having a hammer and a chisel and a screwdriver and a wrench. And I'm completely fitted for whatever I need and everything I need to be. Oh. I just gotta know what it is and I gotta actually use them.

James Early [00:47:20]:

I love that metaphor of the toolbox because you can't use a screwdriver when you need a pair of pliers. I mean, you could try, but it wouldn't work very well. So Yeah. That's a great metaphor. Yeah. These are tools in our spiritual toolbox. So you've talked about all these things and standing fast. Where does that bring us? What what's the result of all this?

Polly Castor [00:47:45]:

Well, I think it gives us peace, and people usually don't feel peace because they're afraid. And so the Bible says a lot of things about that. Isaiah says, fear not for I have redeemed thee. Daniel says, fear not. Peace be unto you. Be strong. Yea, be strong. The same be strong mantra that's a lot. There's a lot of that.

James Early [00:48:10]:

You were telling me just the other day how many times that the Bible says don't be afraid.

Polly Castor [00:48:15]:

Oh, yeah. I think it's very cool. I think it's 365 times, Which is, like, once for every day of the year. I think maybe it's kind of important. You think? Yeah. I think.

James Early [00:48:27]:

Yeah. Don't be afraid. Maybe it's in there because that's what we need. Maybe more than anything is don't be afraid. God's saying, I got this. I got your back. Yeah. When you think of it, that is actually an imperative form of the verb.

James Early [00:48:43]:

It is a command. It is an injunction. Don't be afraid.

Polly Castor [00:48:47]:

That's what I'm saying.

James Early [00:48:48]:

Yeah. That's interesting. I never thought of that as a command or, imperative, but it really is. Don't be afraid.

Polly Castor [00:48:58]:

Oh, yeah. Don't be afraid. Totally. You're supposed to be obedient to that.

James Early [00:49:03]:

So what would you say to someone who is in a situation that's very, very frightening? We all know people that are in those situations. How would you encourage someone?

Polly Castor [00:49:15]:

I think, first of all, we have to be patient with them because then we can't do any good if unless we actually hear them. They they need to feel heard. And it's like, again, the guy with the gun in the subway. You know, if somebody's having a bad time, you have to see past that to what God has made, what God is loving who their authentic self is. A lot of it is how I would be looking at them and not what I would be saying. But what you say is something reassuring, which is why, right after the Bible says fear not, it says peace be unto you. It's a reassuring thought. You reassure the person based on God's love and God's care and god's direction and God's protection and God's you know, we could do a whole another podcast and all the thing God's doing.

Polly Castor [00:50:10]:

Because God's doing all the doing, and if you really really get into that, that's how you cannot fear, I think. And so if somebody is afraid, I would have them turn and live ye. I would have them turn away from whatever the picture is and get so steeped in looking at what God is and what God's doing, and then there's there's comfort and and reassurance and even healing.

James Early [00:50:39]:

You know, that's interesting. You talk about see what God is doing. Jesus actually said, and you kinda quoted part of this already. Jesus said, I can't do anything by myself, but then he also said, Whatever the Son, referring to himself, the Son of God, whatever the Son sees the Father do that the Son does always. In other words, Whatever Jesus could see God doing, then he could do it, and that's kinda where we have to start. I mean, if you're afraid then, can you see God not being afraid? Can you see God already in charge of situation? That's maybe where we need to start, And that may not be what you say to someone, but if you can see that, then you can help them get there.

Polly Castor [00:51:24]:

Right. And I think also seeing them and just safe in the palm of God's hand and seeing them safe under God's wing, Just nestled in and covered with feathers. If you add your alarm to their fear and concern, that's not gonna help anything.

James Early [00:51:45]:

Right. Right. I think this whole idea of being at peace it's so important.

Polly Castor [00:51:53]:

Colossians says, let the peace of God rule in your hearts, and that's what Jesus was doing.

James Early [00:52:00]:

Jesus said, peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives. And there, here it is again. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. It's interesting how peace and not being afraid are together all the time. They're like brother and sister almost throughout the Bible, and you've already shared a few of those.

Polly Castor [00:52:24]:

Yeah. We always hear about how love is a flip side of the coin from fear, but peace is also.

James Early [00:52:33]:

Yeah. You're right.

Polly Castor [00:52:35]:

Romans says, follow after the things which make for peace and the things where with one may edify one another. So again, when we're afraid, how can we be edifying at someone else. I mean, it's a different way of turning and living ye, but you're getting your thought off the fear spiral, vortex downward spiral.

James Early [00:52:59]:

Right. You know what I hear by all these things you're saying, they're all kind of interrelated. They're all connected is what I'm trying to say. I hadn't thought about that quite so much until you've kind of put them all in in context here with each other.

Polly Castor [00:53:13]:

Well, it's like I said, I find it helpful to isolate them because they're all a sum total of who you are, who you are, who I am, who your listener is, is who God made us to be. And I think that's kind of the point of the Bible is to Know who you are. Do who you are. It's the salvation of the world. If we all were our authentic selves, There would be peace on Earth. No one would be afraid, if we'd let the peace of God rule in our hearts. It would solve all the polarity had solved all the wars.

