



The purpose of this discipleship series is to equip our church to resource the power of the Gospel for ourselves and others in the everyday situations of life.

Learning to apply the Gospel in everyday life is much like learning to read and write. Literacy has a goal. It is so much more than recognizing letters on a page, it is the ability to understand meaning and communicate it clearly in ordinary situations. In the same way, Christians must grow in Gospel literacy, the ability to recognize how the good news of Jesus speaks into the real struggles of daily life. When a friend shares frustration about a struggling marriage, Gospel literacy helps us see that the pattern of Christ's love, (sacrificial, forgiving, and patient) shows how spouses are called to love one another. When someone complains about a difficult boss or workplace conflict, Gospel literacy reminds us that the humility of Christ frees us from fighting for position or recognition. Instead, we can point to the example of Jesus, who "humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death" (Phil 2:8). Just as literacy allows a person to read the world of words around them, Gospel literacy enables believers to see how the Gospel story informs everyday life. The everyday situations of life provide an occasion to talk about Christ's life, death, resurrection, and God's total plan of redemption through Jesus.

This resource is designed to help you grow in "Gospel literacy." This type of literacy is the ability to not only understand the message of the Gospel, but to recognize how it speaks into the everyday realities of life. As you engage these daily exercises, you will be invited to examine your own beliefs, identify false gospels that subtly shape your thinking, and respond to the truth of what Christ has done. The goal is not merely increased knowledge, but personal transformation. We hope to encourage the formation of a heart that rests in grace, walks in humility, and reflects the character of Christ in ordinary situations. As you walk through this resource, invite the Holy Spirit to renew your mind and shape your life to more fully reflect the likeness of Jesus (Romans 12:2).

# Week 1: Gospel Literacy

## Galatians 1:1–10 – What the Gospel Is and Is Not

The letter to the Galatians was written by the Apostle Paul to a group of churches being influenced by false teachers who were adding human effort to the finished work of Christ. What was at stake was not a minor theological disagreement, but the very heart of the Gospel itself. Paul writes with urgency and clarity to remind them that salvation is not achieved through religious performance, moral effort, or cultural conformity. The Good News comes solely through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Galatians 1:1–10, Paul establishes that the Gospel is divine in origin, simple in its message, and exclusive in its claim. There is no other good news that can truly save.

### Day 1: The Source of the Gospel

*“Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead and all the brothers who are with me,” Ga 1:1–2.*

#### Understand With the Mind:

As you read Paul’s introduction in Galatians 1:1–2, consider why he begins with such a strong emphasis on the source of his apostleship. He is not simply introducing himself. He is defending the divine origin of his message. The Galatian churches were being swayed by voices that subtly undermined the Gospel by adding human requirements, so Paul immediately anchors his authority “not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father” (Gal 1:1). If the Gospel truly comes from God, not human invention, then it carries absolute authority over our lives. Will we receive it as it is given, or reshape it according to our preferences?

The Gospel is not human-created advice, it is divine revelation. It comes from God, not culture, not preference, not personal improvement. If we treat the Gospel like human wisdom, we will edit it. If we receive it as God’s message, we will submit to it.

#### Assess the Heart:

Since the Gospel is God’s idea and not something Paul or one of the other apostles came up with, what does my response to it reveal about what I truly believe about God and myself?

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Do I treat Scripture and God’s Gospel as though it is His final authoritative declaration or just a suggestion?

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What is the evidence for my previous answer?

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## Respond with Action:

Spend 10 minutes reading and rereading Galatians 1:1-10 out loud. Then follow the instructions and answer the questions below.

***“1 Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— 2 and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:***

***3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.***

***6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.***

***10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Ga 1:1–10.***

**Step 1-** Circle all the references to God and place a box around the verbs (action words) in this passage that are connected to the actions of God.

**Step 2-** Underline all the results of God’s actions in this passage.

What does all the actions of God reveal about his nature?

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Why do you think Paul’s warning to the Galatians and to us, are so severe or emphatic?

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What are the appropriate ways you can respond to what has been revealed to you in today's mediation on this passage?

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### **Prayer:**

Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own in response to what you have considered today.

*“Father, help me receive your Gospel as your truth, not something I control, but something I submit to. Deepen my understanding of why you so fiercely defend the purity of the Gospel. Build in me a deep reverence for your glorious good news! Train my heart to treasure it with the value you place on it.”*

## Day 2: The Content of the Gospel (What Jesus Has Done)

*“Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” Gal 1:1–5.*

### Understand With the Mind:

The Gospel is not vague spirituality, it is a very specific good news. This news is simple, straight forward, and about what God has done apart from our efforts. It only takes Paul 81 words (in the ESV) to remind the Galatian churches of the core tenets of the Gospel.

Find and underline each of these separate components of the Gospel in either the text above or your physical Bible.

- God the Father “raised him [Jesus] from the dead”
- Jesus “gave Himself”
- For “our sins”
- To “deliver us from the present evil age”
- According to the “will of our God and Father”
- The Father is due “the glory forever and ever” for this good news

All this means salvation is accomplished for us, not achieved through our efforts.

### Assess the Heart:

Do I live as if I still need to earn what Jesus already accomplished?

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When I fail, do I run toward God or away from Him?

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How am I tempted to “save myself” or “earn” a sense of my own righteousness in life?

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What do my actions communicate to God when I attempt to earn my own sense of righteousness or save myself?

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Write a short phrase that you can say to yourself that reminds you to trust in what God has done for you, when you are tempted to try and earn something from God.

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## Respond with Action:

Write a 3-5 sentence version of the Gospel in your own words based on this passage.

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### Prayer:

Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own in response to what you have considered today.

*“Father, I acknowledging that the Gospel is Your work, not mine. You raised Jesus from the dead, and by Your will He gave Himself for my sins to deliver me from this present evil age. Forgive me for the ways I live as though I must earn what Christ has already accomplished. Help me to stop striving and performing to secure my own righteousness rather than resting in Your grace. Lord Jesus, teach my heart to run toward You, not away from You, when I fail. Remind me that my salvation is secure in Your finished work, not dependent on my effort. Expose the places where I try to save myself and replace those lies with the truth of Your Gospel. Holy Spirit, help me believe this good news more deeply today, let it transform how I think, respond, and live, so that my life reflects trust in Your grace and brings glory to You forever and ever. Amen.”*

## Day 3: Grace Over Performance

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” Gal 1:3–5.*

### Understand With the Mind:

The Gospel does not just save us, it reshapes how we relate to God every day. Paul reminds the Galatians that because of Jesus’ finished work, we now receive grace (undeserved favor) and peace (restored relationship with God). These are not things we achieve, but gifts we receive. Paul uses both the common Greek greeting of “Grace” and the common Hebrew greeting of “Shalom” or peace as way of saying, “May you make full use of everything God has secured in the Gospel.”

