

**FROM  
TONY  
JEARY**

# STORIES & ANECDOTES

## FROM TONY'S BOOK *SPEAKING SPICE*

Here are a few stories and anecdotes from Tony's book *Speaking Spice* that you might use in a Christian ministry setting. Some are humorous, and others have an emotional impact. Some are more appropriate for opening your presentations, and you may want to use others to reinforce a point. **Enjoy!**

### **A New Paradigm/Clever Thinking**

During one of the famous garbage strikes in New York City, a woman called in to a radio talk show to share the novel way she got rid of all her trash.

What she did was take her compressed refuse and bag it in the usual way; however, she then beautifully gift wrapped the bags and headed for her local mall, where she left the irresistible packages on the front seat of her unlocked car. Magically, when she would return to her car after just a short time shopping, she always found that some kind-hearted soul had been thoughtful enough to take her designer garbage packages away, saving her the trouble!

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### **Focus, Focus, Focus, Focus**

Most of us have been to the circus and seen the lion tamer.

Let me ask you this question. Of all the tools the lion tamer uses, which do they consider the most valuable? Is it the whip, the gun or the chair?

If you answered the chair you'd be right, but why?

Well, when the lion tamer uses the chair, to us it just looks like a barrier between him and the powerful lion; however, there's more to it than just this. You see, if you look at the bottom of the chair, you'll find it has four identical leg posts. That's no surprise. However the theory is that when a lion looks at the chair, he sees all four posts and can't focus on any one in particular. Because of this lack of focus, he then becomes paralyzed from attacking and taking action. Focus is the key!



## The Attitude of a Winner

Whenever I'm disappointed with my position in life, I stop and think about the story of a little boy named James.

James was trying out for a part in the school play. His mother said that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen. On the day the parts were awarded, she went to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement. "Guess what, Mom!" he shouted. Then he said the words that can teach of us all a lesson about winning and coming up short. James said with pride, "I've been chosen to clap and cheer."

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## Conclusions on Life from a Child (Humor)

- Never trust a dog to watch your food
- When you want something expensive, ask your grandparents
- Never smart off to a teacher whose eyes and ears are twitching
- Sleep in your clothes so you'll be dressed in the morning
- Never ask for anything that costs more than five dollars when your parents are doing taxes
- Never bug a pregnant mom
- When your dad is mad and asks, "Do I look stupid?" don't answer him!
- Never tell your mom her diet's not working
- Don't pick on your sister when she's holding a baseball bat
- When you get a bad grade in school, show it to your mom when she's on the phone
- Never try to baptize a cat
- Never spit when you're on a roller coaster
- Never do pranks at a police station
- Beware of cafeteria food when it looks like it's moving
- Never tell your little brother that you're not going to do what your mom told you to do
- Listen to your brain; it has lots of information
- Never dare your little brother to paint the family car

## Life After Death

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his younger employees.

"Yes, Sir."

"And with good reason, my boy," the boss said, "because about an hour after you left yesterday to go to your grandfather's funeral, he stopped in to see you."

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## Issues of the Heart

### What It Means to Be Adopted

Teacher Debbie Moon's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had different color hair than the other family members. One child suggested that he was adopted and a little girl said, "I know all about adoptions because I was adopted." "What does it mean to be adopted?" asked another child. "It means," said the girl, "that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy."

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### Barney

A four year old was at the pediatrician for a check up. As the doctor looked down her ears with an otoscope, he asked, "Do you think I'll find Big Bird in here?" The little girl stayed silent. Next, the doctor took a tongue depressor and looked down her throat. He asked, "Do you think I'll find the Cookie Monster down there?" Again, the little girl was silent. Then the doctor put a stethoscope to her chest. As he listened to her heartbeat, he asked, "Do you think I'll hear Barney in there?" "Oh, no!" the little girl replied. "Jesus is in my heart. Barney's on my underpants."

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## Fleming and Churchill

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog. There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life." "No, I can't accept payment for what I did," the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly. "I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to be a man you can be proud of." And that he did.

In time, Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and he went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin. Years afterward, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved him? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name? Sir Winston Churchill.

The message: What goes around comes around.

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## What Does Love Mean?

A group of professional people posed the question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, "What does love mean?" The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think.

"Love is that first feeling you feel before all the bad stuff gets in the way." - Charlie - age 5

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." - Rebecca - age 8

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." - Billy - age 4

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." - Chrissy - age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." - Terri - age 4

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." - Bobby - age 5

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." - Nikka - age 6

"When you tell someone something bad about yourself and you're scared they won't love you anymore. But then you get surprised because, not only do they still love you, they love you even more." - Matthew - age 7

"There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them." - Jenny - age 4

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday." - Noelle - age 7

"During my piano recital, I was on a stage and scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore." - Cindy - age 8

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." - Jessica - age 8

"God could have said magic words to make the nails fall off the cross, but He didn't. That's love." - Max - age 5

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