James Early [00:53:49]:

Yeah. We tend to see that as an impossibility, but Jesus really expected that to happen at some point.

Polly Castor [00:53:59]:

Jesus came with a big message, but it doesn't happen unless we all do it.

James Early [00:53:49]:

Right. Well and that's the whole point of this conversation really is that we have to do what Jesus has told us to do. We have to do what the Bible is telling us to, how to love God, how to love our neighbors, and how to love ourselves, how to be charitable and loving and kind, and all these

things you're talking about. Yeah. It's not gonna happen unless we we do that. We've covered a lot of territory here. I'm wondering if we can kinda bring this to a close. Is there some way to kinda summarize all these things together? How would you kind of bring all these things into focus?

Polly Castor [00:54:43]:

Well, on the way to bring them into focus, I will get there. I promise. I wanna just mention that we need to praise. I will praise Thee, oh Lord, with my whole heart. I will show forth all Thy marvelous works. I will serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with singing. Are we coming with singing? Are we serving gladly? Are we praising with our whole heart? Or just or with our petition of what we want god to do for us?

James Early [00:55:16]:

Yeah.

Polly Castor [00:55:17]:

Sing unto the Lord, All the earth show forth from day to day his salvation. That's the salvation I just talked about about all of us being our whole authentic selves, which is the salvation of the world. So I think getting back to summary here, being the light of the world. Be the light of the world. Put it on the candlestick. Don't shy away from that. Rejoice that the next candlestick comes on the table next to you. And the next and the next and the next until that's all there is is light.

Polly Castor [00:55:50]:

One of my favorite favorite phrases in the Bible is, be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters fail not. That's a very different image than a candle on a candlestick. It's very similar though. We need water and we need light in order to live. And God's given both to us, and we are both and need to be both. And lastly, I would say, try this for a summary. Rejoice forevermore.

James Early [00:56:25]:

That's pretty powerful. Polly, I want to thank you so much for sharing all these ideas with us. I know a lot of these Bible verses my listeners will know and and recognize. It's really powerful to hear them all together, and, of course, there's so many more things in the Bible you could say was an imperative or an injunction or a command. We've just talked about a few of them. I really love hearing them all together. I'm just curious how you keep track of all these things? Do you write them down? Do you just remember them at the flip of a switch? Do you have some kind of practice in a journal? How do you keep track of all this stuff?

Polly Castor [00:57:10]:

Well, I do a Bible study every morning, And I keep a notebook. Since October, I have been keeping a list of these as they crop up in my study. And I've always journaled With my Bible study, I find that extremely helpful. I encourage other people to do that as well. It's helped me understand who God is, What god is doing and now especially what I'm tasked to do. But it's not enough just to do the study and write the list, although I hope you do that. You really gotta kind of let that list become a menu of what you're gonna do, what you're gonna order up for the day,

choose you which which of those injunctions you're gonna serve today. I'm gonna work on kindness today.

Polly Castor [00:58:04]:

I'm gonna work on patience today. I'm gonna work on seeing everyone else's light on the candlestick today. I'm gonna whatever it is, there's so many things. I mean, who can I edify today? I'm gonna keep my eye out for who I can edify today. I give myself all sorts of games and all sorts of challenges and all sorts of little private little projects that I do with the list that I make about the things that I need to do that I find in my Bible study. So play with it. It's a playground. It's something you're supposed to do, and it doesn't have to be drudgery.

Polly Castor [00:58:41]:

It doesn't have to be, like, homework. It's like fun. Make it a game. See how much you can do. As a homeschooling mother, I always used to say run with your strengths and manage your weaknesses. So some days, run with your strengths. Oh, I'm good at x y z. I'm gonna do that today, of these injunctions.

Polly Castor [00:59:02]:

And some days, you know what? I'm really struggling with x, y, or z, and I'm gonna work on a different thing that is the answer to that. Or some days, I'm like, I'm feeling so on top of things I can try to work on something that I'm not really very good at.

James Early [00:59:21]:

Yeah.

Polly Castor [00:59:22]:

The point is having the rubber hit the road, you do the study, Make the list. Notice these things, but then find ways to incorporate them in your experience. And the more you do that, the more it'll feel authentic for you to just be that, and the more you'll be that without even trying to be that. And that's where we're headed.

James Early [00:59:45]:

Polly, how can people connect with you? What's the best way for them to be in touch?

Polly Castor [00:59:51]:

Well, you can reach me directly at pollycastor@gmail, is my email. But I have a blog that you are very welcome to subscribe to. It does come every day. And the blog is about a whole range of topics. It's a journal on art, photography, spirituality, ideas, books, movies, food, poetry, and hope. Basically, if you were in my living room as my house guest for dinner, it's what we I would be talking about. It's whatever is, top of mind for me at the moment. But a lot of people love the variety.