**Grace-** Grace means we are fully accepted by God because of Jesus, not because of our performance.

**Peace-** Peace means we are no longer striving to earn God’s approval or avoid His rejection.

When we forget this, we drift back into living as though our standing with God depends on how well we perform.

Read Galatians 1:3-5 again and consider what is being given, not earned:

- Grace is given, not achieved
- Peace is received, not maintained by effort
- God is “our Father,” not a distant evaluator
- Jesus is “Lord,” not a helper to our self-effort

When taken all together we get a picture of both our judicial and relational standing before God. To embrace this truth means we must live from acceptance, not for acceptance. What is “good” about the good news of the Gospel is that because of what God has done, we have been given grace and have peace.

### Assess the Heart:

What makes me feel “acceptable” before God?

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How does believing this truth inform our actions when we “feel” distant from God?

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Where in my life am I trying to prove myself to God or others?

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How do my thoughts and actions reveal that I am living from performance rather than grace?

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## **Respond with Action:**

Notice one moment today where you feel pressure to prove yourself. Pause and pray to remind yourself, *“Father, thank you that I already have been given grace and currently have peace because of your work accomplished through Jesus.”*

Examples of when you might pray this:

- When you are tempted to work to prove your worth to someone else.
- When guilt is your motivation for a spiritual discipline or act of worship.
- When you feel defensive in response to a revealed flaw or weakness.
- When you are trying to motivate obedience by making yourself feel bad enough about sin.
- When you are feeling beat up by comparing yourself to someone else.

### **Prayer:**

Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own in response to what you have considered today.

*“Father, thank You that through Jesus You have given me grace and peace. These are gifts I could never earn and do not have to maintain by my performance. Forgive me for the ways I drift into striving for Your approval. Often I am acting as though my standing with You depends on how well I do rather than on what Christ has already done. Forgive me for trying to prove myself through effort, guilt, or comparison instead of resting in Your acceptance. Lord Jesus, remind my heart that I am fully accepted because of You and that I already have peace with the Father. When I feel pressure to perform, defensiveness in my weakness, or guilt that drives me to earn Your favor, lead me back to the truth of the Gospel. Holy Spirit, teach me to live from grace, not for it. Teach me to walk in freedom, humility, and confidence as Your child. I want my life to reflect the rest and security found in You and to bring glory to You forever and ever. In Jesus name, Amen.”*

## Day 4: Identifying False Gospels

*“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.” Gal 1:6–9.*

### Understand With the Mind:

A false gospel doesn't always look wrong. However, if it replaces Christ as Savior, it is not good news. If the message sources your sense of righteousness in performance, it is not good news. Paul argues from the extreme: “Even if an angel appears from heaven, if the message is not the true Gospel, both the message and its messenger are to be rejected as under God's judgment.” When Paul says that anyone who preaches another gospel should be “accursed” he is not simply using careless or emotional language. He is drawing from a the biblical concept of being placed under God's judgment. In his cultural context, such strong wording was a deliberate way to communicate urgency and protect the church from serious spiritual danger. Because the Gospel is the only message that saves, to distort it is not a minor error but a deadly one that leads people away from Christ. Paul's forceful tone does not reflect personal anger, rather it is pastoral love. He is guarding the truth and the church. He is making it unmistakably clear that when it comes to the Gospel, clarity is essential because eternity is at stake. The Gospel is distorted and diminished by either adding to it or taking away from it. Think about it as a math problem; Gospel = Jesus' work (+/-) nothing else.

**Gospel + (Plus):** Adds human effort, performance, or requirements to what Christ has already accomplished.

**Gospel – (Minus):** Minimizes sin, removes the necessity of Christ, or reduces the power and purpose of the Gospel.

Using this framework is one of the ways that Christians can spot false teaching. Here are few examples:

- **Mormonism (LDS) – (Gospel +)** It adds human works, temple ordinances, and progression to godhood as necessary components of salvation beyond Christ's finished work.
- **Jehovah's Witnesses – (Gospel –)** It diminishes the full deity of Christ and redefines salvation as dependent on organizational loyalty and works (Gospel +).
- **Islam – (Gospel –)** It denies the divinity and atoning death of Jesus, replacing grace with a system of works-based righteousness before God (Gospel +).
- **Judaism (non-Messianic) – (Gospel –)** It rejects Jesus as Messiah and relies on covenantal identity and law-keeping (Gospel +) apart from Christ for righteousness.
- **Hinduism – (Gospel –)** It replaces sin with ignorance and salvation with self-realization or karma-based progression (Gospel +) rather than redemption through Christ.
- **Buddhism – (Gospel –)** It denies a personal God and reframes the human problem as suffering caused by desire, offering self-effort (Gospel +) as the path to liberation.
- **New Age Spirituality – (Gospel –)** It replaces sin with broken awareness and presents salvation as self-discovery or inner divinity (Gospel +) rather than rescue through Jesus.
- **Bahá'í Faith – (Gospel –)** It affirms Jesus as one of many prophets but denies His unique divinity and exclusive role as Savior, replacing the Gospel with a message of progressive revelation rather than redemption through Christ alone.

## Assess the Heart:

This same framework isn't only useful in discerning false religions, it is also helpful in discerning when we are not living in alignment with the Gospel.

### Gospel Distortions:

Below are some examples of Gospel distortions. Write a plus (+) or minus (-) symbol next to each example to signify whether it adds to or takes away from the Gospel

- \_\_\_ "Jesus saves me, but I must maintain my standing with God through my performance."
- \_\_\_ "As long as I am a good person, God will accept me."
- \_\_\_ "My past sin is too great for God to fully forgive."
- \_\_\_ "If I discipline myself enough spiritually, I can become acceptable to God."
- \_\_\_ "God just wants me to be happy, not necessarily holy."
- \_\_\_ "Jesus is a good example, but not the only way to God."
- \_\_\_ "If I fail, God is disappointed in me and distances Himself from me."
- \_\_\_ "Following Jesus means I earn blessings by doing what is right."
- \_\_\_ "Sin isn't that serious, God will forgive anyway."
- \_\_\_ "My identity is defined more by my success or failure than by what Christ has done."
- \_\_\_ "God helps those who help themselves."
- \_\_\_ "Obedience is optional as long as I believe the right things."
- \_\_\_ "If I just fix my behavior, I can fix my relationship with God."
- \_\_\_ "Jesus died for me, but I still carry the weight of proving my worth."
- \_\_\_ "The main purpose of the Gospel is to improve my life circumstances."

Go back over the previous bullet point list and put an asterisk (\*) next to the statements that you find yourself thinking or believing at times.

