

# Faith Comes from Understanding the Gospel

February 3, 2013

## I. Introduction:

### A. The gospel of Jesus produces the life of faith.

Before Christ, people were kept under the Law, away from faith.

Gal 3:23-25 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Jesus releases faith in us;

He is the author of our faith (Heb 12:2).

Faith is found in Jesus (1 Tim 1:14; 2 Tim 1:13; 3:15).

Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing , and hearing by the word of Christ.

### B. What is the gospel?

1. "Gospel" simply means the good news of God.
2. The gospel in the New Testament is the same good news of God which was promised in the Old Testament. God foretold the coming of the gospel (His Son) through the Prophets.

John 5:39-40 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me (Mk 1:1-3; Ac 26:22-23; Heb 1:1-2; 1 Pt 1:10-12; 2 Pt 1:20-21).

3. Jesus Christ is the subject and the author of the gospel (Rom 1:1-3).

He is both the Subject and the Author of the gospel.  
By Him and through Him the gospel is created and proclaimed.  
He is the very embodiment of the good news of God Himself.

4. The gospel concerns two major truths about the humanity and death of Jesus:

The first truth concerns the humanity of Jesus;

- a. God became a man (John 1:1-2, 14; Lk 2:10-11; Rom 1:2-3; Rom 9:4-5; Gal 4:4-5; Phil 2:6-7; 1 Tim 3:16; Heb 2:14; 2 Jn 7).
- b. Jesus lived as a man and never sinned (2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:15; Heb 7:26; 1 Pt 1:18-19; 2:22-23; 1 Jn 3:5).

The second truth concerns the death of Jesus;

- a. He died as a sacrifice for our sin (2 Cor 5:21; Gal 1:4; 3:13-14; Eph 1:7; Rom 8:32-35; Eph 5:2; 1 Pt 3:18; Rom 5:6-8; Titus 2:14; Heb 2:14-15; 9:26).

- b. The bodily resurrection proves that Jesus is the Son of God (Rom 1:4; Acts 2:24; 13:32-39; 26:22-23; 1 Pt 3:18; 1 Cor 15:12-17, 20 – 21).

## **II. There is one faith, one gospel (but various terms are used).**

Eph 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

### **A. The New Testament speaks of the gospel of:**

Gospel of the kingdom (Mat 4:23; 24:14; Lk 16:16).  
Gospel of God (Rom 1:1; 15:16; 1 Thes 2:18; 1 Tim 1:1; 1 Pt 4:17).  
The gospel of Jesus Christ (Mk 1:1).  
The gospel of the grace of God (Ac 20:24).  
The gospel of peace (Eph 6:15).  
The gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Cor 4:4).  
(Paul's) gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ (Rom 16:25).

### **B. The gospel is also:**

The mystery of the gospel (Eph 6:19); the mystery of Christ (Eph 3:4).  
The word of God (1 Thes 2:13).  
The word of Christ (Col 3:16).  
The word of salvation (Ac 13:26).  
The gospel is about salvation; it is the power of God for salvation (Rom 1:16; Eph 1:13).  
The gospel reveals the righteousness of God (Rom 1:17-18).  
The word of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:19).  
The word of truth (2 Cor 6:7; Eph 1:13).  
The word of faith (Rom 10:8).  
The word of life (Phil 2:16).  
The gospel is about the hope of heaven (Col 1:3-5).

### **C. Elements of the gospel:**

It is important to be clear about the crucial elements of the gospel. The central facts revolve around the work of Jesus on the cross. There are four chief elements to Jesus' redemptive work.

1. We were delivered from the wrath of God by the work of Jesus (Rom 5:9; 1 Thes 1:10; John 3:36; 5:24).
2. We are no longer under obligation to serve the sinful nature; it was broken and we now have a new nature (John 8:31-32; 34-36; Gal 5:1; 2 Cor 5:17).
3. We were taken out from under the rule of the Law (Rom 6:14; 7:4-6; 8:2; Gal 2:19).
4. The rule of death has been broken over our life (2 Tim 1:9-10; 2 Pt 1:3; Rom 5:21; 8:1-2).

### III. The Principle of Reversal

One way to understand the work of Christ on the Cross is to consider the situation and status of Jesus Christ compared to the situation and status of mankind. It is clear that Jesus' situation and status was changed as He left heaven and took on human form; He became like us. It is equally clear that our situation and status was changed as a result of His death upon the cross; we become like Him. This is called the Principle of Reversal; Jesus' situation was reversed so that ours might also be reversed. The following are 31 examples that could be used each month as a daily devotional to increase your faith

1. All men deserted Him and He experienced loneliness, so that the isolated, lonely ones might be drawn to Him (John 12:32).
2. He, who knew no sin, took sin upon Himself, so that sinners might receive His righteousness (2 Cor 5:21).
3. He unjustly carried guilt so that we might receive mercy (1 Jn 2:2).
4. His (temporary) death secured for us eternal life (1 Cor 15:21).
5. His natural life ended with no heir, so that we might not be barren (Isa 53:10; 2 Pt 1:8).
6. He became a curse to redeem us from the curse (Gal 3:13).
7. He was slain according to the Law to take away our bondage to the Law (Col 2:14).
8. He became a stranger to bring us, who were strangers, into the covenant of God with His people (Eph 2:14).
9. He was captured so that we who live in captivity might be freed (Gal 4:3-5; Jn 18:12).
10. God turned His back on Jesus so that He could turn His face towards us (2 Cor 3:6; Mt 26:46).
11. He bore our guilt so that we who were guilty might be free (Rom 3:25).
12. He was charged so that no charge could be laid against us (Rom 8:33).
13. He was condemned so that there is now no condemnation for us (Rom 8:1).
14. He suffered in public so that our private needs might be met (2 Cor 4:2).
15. He was spit on to bear our degradation, dishonor, disgrace and putdowns (Mk 14:65; 15:19).
16. He rejected the sponge to quench His thirst and give Him deliverance from pain, so that we might be comforted in our pain (Mt 27:34).
17. He was sold to purchase our freedom (Mt 20:15; Ac 20:28).
18. He was counted among sinners so that God could count us as His own (Mt 27:46; Heb 10:10).
19. He experienced mental agony to heal us from mental torment (Lk 22:44).
20. He was removed from God's presence to make any way into God's presence for us (Mt 27:46; Heb 10:19).
21. He was stripped naked so that we might be clothed in white linen (Rev 7:14).
22. He submitted to others' authority to break their authority over us and give us a place to rule (Jn 18:6; Rev 20:6).

23. He submitted to death to deliver us from death's power (Heb 2:14).
24. He carried our grief so the grieving might receive joy (Isa 53:4; 54:1).
25. His body was torn so that are torn bodies might be healed (Isa 53:5).
26. He suffered public humiliation so that our private shame might be lifted (Isa 53:3).
27. He was oppressed so that those living under the bonds of oppression might be freed (Isa 53:7).
28. He didn't say a word to His captors so that we would have His Word to speak to ours (Isa 53:7).
29. He died with sinners so that we might live with saints (Mt 27:38; 1 Cor 1:2).
30. He was betrayed by a friend so that we might be accepted by God (Lk 22:48; Eph 1:6).
31. He became poor so that we might become rich through His poverty (2 Cor 8:9).