

# Speak

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The challenge today is to have the courage to stand up for what you believe, to share your testimony both through your actions as well as by what you say.

**SPEAK** in prayer

**LISTEN** to the spirit's promptings

**SPEAK** through actions

**SPEAK** through song and music

**SPEAK** aloud - sharing our testimonies without fear

## **Scriptures:**

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" 2 Timothy 1:7

"Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost? Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do." 2 Nephi, 2-3

"O that I were an angel, and could have the wish of mine heart, that I might go forth and speak with the trump of God, with a voice to shake the earth, and cry repentance unto every people!" Alma 29:1

## Rachel Joy Scott

She was where she was supposed to be, but unfortunately that place, Columbine High School, was the wrong place to be on April 20th 1999, and she ended up paying the ultimate price for it.

Rachel Scott was the first person murdered by Columbine Killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

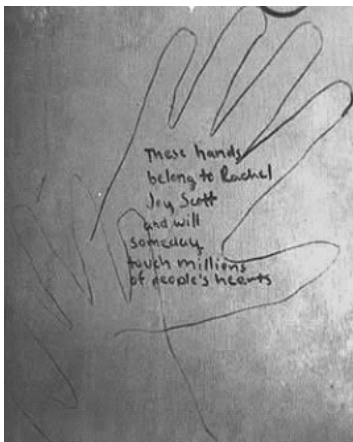
Rachel Scott was 17 years old.

It should be noted that more people watched Rachel Scott's funeral on CNN than watched the funeral of Princess Diana.



Rachel wrote an essay 1 month before her death. "My Ethics, My Codes of Life" (shown below)

Rachel lived this way all of her life. In her daily endeavors, she spoke her beliefs in her actions and by example. Whether Rachel knew it or not, she was following Christ's example.



The image to the side is a photograph taken of the back of one of Rachel's old pieces of furniture. Rachel had a habit of writing in unusual places throughout her life. Here, she traced her hands and wrote: "These hands belong to Rachel Joy Scott and will someday touch millions of people's hearts."

When her mother was asked what she thought Rachel died for, she responded: "I'm convinced with all my heart that Rachel died for her faith. I believe God, even though it didn't come from the head of God at all, I believe God allowed Rachel in that mix because there's been a real strong witness for faith especially to this

younger generation. I believe personally, that was Rachel's whole desire in life, to be a strong witness for the Lord and to impact people in a spiritual way. Of course at that time she didn't know that was going to come, that she was going to die for her faith. But, it all goes back to her faith, and to show people the love of Christ. There's mis-information about Rachel being asked if she believed in God before she was shot. We have on tape that she was. That was volunteered by the person that was right beside her, when she was shot. There have been a lot of attempts and this is my personal belief, to take God out if this loop, in any way, shape or form. The truth is, a lot of those kids were asked. Even those that lived were asked. Why they want to diminish that I don't know except that they don't want to include God in anything anymore. It's politically incorrect I guess."

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### My Ethics, My Codes of Life

Rachel Scott period 5

you express  
yourself w/ a sense  
of choice and  
originality -  
solid  
organization  
well  
revised  
this

Ethics vary with environment, circumstances, and culture. In my own life, ethics play a major role. Whether it was because of the way I was raised, the experiences I've had, or just my outlook on the world and the way things should be. My biggest aspects of ethics include being honest, compassionate, and looking for the best and beauty in everyone.

I have been told repeatedly that I trust people too easily, but I find that when I put my faith and trust in people when others would not dare to, they almost never betray me. I would hope that people would put that same faith in me. Trust and honesty is an investment you put in people; if you build enough trust in them and show yourself to be honest, they will do the same in you. I value honesty so much, and it is an expectation I have of myself. I will put honesty before the risk of humiliation, before selfishness, and before anything less worthy of the Gospel truth. Even in being honest and trust worthy, I do not come off cold and heartless. Compassion and honesty go hand in hand, if enough of each is put into every situation. I admire those who trust and are trust worthy.

Compassion is the greatest form of love humans have to offer. According to Webster's Dictionary compassion means a feeling of sympathy for another's misfortune. My definition of compassion is forgiving, loving, helping, leading, and showing mercy for others. I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go.

It wasn't until recently that I learned that the first and the second and the third impressions can be deceitful of what kind of person someone is. For example, imagine you had just met someone, and you speak with them three times on brief everyday conversations. They come off as a harsh, cruel, stubborn, and ignorant person. You reach your judgment based on just these three encounters. Let me ask you something...did you ever ask them what their goal in life is, what kind of past they came from, did they experience love, did they experience hurt, did you look into their soul and not just at their appearance? Until you know them and not just their "type," you have no right to shun them. You have not looked for their beauty, their good. You have not seen the light in their eyes. Look hard enough and you will always find a light, and you can even help it grow, if you don't walk away from those three impressions first.

I am sure that my codes of life may be very different from yours, but how do you know that trust, compassion, and beauty will not make this world a better place to be in and this life a better one to live? My codes may seem like a fantasy that can never be reached, but test them for yourself, and see the kind of effect they have in the lives of people around you. You just may start a chain reaction.