Are you more prone towards adding to or taking away from the Gospel? Why do you think that is?

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## Respond with Action:

Identify the one false gospel you are most prone to believe (from the ones you marked with an (\*)). Write it out clearly, then prayerfully replace it with the truth of the Gospel:

False belief:

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Gospel truth (from Galatians 1:3-5):

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**Prayer:** Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own.

*"Father, I confess that I can be drawn to distorted versions of the Gospel. I subtly add to Your work through my striving or take away from it by minimizing sin and my need for Christ. I drift from the Gospel and begin to trust in my own efforts instead of the finished work of Jesus. Guard my heart from believing what is false. Help me hold firmly to the truth that salvation is found in Christ alone. May my life reflect a growing devotion to the truth of the Gospel and a deep dependence on Your grace. In Jesus name, Amen."*

## Day 5: Living for God, Not People

*“For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.” Gal 1:10.*

### Understand With the Mind:

Paul’s question in verse 10 is directly connected to the message he has just proclaimed in the previous verses of his introduction. He has clearly presented the true Gospel (vv.1–5) and strongly warned against distortions of it (vv.6–9). Now he asks whether his aim is to please people or to be faithful to God. The implied answer is clear. No, Paul is not trying to win approval or promote himself. He is committed to faithfully delivering the message God has entrusted to him as a loving response to God’s grace. Paul’s clinging to the Gospel and talking about the Gospel are the rooted in the same logic. He just wants to faithfully live in and talk about what God has done without distorting it or diminishing it.

Having clarity about the Gospel message produces courage in God’s mission because it anchors our identity in God’s approval already given in Christ. We are simply sharing what Christ has done and what we now enjoy. If we seek approval from others, we may be tempted to soften or reshape the message, but if we are secure in Christ, we are free to speak and live truthfully as His servants. As we share the Gospel, we are not trying to “sell” it or even “convince” people of the Gospel. We are joyfully telling others what God has done through Christ Jesus. If we faithfully deliver that news, we have been faithful with what God has called us to do.

In response to the Gospel...

Our identity is secured by Christ, not others  
Our message is shaped by truth, not approval  
Our obedience is driven by devotion, not fear

### Assess the Heart:

Am I afraid to live or speak the truth about Jesus and proclaim the Gospel? If so, why?

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Whose approval most influences how I speak, act, or stay silent?

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What would change in my boldness in sharing the Gospel if I truly believed the goal is just to faithfully share and not to have the perfect sales pitch?

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What excites you about knowing that God could use you to bring others to know him through the simply sharing the way that the Gospel has saved you or is changing you?

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## Respond with Action:

Identify one opportunity this week where you can faithfully present the Gospel (through encouragement, truth, or sharing your experience of God). Before stepping into that moment, remind yourself in prayer: *“Father, my approval is secure in Christ. I am here to be faithful, not impressive.”*

Write down the name of the person you plan to share the Gospel with and a prayer for them.

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**Prayer: Prayer:** Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own.

*“Father, I confess that I often seek the approval of others more than I seek to honor You, allowing fear of rejection or desire for acceptance to shape my words, actions, and silence. Forgive me for the ways I have softened truth or avoided faithfulness in order to be accepted by people. Thank You that in Christ I am already fully accepted and secure, not because of what I do but because of what Jesus has done. Lord Jesus, free me from the fear of man and anchor my identity in You. Holy Spirit, give me courage to faithfully represent You with both truth and love in my everyday life. Help me to live as Your servant above all else, for Your glory. Amen.”*

# **Week 2:**

## **How the Gospel Is Delivered**

In Week 1, we explored what the Gospel is. Now, in Week 2, we turn our attention to how the Gospel is delivered. The Gospel is not merely passed as information from one person to another. Rather, it is divine revelation that comes from God. It transforms lives, calls for a response, and is lived out in community for the glory of God. As Paul makes clear in Galatians 1, the Gospel is not a human invention or philosophy to be adapted. It is God's message, revealed through Jesus Christ. It confronts every person with a decision... "Will we trust what God has revealed, or continue to rely on our own understanding?"

As you walk through this week, you will be invited to follow the path of the Gospel as it unfolds in Paul's life and in ours. You will consider how the Gospel is revealed by God and how it transforms a person's thinking and direction. You will be asked to consider how it calls for a personal response of repentance, faith, and surrender. You will see how it is confirmed and matured in community, and how its final aim is the glory of God displayed through redeemed lives. This week is not meant to leave you with information alone, but with a clearer sense of where you stand in relation to the Gospel you profess. Do you merely understand it, or are you relying on it? Has it only informed you, or is it transforming you? Is your life becoming a window through which others can see the grace, power, and glory of God? As you pray, reflect, and respond each day, ask the Lord to deepen your confidence in His revealed truth. Ask Him to lead you into a more wholehearted, obedient, and relational life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

# Day 1: The Gospel is God's Not Man's

***“11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.” Gal 1:11–12.***

## **Understand With the Mind:**

As Paul writes to the Galatian churches, he repeats something he alluded to at the beginning of chapter 1. Just like Paul is an apostle commissioned by God and not man, Paul’s message is not of human origin either. This statement reminds the reader of Paul’s personal testimony recorded for us in Acts 9. While on his way to persecute and imprison Christians, Paul encountered the risen Jesus who blinded him and asked this question: *“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”* (Acts 9:4) When Paul asked who it is that was talking to him, the answer was shocking. *“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”* (Acts 9:5) Jesus’ response was life altering for Paul. He must have had a flood of thoughts. *“Jesus really is the messiah...”* *“Jesus really did die, but he is resurrected and standing in front of me...”* *“Everything I am doing is against Jesus...”* *“Why would Jesus want anything to do with me?”* *“How will I respond to this revelation?”*

When he saw and talked to the resurrected Jesus, it made Paul have to confront whether he would trust what God had revealed through his Son, or whether he would trust his traditions and his own perspective. Using his own encounter, Paul is challenging the Galatian churches to consider, *“Will I trust what God has revealed in the Gospel over my cultural, religious, or philosophical traditions?”*

## **Assess the Heart:**

What is one belief I hold, that the revelation of Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, and reign from heaven confronts?

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Do I submit to what God has revealed about Jesus when it confronts my assumptions? Why or why not?

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Am I ever tempted to try to reshape the message about Jesus into something more agreeable? Why or why not?

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How would my reading of Scripture change if I approached it as revelation to be received rather than advice to be evaluated?

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## Check The Boxes That Apply To You

Evaluate each statement based on how you *actually live* not just what you believe intellectually.

