

# How to Pray “Good News” with Patients

CCHF Conference – *Count It All Joy* – Cincinnati, April 7, 2022

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## The Problem and Objectives of this workshop

Notes

- How and where does prayer fit into clinical care?

## Our Conference Theme:

- The significant and substantial difference between joy and happiness.
- How do we find the time and ability to exercise the joy we need – not only to inspire and energize patients but to keep from burning out?

## Joint Commission mandate:

- Spiritual assessment as part of the overall assessment of each patient.

## CCHF Gospel mandate, ministry, and message:

- “Living out the gospel through healthcare among the poor.”

## Tripartite Biblical view of Body, Soul, Spirit mandate:

- AKA the “biopsychosocial-spiritual” (BPSS) approach

## Integrating spiritual runs into BPSS pressures from within and without:

- Internal, family, work, time, opposing influence of the “Zeitgeist”

## Each encounter calls for BPSS “life and death” advocacy choices:

- How do we do it? Primarily by following Jesus’ example of sharing His Truth, in His Way, and allowing His Life to flow.

## Getting to know people in all BPSS dimensions of their existence:

1. We were trained to do the “**Body**” (B) part pretty well, weren’t we?
2. We need to get to know patients personally – the “**Soul**” (PS) part:
  - Who are they; what they do; who are they related to; how do they think, feel and act?
  - What is important to them, motivates them, inhibits/triggers them?
3. And we’re called to get to know them better **Spiritually (S)**:
  - What are their hopes and fears?
  - Why do they think they are afflicted?
  - Where is God in their lives and current situations?
  - Do they believe in a God who answers prayer?
  - Where do they feel weak? What are their sources of strength?
  - Have they found support in a faith community? etc.

## Be living letters:

- Be alive, lively, active, engaged, interactive, accessible, transparent, and perky vs. dead, dreary, sullen, withdrawn, aloof, and inaccessible.
- Share in language with God-breathed personal content that communicates with others vs. being “closed books” without content that others can’t “read” or wouldn’t want to.

## Be genuine ladies and gentlemen:

- Courteous, kind, cheerful, comforting, faithful, hopeful, and loving

**Maintain a godly attitude:**

- Count it all joy when you meet trials. *James 1:2-4*
- A joyful heart is good medicine. *Proverbs 17:22*

**Be 100% available to each person:**

- Greet people warmly, graciously, courteously.
- Ask about their welfare.
- Comment on something attractive or interesting about them or their companion(s) – their hair, clothing, facial expression,.
- Mix humor and lightheartedness into your conversation.
- Allow space for personal anecdotes if they relate.
- Don't let the world clutter you up or get you down.

**Be observant for nonverbal cues about underlying issues:**

- Ask what brought them to you, then draw them out.
- Look for underlying motives beneath superficial reasons.
- Be sensitive to metacommunication, body language.
- Mix empathy with lightheartedness when probing into potentially painful subjects – “this is such a bad situation you have to either laugh or cry, or both...”
- Don't be afraid to dig around and ask personal questions – people are unusually receptive to someone who cares.
- Take note but don't think you have to do something about everything you uncover.

**Exercise your privilege to “lay hands on” people:**

- Don't be afraid to touch people appropriately.
- Do a good examination.
- Be warm but professional, firm but gentle.
- Check things that will confirm that you care enough to be thorough.
- Describe what you're doing and what you're finding as you go along.
- Keep up your personal conversation, weaving in pertinent spiritual inquiry and comment along the way.

**Make a faith connection:**

People come to us with bad news. Be prepared and able to share good news with them.

- Completely legal and ethical.
- Be gentle but bold.
- Don't be afraid to wear your Christian heart on your sleeve – “God bless you!”
- Don't be ashamed of the Gospel “for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.”
- Don't hide your light under a bushel but put it on a lampstand.
- Be disciplined – it's the mark of a disciple.
- Let the Holy Spirit be your guide as you move in your gifts.
- Offer to pray as a visit summary, and then pray openly – right then and there – let go and let God, and move on to the next patient...

**A Resource for clearing the way:**

- My discipleship training material at <https://celebratesalvation.org>