Polly Castor [01:00:29]:

My byline for that blog is basically to amplify good, And I think that's what we all need to be doing in this world is amplifying good. So another Injunction of the Bible is to give freely, so freely give. This blog is a free gift And an amplification of good out in the world, and the way

God told me about it and got me to do it is everybody needs something good in their email every morning. You can also find me on Instagram @pollycastor. My art site, if you're interested in that, is pollycastorart.com, And you could buy my paintings there.

James Early [01:01:07]:

Well, I'll have all those links in the show notes. I would just wanna encourage you. If you're not already familiar with Polly, I hope you'll check out her links because she's got some fabulous art, and I yes, I'm prejudiced, but she has some fabulous art, and her her blog is is fascinating. Lots of beautiful photography, great recipes. As I said, she's a fabulous cook, Great book reviews. That's something I think will edify you in many ways. Like, she's talking about this one way that she's working to edify you and love you and shower good things your way. Polly, is there any final little comment that you wanna make to kinda just put a seal and delivered sign on this conversation we've had?

Polly Castor [01:01:55]:

I guess I would love to encourage everyone to identify with themselves the way God identifies them, and I believe that that is in a Christ-like way and not in a way of being a sinner, that all those good qualities and attributes of god are inherent in you and are ready to be expressed by you and needed in the world. And to be that person, come boldly unto the throne of grace. Be the watered garden. Be the light on the candlestick. God made you to be all this good stuff, and don't get beleaguered and thinking you're anything otherwise, turn from that and live you.

James Early [01:02:41]:

That's what we've been talking about today. Polly, I wanna honor you. I love you so much as my wife and my best friend. I want to honor you for All the giving that you do, I know when you were homeschooling, you gave tirelessly to all the other homeschool moms. You give freely with your blog. You are always ready to help somebody. You pour out your essence in your paintings, and you share those with people. It's just wonderful to be kind of a witness to the way you live your life, and I just want to honor you for all the ways that you're reaching out and letting your light shine.

James Early [01:03:20]:

You certainly put your light on the candlestick, and I'm I'm really grateful to have my candlestick next to yours on the table instead of under the bushel.

Polly Castor [01:03:28]:

I'm glad yours is there too, dearie.

James Early [01:03:30]:

Yeah. I have 3 final questions that I ask all my guests. Here's the first question. If you could talk to any bible character, other than Jesus, who would it be and what would you ask them?

Polly Castor [01:03:46]:

I would love to talk to Enoch. He walked with God.

James Early [01:03:50]:

Yeah. What would you ask him?

Polly Castor [01:03:52]:

I think we'd have a conversation very much like the one you and I just had because he was so at one with God that he must have really imbibed those qualities and attributes that I was just talking about so well, he must have overcome all sorts of stuff in order to be able to do that without getting self involved. And I just think that he'd you know, it's something I would like to emulate, the way he lived his life. And we don't have a whole lot on him. It's a very short bit.

James Early [01:04:27]:

Yeah. Here's the second question. Is there any Bible character who you especially identify with.

Polly Castor [01:04:35]:

I can't believe I'm about to say this because I really don't like him, But I'm gonna say Paul.

James Early [01:04:40]:

Okay.

Polly Castor [01:04:41]:

And I'm gonna say it because he was bringing Christianity to the Gentiles, And I am very comfortable talking to the nonbeliever. Actually, I'm more comfortable talking to the nonbeliever Because I really don't like a lot of jargon, and the nonbelievers are much more comfortable talking to me because I don't like the jargon. There's a lot of things about Paul and how he behaved that are object lessons for me about how not to be, but I do appreciate the fact that he was including the non-Jew. And I am including in my practice. My spiritual healing practice is largely people on the fringes, and not that I wouldn't help anyone. Usually, if somebody's really having trouble, You know, they're not up to Enoch's standards, and I have the patience to deal with these people. I know I joked about not having patience, but I guess I do in some areas. I'm comfortable talking to the person that a lot of Christianity would feel uncomfortable with, And that's why I identify with Paul.

James Early [01:05:53]:

Wow. That's so true. I've seen that in your life for many years. Okay. Here is the 3rd and final question. The Bible Speaks To You podcast is about getting back to the original Christianity of Jesus. How would you describe Jesus's original message of how he wanted us to live our lives?

Polly Castor [01:06:17]:

I think I've already done that. I think we're supposed to be authentically Christ-like. I think we're supposed to edify one another. I think we're supposed to be the watered garden and the light on the candlestick. I think we're supposed to go and do the good, be the good, see the good in others even when they don't see it themselves.

James Early [01:06:42]:

Polly, I wanna thank you so much for spending some time with me. You've been so supportive of me in this podcast for now over 4 years. It's really been great to have you as a guest on the show too. So thanks so much for being here today.

Polly Castor [01:06:58]:
You're welcome, dear.

James Early [01:06:59]:
Alright. Take care. Bye bye.