- I avoid conflict even when truth is at stake
- I trust God's Word even when I don't fully understand it
- I believe being a "good person" is the essence of faith
- I tend to want Jesus to align with my personal perspective
- I rest in Christ's finished work, not my performance
- I primarily judge truth based on what makes sense to me
- I share Christ and His work, not just personal advice or experience
- I struggle to accept biblical truths that feel difficult or mysterious
- I expect God to make my life easier or more comfortable
- I embrace God's authority over every area of my life
- I pick and choose which parts of Scripture I take seriously
- I measure spiritual growth mainly by how I feel
- I follow Jesus as He is revealed in Scripture, not as I prefer Him to be
- I rely more on my reasoning than on God's Word when forming beliefs
- I compare my spiritual performance with others
- I allow Scripture to challenge and correct my thinking
- I believe my deepest need is emotional healing or self-understanding
- I tend to view people through ideological or political categories
- I see obedience as a response to grace, not a way to earn it
- I prioritize unity over biblical clarity
- I approach the Bible expecting God to speak with authority
- I avoid teachings that require suffering, sacrifice, or discomfort
- I feel closer to God when I perform well and distant when I fail
- I reinterpret difficult teachings to fit my lifestyle
- I value truth over comfort or approval
- I equate being part of a church community with spiritual maturity
- Being a Christian is mostly about championing values, causes, or issues I care about
- I obey Jesus even when it costs me something
- I am willing to let go of long-held beliefs if Scripture corrects them
- I think of sin more as brokenness than rebellion against God
- I prioritize internal peace over doing what God says
- I resist correction or accountability from others
- I see myself as a messenger of what God has revealed
- My hope for change in the world is strongly tied to politics or culture
- When I disagree with Scripture, I assume I am the one who needs to change
- I speak more about issues than about Christ
- My emotions rise and fall based on political or social outcomes
- I desire others to know the true Jesus, not a comfortable version
- I repent quickly when confronted with sin

## Respond with Action:

Pause and pray over your responses to this checklist. Ask God to show you any common areas that you find yourself not trusting in the work God has accomplished for you through Christ.

What kind of Gospel do my answers above suggest I'm actually living by?

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What are the signs of a health in clinging to the Gospel as your worldview?

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What are the signs of unhealth in clinging to the Gospel as your worldview?

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How does the Gospel confront the unhealthy ideas I hold?

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If someone observed my life, what Gospel would they conclude I believe?

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### Prayer:

Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own in response to what you have considered today.

*"Father, thank You that the Gospel is not from man. You have not left us to figure You out, but have made Yourself known in the Gospel. Lord, I confess that I often trust my own understanding over Your revelation. I am tempted to reshape the Gospel to fit my preferences and seek comfort over obedience. I often rely on my performance instead of resting in Christ. Search me and expose where I am believing a different gospel. Show me where I resist Your truth, and give me a humble heart to receive what You have revealed. Help me to trust Your Word even when it confronts me. Help me to follow Jesus as He truly is, not as I want Him to be, and to rest fully in His finished work. Reorder my thinking, my desires, and my life around Your truth. Make me a person who does not edit the Gospel, but is transformed by it. And as You change me, help me to faithfully live and share the Gospel with others. In Jesus' name, amen."*

## Day 2: The Gospel Transforms People

*“For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.” Gal 1:13–17.*

### Understand With the Mind:

Paul moves from defending the source of the Gospel (v. 11-12) to demonstrating its power. Before Christ, Paul was not neutral. He was actively opposed to Jesus. He says, *“I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it”* (v. 13) And yet, this same man becomes one of the greatest proclaimers of the Gospel. What explains that kind of change? Not education. Not moral reform. Not gradual improvement. It was a revelation that shifted Paul’s life. The Father revealed His resurrected Son to Paul and that revelation redefined everything.

When Paul encountered Jesus, everything he thought he knew had to be reinterpreted.

- His understanding of Scripture changed.
- His view of righteousness changed
- His definition of faithfulness changed
- His perception of Jesus changed

The same must happen for us. The Gospel is not something we add to our existing worldview. It becomes the lens through which we reinterpret everything. If Jesus is truly the crucified and risen Son of God, the rightful judge and savior, the center of God’s redemptive plan... Then nothing in our lives remains untouched. When we believe the Gospel, this transformative work is both immediate and ongoing. Paul was immediately changed. Yet, God continued to nurture his growth through learning, trials, and the friends he would make. God would take all of the stubborn zeal that led him to oppose God, and now employ it to accomplish great things for God. Just like Paul, we are justified in a moment and sanctified over a lifetime. If the Gospel is really at work in our lives, there will be evidence of its power.

### Assess the Heart:

What actually changed my life at the moment I believed the Gospel? What changed slowly?

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Where do I find myself still resisting transformation?

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Does the evidence in my life show that I have experienced a shift in identity or that I have just added religious behavior? What is the evidence?

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## Respond with Action:

Paul's encounter with the resurrected Jesus provoked the following actions:

- **He Received** – He abandoned self-reliance and received revelation about Jesus.
- **He Repented** – He turned from opposing God to serving Him.
- **He Trusted** – He renounced self-righteousness and gave his allegiance to Jesus and His kingdom.
- **He Internalized** – He rethought everything he knew through the lens of Christ's victory.
- **He Shared** – He proclaimed what God has accomplished to those around him.

This is not just Paul's story, it's ours as well. This is the pattern of transformation through the Gospel. Let's explore your story of change and consider how to share it with others.

### Identify Evidence of Transformation:

Name the most significant change in your thinking after placing your faith in Jesus.

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Name the most significant change in your desires after placing your faith in Jesus.

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Name the most significant change in your behavior after placing your faith in Jesus.

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### Prepare to Share Your With Others:

Using your the information above, write a 5 sentence paragraph explaining how encountering Jesus in the Gospel has changed your life. Write as though sharing it with a friend.

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### Prayer:

Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own in response to what you have considered today.

*Father, thank You that the Gospel does not leave me where I am. You revealed Your Son not just to inform me about your plans, but to transform me by the Holy Spirit. I confess that I often resist that change. I hold onto control, cling to old ways, and settle for a shallow faith. Change the way I think, the way I desire, and the way I live. Help me to receive, repent, trust, and follow. Let the Gospel consume me. Let the Gospel be something I believe as well as something that reshapes my entire life. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Day 3: The Gospel Requires a Response

*“But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;” Gal 1:15–16.*

### Understand With the Mind:

The Gospel is not just something to simply understand or admire. It must be personally received and trusted. God reveals Christ through the Gospel, but each person must respond with repentance, faith, and surrender. God revealed His Son to Paul, but Paul still had to respond to that revelation. This is where many people stop short. Upon hearing the good news, some people understand the Gospel intellectually and agree with it theologically. They truly appreciate the beauty and emotional release of forgiveness. But, they have never truly received and relied upon it personally.

When Jesus confronted Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul did not walk away unchanged or undecided. He responded in obedience and trust. Jesus said to Paul, *“But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” (Acts 9:6)* Paul’s personal encounter with Jesus put him in the position of having to decide what to do in response. Paul was Biblically literate, religiously committed, and morally disciplined, but he was still opposed to Christ. In light of seeing the risen Jesus, Paul would have to decide if he was willing to....

**Receive-** Embrace this revelation of Jesus as the truth.

**Repent-** Turn from sin, self-rule, and rebellion against God.

**Trust-** Rely upon Christ alone for righteousness.

**Submit-** Submit his life and will to the authority of Jesus.

Imagine a billionaire with a generous heart just wrote you a check for 10 million dollars. However, instead of taking it to the bank, you use a magnet to stick it to the fridge. Everyday, you could walk by it and admire the concept of being rich. But the resources of the check are only available to you, when you take it to the bank. The Gospel requires us to actually rely upon or utilize the resources made available to us in Christ Jesus not just admire them.

### Assess the Heart:

What would your instinctive response be when asked, “How do you know you are right with God?”

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Though you may understand the Gospel and appreciate it, what is one specific way you need to “take it to the bank” and apply it to your life in the present moment?

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Of the four things Paul had to do (Receive, Repent, Trust, Submit) which is the most difficult for you to do and why?

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## Respond with Action:

Place your self on this spectrum of response to the Gospel:

1. **Aware-** I understand the Gospel
2. **Agreeing-** I believe the Gospel is true.
3. **Appreciating-** I value the Gospel and see what it produces
4. **Relying-** I depend on the Gospel for my standing with God
5. **Surrendered-** My life is lived in dependance on, and submission to God's plan and Jesus' authority

Where am I now? \_\_\_\_\_

What obstacles are keeping me from moving one step further?

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What action can you take?

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### Prayer:

Spend a moment in prayer asking God to nurture your continued growth in overcoming these obstacles. Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own in response to what you have considered today.

*"Father, search my heart and show me where I am resisting You. Where I have not fully received Your truth, give me faith. Where I have not repented, give me humility to turn. Where I am not trusting Christ alone, free me from relying on myself. Where I have not submitted, soften my heart to surrender. Lord, I don't want to treat the Gospel like a truth I observe from a distance. I want to take hold of the grace You have given me in Christ. Teach me to depend on Him daily for my righteousness, for my identity, and as my hope. Give me the courage to respond like Paul did. Move me from simply knowing the Gospel to fully relying on it and living under Your authority. In Jesus' name, Amen"*

## Day 4: The Gospel-Confirmed and Lived In Community

*“But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother. (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!). Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.” Gal 1:15–21.*

### Understand With the Mind:

After Saul’s encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was left blind and dependent on others. God sent a prophet named Ananias to heal his eyes. Immediately, Ananias called Paul “*Brother Saul...*” (Acts 9:17) After receiving his eyesight back, the Bible says this; “... *For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.*” (Acts 9:19) Paul tells us here Gal 1:18, that he then spent three years alone, working out the Gospel while living in Arabia. At the end of his time in Arabia, Paul returned to Damascus, to the disciples he knew there, began preaching in the synagogues saying that “*He [Jesus] is the Son of God.*” (Acts 9:20) Eventually, people plotted to kill Saul and he fled Damascus after being lowered in a basket over the wall of the city. From there, he made his way to Jerusalem.

When he arrived, everyone was afraid of Saul who would soon go by Paul. Barnabas eventually befriended him (Acts 9:27) and brought him to meet Peter and James. (Gal 1:18) Paul then began preaching in Jerusalem for 15 days until there was once again a plot against his life and he was sent to Syria and Cilicia. While some of Paul’s growth took place in his time alone with God in Arabia, he still sought out community. The Gospel was revealed and responded to personally, but Paul was healed and confirmed communally. Apart from the community of the church Paul would still be blind. Apart from the church in Jerusalem, Paul would not have met Barnabas and been sent with him to plant churches. He needed Jesus and he needed other disciples. He needed alone time with Jesus and communal time with the body of Christ.

There are no “go-it-alone Christians.” The Gospel is received individually, but it is matured, confirmed, and lived within community. Because the Gospel came personally from Jesus, Paul was not dependent on group consensus or tradition to receive it. But, because Paul studied the Gospel, it would ultimately lead him to needing the body of Christ and the body needing him.

### Assess the Heart:

Many believers live in one of two unhealthy extremes:

1. Independent Faith (“I don’t need others,” private faith, minimal connection)
2. Dependent Faith ( Faith based entirely on what they are told, no personal conviction)

Which one of these extremes is more my tendency and why?

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If I removed Christian community from my life, how much would actually change? Why?

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What aspects of the Gospel cause me to conclude that I need to be connected to the body of Christ?

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## Respond with Action:

The Gospel is both taught and exemplified in the life of a disciple. We are to share the Gospel with our words and instruction and then demonstrate its reality by the way we live. Take moment to examine what your life exemplifies.

**Identify Your Current Reality:** Pick the description that best describes your life now.

**Isolated** – I walk mostly alone and have little to no meaningful spiritual connection with others.

**Slightly Connected** – I have relationships with other believers, but they lack spiritual depth or intentional growth.

**Intentionally Connected** – I pursue relationships that include spiritual conversation, encouragement, and some level of accountability.

**Known** – I am deeply known, consistently growing, and actively walking with others in honesty, accountability, and mutual discipleship.

What obstacles do I now face in either joining or maintaining connection to the body of Christ? (i.e. humility, busyness, stage of life, consistency, sin, time, etc...)

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What am I protecting by staying at my current level of fellowship with other Christians?

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What is one step I can take in this season of life to strengthen the community I have or seek out the fellowship I need?

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**Prayer:** Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own.

*Father, thank You that You have not called me to follow You alone. You revealed the Gospel to me, but You have also placed me in a body. Sometimes I resist being known, I can avoid vulnerability, and try to grow on my own. Give me humility to invite others into my life. Help me to pursue relationships that strengthen my faith and keep me grounded in truth. Protect me from isolation and independence. Use others to shape me, and use me to encourage them. Let my life reflect the Gospel not just individually, but relationally. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Day 5: The Gospel Glorifies God

*“And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. They only were hearing it said, ‘He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.’ And they glorified God because of me.” Gal 1:22–24.*

### Understand With the Mind:

The Gospel does not end with the focus on us getting saved. Instead, it transforms us so that God is glorified through us. The end goal of salvation is not our personal improvement, but God’s glory displayed in redeemed lives. After his conversion, Paul eventually goes to Jerusalem. Take notice of something surprising, most believers there don’t even know him personally. They only know his story. *“He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith...”* That sentence alone is staggering for us to consider. The persecutor has become the preacher. The enemy has become the servant. The destroyer of the church has become a member who is building up the church. What explains that kind of transformation? Only the Gospel!

People didn’t need a theological argument, they could see the change in Paul. His message had changed. His mission had changed. His identity had changed. This is the evidence that the Gospel has really taken root in a heart. The Gospel reshapes what we love, it redirects how we live, and redefines what we pursue. What was the end result of this radical change in Paul? *“And they glorified God because of me.”* The church was not enamored with Paul, they were enamored with God. Paul’s life became a window to see the glory and power of God in the Gospel. Paul’s life became another pixel in the ever expanding picture of God’s redemptive work.

### Assess the Heart:

Do I make it my aim to be window for others to see the glory of God? Why or why not?

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Because of the Gospel, Paul had a new identity, a new message, a new mission, and a new purpose in bringing glory to God. Since encountering Christ in the Gospel, how do I respond to these statements?

My new identity is: \_\_\_\_\_

My new message is: \_\_\_\_\_

My new purpose is: \_\_\_\_\_

God get’s the glory for: \_\_\_\_\_

When I add all of this together, what is the story my life tells about God?

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Is there some aspect of my life that I subtly try and take the credit for what God has done?

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## Respond with Action:

Like Paul, your life is telling a story too. Write your story in two statements.

"I used to \_\_\_\_\_  
but because of what Jesus has done, now I \_\_\_\_\_"  
\_\_\_\_\_

How does this statement make your life a part of revealing the glory of who God is? What does it highlight about God and why?

\_\_\_\_\_

Now that your story is clearly stated, pray and ask God for one person that He would like to you to share it with. Write their name down:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Set a time to share with them:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer:** Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own.

*God, thank You for the work You have done in my life through Jesus. Thank You that my story is not defined by who I used to be, but by what You have done in me by Your grace. I praise You for the ways You have changed me. Thank you for rescuing me, forgiving me, and giving me new life. Let my story clearly point others to You and not to me. Lord, I ask that You would give me clarity and courage to share Your work in my life. You have brought \_\_\_\_\_ to mind and I trust that this is Your invitation. Prepare their heart to hear. Prepare my heart to speak. Remove fear, hesitation, and self-doubt. Help me to be faithful instead of overthinking. Give me boldness to share honestly in total reliance upon You. Use my story as a window for them to see Your grace and love. Let Your Spirit work beyond my words, so that You alone receive the glory. I trust You with the outcome. My role is to be faithful. You do the work of revealing and transforming. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# **Week 3:**

## **The Preservation & Proclamation of the Gospel**

In Week 3, we move from receiving and understanding the Gospel to taking responsibility for it. Paul's experience in Galatians 2 shows us that the Gospel is not just something we only believe as a theological idea. It is something we must preserve, protect, and faithfully proclaim. The truth of the Gospel is constantly under pressure from cultural expectations, personal preferences, and subtle distortions that add to or take away from what God has revealed. Like Paul, we are called to stand firm, refusing to reshape the message, so that the true Gospel of grace through faith in Christ alone remains clear for ourselves and for others.

Throughout this week, you will be challenged to examine not only what you believe about the Gospel, but how clearly you understand it, how faithfully you communicate it, and how consistently you live it out. The Gospel is preserved through clarity, proclaimed through our words, and made visible through our lives. God has uniquely placed you in relationships and environments where He intends to make Himself known through you. As you walk through each day, ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your conviction, sharpen your clarity, and increase your willingness to live and speak the truth of the Gospel with courage and love.

# Day 1: The Gospel Must Be Preserved

***“Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. But even Titus, who was with me, was not forced to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you. Gal 2:1-5***

## **Understand With the Mind:**

When Paul came to Jerusalem, he wanted to make sure that he had the Gospel right. He was making sure that the race Jesus had given him to run was not in vain. Paul uses the picture of the Gospel-messenger running from city to city to proclaim the news he had been given (v2). This is exactly what Paul had been doing with the Gospel on his first missionary trip. Upon arrival, he was affirmed in his message by the apostles in Jerusalem. However, there were some strong cultural influences in Jerusalem that were looking for any way to bring accusation against Paul, Barnabas, and Titus. Paul felt the pressure to conform the Gospel to meet the religious and cultural demands around him. The main controversy was that circumcision had always been the sign of covenant relationship with God. This was something many Jewish believers still held to in Jerusalem. Paul needed to stand for justification by faith alone in Christ alone.

The threat to the Gospel was subtle, it wasn't obvious to everyone. The danger Paul faced was not outright rejection of Jesus. It was addition. Some were saying Jesus is necessary but not sufficient. Faith is essential but incomplete without works of the law. What was Paul's response? *“We did not yield... even for a moment.”* Why? *“So that the truth of the Gospel might be preserved for you.”* Instead of caving in, he resisted them and took his stand to ensure that the Gospel would remain unadulterated and undiluted. Gospel purity must be preserved. The pressure to conform to social demands is ever present. It equally offends those who are far from God on the basis of immorality or far from God on the basis of their morality. In Paul's experience in Jerusalem, the Gospel was at risk by adding the customs of Judaism. In the pagan cultures Paul encountered, like Galatia, the Gospel was in danger of being polluted by loose attitudes towards sin, cultural divisions between Jew and Greek, and the tendency towards syncretism. These pagan cultures could easily reduce Christianity to rituals on par with the gods of Greece and Rome. As was true in Paul's day, we also cannot attach other issues to the Gospel. It cannot be added to or taken away from. It must be preserved in its purity.

## **Assess the Heart:**

Where do I feel the strongest pressure from culture or society to adjust the Gospel by adding something to it or softening parts of it?

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What does my anxiety, pride, or insecurity in sharing the Gospel reveal about what I'm functionally believing in my heart?

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Is there a person or relationship in my life that I can clearly see believes a distorted version of the Gospel? [ Yes / No ] What is a loving, yet firm, sentence I could say to reinforce the true Gospel of justification by faith alone in Christ alone for the good of this person?

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## Respond with Action:

The goal of this next section is to take your heart to God with a desire to faithfully represent the Gospel in your life with clarity and love.

### 1. Bring Your Pressure Before God

You've identified where you feel pressure to adjust the Gospel. Now bring that specifically to the Lord. Offer this short prayer: *"Lord, I feel pressure to change Your Gospel. Help me to see clearly and stand firmly in what is true. Will You help me to identify the reason that this is in my heart and how to change it?"* Sit with this honestly, with the posture of your heart towards God, and write down your reflections here:

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### 2. Strengthen Your Confidence In The Gospel

You cannot stand firm in what you feel unsure of. Rewrite each of the following statements from a personal perspective. (i.e. "My standing with God is not by devotions, but by grace")

"My standing with God is not by \_\_\_\_\_, but by grace alone."

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"My standing with God is not by \_\_\_\_\_, but by faith alone."

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"My standing with God is not by \_\_\_\_\_, but through Christ alone."

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**Prayer:** Write a short responsive prayer for today's devotion. Then pray for the person you identified above and ask God for an opportunity to share the sentence you wrote for them.

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## Day 2: Recognizing False Gospels

*“Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.” Gal 2:4–5.*

### Understand With the Mind:

Paul identifies a serious threat. He calls the people “*false brothers*” and says they were “*secretly brought in*.” The danger wasn’t from obvious enemies, they looked like brothers. It wasn’t open rejection of Jesus but a reduction of His work. False gospels are usually close to the truth. They often sound like, “Jesus is important, but there is more.” Or, “Grace matters, but you still need to...” Or even, “God loves you just the way you are and he would never challenge you to...” These opponents of the Gospel keep the same language, maintain the appearance of brothers, and hold to some of the truth of the Gospel. The problem is, they subtly shift the foundation of the Gospel in one of three ways.

**Addition (Legalism)** Legalism is the work Jesus accomplished *plus* something else. When something is added to the finished work of Christ as necessary for salvation, it undermines the sufficiency of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Legalism shifts our confidence from grace to performance, leading either to pride when we think we are succeeding or despair when we know we are failing. Instead of resting in Christ, we begin to trust in our own obedience, turning the Gospel from good news into an impossible burden.

**Subtraction (Licentiousness)** Licentiousness believes the work of Jesus does not require obedience to the commands of scripture. When obedience to Scripture is subtracted as a necessary response to the Gospel, it distorts grace into permission for sin. This view treats Jesus as Savior but not as Lord, ignoring that true faith produces transformation. Over time, this leads to a shallow faith with little evidence of repentance or growth, ultimately denying the power of the Gospel to actually change a person’s life.

**Distortion (Syncretism)** Syncretism is the fusion of the Gospel with human values instead of what God has revealed. When the Gospel is reshaped around cultural, social, or religious pressures, it loses its authority and clarity. Syncretism blends truth with human values, making the message more acceptable but less faithful. Instead of confronting and transforming culture, the Gospel becomes conformed to it, resulting in a version of Christianity that may feel relevant but no longer reveals the true character, holiness, and saving work of God.

Paul calls each of these options “*slavery*.” Each one leads away from the freedom purchased in Christ.

### Assess the Heart:

Based on how I react in response to moments of failure, what is revealed about my dependence on the Gospel?

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What is revealed about my dependence on the Gospel in my moments of success?

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In daily life, how often do I draw from the truth of the Gospel for comfort in response to my own anxiety, guilt, or insecurity?

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## **Respond with Action:**

Write a sentence that summarizes how the Gospel frees us from legalism.

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Write a sentence that summarizes how the Gospel frees us from licentiousness.

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Write a sentence that summarizes how the Gospel frees us from syncretism.

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How do these statements equip you to recognize and gently correct false views of the Gospel when talking with others?

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### **Prayer:**

Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own in response to what you have considered today.

*Father, thank You for revealing the true Gospel through Jesus. I confess that I need to grow my discernment about things that feel right but are not true. Show me where I have believed a distorted gospel, expose the lies I trust, and replace them with Your truth. Help me to rest in Christ alone. My standing before You is found in what Jesus has accomplished not in my performance, my identity, or my circumstances. Give me clarity to see truth, humility to receive it, and grace to live it out. As I interact with others, help me to speak Gospel truth with love and patience. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Day 3: Clarity About the Gospel Enables Sharing

*“And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised...” Gal 2:6–7.*

### Understand With the Mind:

After the tension in Jerusalem, Paul makes a decisive statement. *“They added nothing to me.”* The apostles did not improve, refine, or adjust the Gospel because it was already complete. The Gospel is not evolving. It is not dependent on culture, acceptance, or human effort because it is not of human origin. It is divine revelation. At its core, the Gospel declares that God the creator is holy. Humanity is oriented as rebellious towards God naturally as revealed by the choices we make. Jesus lived, died, and rose in our place, as an atoning sacrifice for our sin. We are justified by His grace through faith in Him alone and the work He has done on our behalf. There is coming a day where every human will stand before Jesus to give an account of whether they have embraced God’s gift or rejected it. This message cannot be added to, taken from, or reshaped without losing its power and truth.

Clarity about the Gospel is essential because it shapes how we live, relate to God, and engage others who do not know Him. When the Gospel becomes unclear, we begin to lose our footing. We become uncertain of where we stand with God, unsure how to obey, and hesitant to speak with confidence. But when the Gospel is clear, it anchors us. It gives us confidence in Christ, freedom from striving, and boldness to share. Paul and the apostles had different backgrounds, personalities, and assignments, yet they stood firmly on the same unchanging message. In the same way, we may communicate the Gospel in different ways, but we must never alter it. If we are not firmly grounded in it, we will slowly drift or bend under pressure. But when we are rooted in the true Gospel, it produces a steady, confident, and faithful life.

### Assess the Heart:

Do I have enough clarity about what Christ has done for me in the Gospel that I can communicate it with simplicity to others? Why or Why not?

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When I communicate the Gospel to myself or others, do I focus more on what we do or what Christ has done?

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What tension do I feel in sharing the Gospel with others and what can I do about it?

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## Respond with Action:

Clarity is not just for understanding. Having clarity prepares you to faithfully speak the truth of the Gospel so others can truly hear and respond. We don't need perfect words, we need a clear Gospel and a willing heart.

What is the most meaningful way the Gospel has shaped or changed your life?

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When scanning the weekly rhythms of my life, where do I have the most opportunity to share the Gospel with someone who does not yet know Jesus?

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Write a short prayer asking the Holy Spirit to lead you into opportunities in your weekly relationships to speak clearly about how God has used the Gospel to change your life.

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### Prayer:

Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own in response to what you have considered today.

*Father, thank You for growing my clarity in understanding the Gospel. Thank you for the finished work of Jesus on my behalf. Anchor my heart again in what is true, that I am justified by Your grace through faith in Christ alone. Continue to deepen my understanding of the Gospel, not just for my own assurance, but so I can share it clearly with others. Help me to speak with simplicity, courage, and love. I don't want to trust in my own words but Your Spirit to work in the hearts of those around me. Lead me into opportunities this week to share how You have changed my life, and use me as a faithful witness. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

# Day 4: The Gospel Is Communicated Uniquely Through Your Life

*“On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles), and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.” Gal 2:7–9.*

## Understand With the Mind:

The message of the Gospel never changes but God uniquely uses each believer’s life, personality, and context to communicate it to others. We see this clearly in this section of scripture. The apostles had a clear and unified Gospel message, but the different personalities and people to share with. Instead of trying to do everything, the apostles determined to continue to stay in the lane God had placed them in. They accepted the fact that the sovereign God had given them one Gospel and different mission fields. For Peter (Cephas) this meant staying put and proclaiming the Gospel in Jerusalem among Jews. For Paul, it meant going and proclaiming the Gospel more broadly among Gentiles. The Gospel is unchanging, but the messengers are not identical. Paul and Peter preached the same message and were united in truth and mission, yet their lives looked very different. Paul was uniquely shaped by his background, education, and experiences to reach the Gentiles, while Peter’s personality and upbringing positioned him to reach the Jews. Neither needed to become like the other, because God had intentionally prepared each of them for a specific purpose.

This challenges two common assumptions: comparison and passivity. We often think we need to be like someone else to be useful, or that God cannot use us as we are. But Scripture shows that God intentionally forms people differently to reach different people. Your personality, story, struggles, and relationships are not accidental. They are part of how God communicates the Gospel through your life. This does not mean changing the message, but expressing the same truth through who you are. The real question is not whether you are like someone else, but whether you are available to God right where you are. Our best “ability” is our “availability.” No Christian is exempt from sharing the Gospel in and through their life.

## Assess the Heart:

Do I believe God can use me as I am or am I waiting to become someone else before sharing the Gospel with those around me?

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Do I see my personality, story, and experiences with God as useful for His mission to seek and save the lost?

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Do I see my daily environment as part of God’s mission and what should I do in response?

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## Respond with Action:

Offering your life for God's use doesn't mean that we wait until He makes you someone different that is finally good enough to use. Offering your life for God's use is more about starting right where you are. It is the recognition that God delights in using trophies of His grace that are still growing and changing. It is opening your heart to sharing the Gospel through the lens of your present life. God uses who we are and where we are to make the Gospel known. He values authenticity over performance and honest presence over pressure. Just be who you are.

Complete these sentences below:

Right now, God is teaching me...

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Lately, I've seen the Gospel change me by...

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Where do I have space to share honestly with others about the ways God continues to redeem and change my life?

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Name three people you already have relational equity with, but who do not yet know Jesus

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Choose one simple, relational step:

- Share something God is teaching you
- Ask someone about their beliefs or spiritual background
- Talk about how your perspective has changed because of Jesus
- Spend intentional time building a deeper relationship

**Prayer:** Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own.

*Father, thank You that You use ordinary people like me to make the Gospel known. I don't want to compare myself to others or feel like I need to become someone different before I can be useful to You. Help me to trust that You have placed me where I am on purpose. Help my heart believe that my life, my story, and my relationships are part of Your plan. Open my eyes to the people around me and give me a willing heart to be available. Teach me to share honestly about what You are doing in my life. Use me, even as I am still growing, to reflect Your grace and point others to Jesus. In His name, Amen.*

# Day 5: The Gospel Is Displayed Through Our Actions

*“Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do” Gal 2:10.*

## Understand With the Mind:

After affirming Paul’s Gospel and mission, the apostles give one final instruction: “remember the poor.” This is a direct implication of the Gospel itself. They are essentially saying, “Let your life reflect the message you preach.” If the Gospel is true, then it reshapes how we live. We extend mercy because we have received mercy, we love because we have been loved, and we serve because we have been served. Caring for others, especially those in need, is not an optional addition or a social preference. It is evidence that the Gospel has taken root in a person’s life. This is why Paul embraced it eagerly, because true belief in the Gospel naturally produces compassion, generosity, and action.

At the same time, there is a real danger of disconnect. It is possible to understand, articulate, and even defend the Gospel while failing to live it out. When that happens, our message loses credibility and our witness becomes confusing. It reduces the Gospel to something theoretical rather than real. The goal of discipleship is not perfection, but consistency. A life where what we say about God aligns with how we live before others. People may question our words or debate our beliefs, but a life marked by sacrificial love is difficult to ignore. This is how the Gospel becomes visible, tangible, and compelling to the world around us. The Gospel is not only something we believe and speak, it is something we demonstrate. Our lives either reinforce or undermine the message we proclaim.

## Assess the Heart:

Give examples of how God has used your actions as a tangible expression the Gospel.

God expressed His compassion in the Gospel through me, when I...

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God expressed His generosity in the Gospel through me when I...

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God expressed His forgiveness in the Gospel when I...

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God expressed His unconditional love in the Gospel when I...

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God expressed His justice in dealing with sin in the Gospel when I...

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Does my life this last month show my eagerness to reinforce or undermine the Gospel I proclaim? Circle one (My life reinforces the Gospel / My life undermines the Gospel)

## Respond with Action:

Living out the Gospel is participation in the life God is forming in you. Instead of trying to prove your worth or the genuineness of your faith, it is more like the logical outflow of believing the Gospel. What you believe you have received from God, you freely give to others. This happens in big ways, like acts of generosity or visiting the sick. It also happens in small ways like giving a cup of water to a child or prayers offered in private on behalf of someone else. As disciples of Jesus who carry forward His ministry of the Gospel, this is the life the Holy Spirit leads us into. It happens in everyday, ordinary moments.

### 1. Ask God to Help You See

Start with a simple prayer: “Holy Spirit, open my eyes to see people the way You see them today. Show me where You are already at work around me.”

As you go through your day, pay attention:

- Who stands out to you?
- Who seems overlooked, burdened, or in need?
- Where do you feel a nudge of compassion?

### 2. Pay Attention to What You Feel

The Spirit often leads through compassion, discomfort, conviction, or awareness of need. Ask: “What might God be inviting me to do for this person on His behalf?”

### 3. Take Action in Jesus Name

On behalf of Jesus, act as He would act with a heart to bring glory to Him. Remind yourself that you are not earning anything, you are sharing what you have received.

**Prayer:** Offer this prayer to God from the heart or write your own.

*Father, thank You for the grace You have shown me through the Gospel. I see how You have loved me, served me, and shown me mercy in Christ. I want to both speak about these truths and live them out. Guard my heart and my life from drifting into inconsistency. Align my heart and my actions so that what I believe is clearly seen in how I love others. Open my eyes to the needs around me. Give me compassion where I am indifferent, and courage to act when Your Spirit prompts me. Help me to serve, give, forgive, and love as a response to what I have received from You. Let these actions flow from a heart that isn't seeking to earn anything, but to reflect Your grace. Make my life a visible expression of the Gospel so that others may see and glorify You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*