

☞ Results of the Gospel

Last week we talked about Reaching the Goal. God has a high calling for us and it will be worth all the effort to attain the goal. So, we need to know who we are in Christ, we need to know Jesus more and more, and we need to keep pressing on. We've received the Gospel, now let's press on to the goal. God supplies everything we need to reach that goal, so we should embrace everything he gives us. Let's talk about the Results of the Gospel.

☞ 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Let's start in the middle where it specifically talks about the Gospel. **The Gospel is more than just words.** V. 5.

Words = something said; thoughts; reasoning. These have their place, but the Gospel is more than just a theology or philosophical ideal. Many Americans know the gist of the gospel and believe in God. A good share even believe in Jesus. But the full Gospel is more than just believing in God and Jesus.

☞ **The Gospel includes power.** We believe that healing and miracles are still available today. A Gospel without power is not the full gospel.

In Mark 16 Jesus said that believers would be accompanied by signs such as driving out demons as well as healing sick people.

☞ John 14:12

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even **greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 talks about the gifts of the Spirit which includes healings and miracles.

The Gospel includes power for healing and miracles. We see and hear of those things from time to time. But the primary power of the Gospel that affects everyone who believes is life transformation. Think about Peter, the brash fisherman, who became the strong leader of the first church. Better, yet Saul, who persecuted Christians, but became Paul, who pioneered several churches and wrote the bulk of the New Testament. The Gospel has power to change lives.

☞ **The Gospel includes the Holy Spirit.** When you come to Christ and put your faith in him, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in you. He convicts, comforts and instructs. But there's more. You need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. And you need to keep on being filled with the Spirit.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

☞ **Acts 2:1-4 ...filled with Spirit and spoke in tongues...**

Acts 19:4-6 (*Ephesians believers*)

He (John) told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus. **5** On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

☞ **Ephesians 5:18 ...keep on being filled...**

If you haven't baptized with the Holy Spirit, you're missing out. It's included in the Gospel. We need the Holy Spirit!

☞ **The Gospel includes deep conviction.** This is assurance and entire confidence in the one who saves. This conviction or assurance enables us to draw closer to God.

☞ **Hebrews 10:22**

let us **draw near to God with** a sincere heart in **full assurance of faith...**

Abraham is the Father of the Faith. He trusted God. In Genesis 22 God asked him to do something impossible... sacrifice his son. This was the son that God had promised would be father of a great nation. Abraham could have argued with God on that basis, but he set out to be obedient to God, trusting that God had a plan to still fulfill his promise. When he left his servants he said, "We will come back..." And, when Isaac questioned him, he said, "God himself will provide the lamb." He even reasoned that God could raise Isaac from the dead. (Hebrews 11:19). So, Abraham displayed deep conviction and trust in God even in the most challenging circumstances.

Power, Holy Spirit, and Deep Conviction... These three things are indicators of salvation according to V. 4-5. Only God knows each individual's heart, but if you only have the philosophical ideal of Christianity you ought to examine your life. The Gospel should also include power, Holy Spirit, and deep conviction.

Once you've fully embraced the Gospel it will affect your life. Faith, love and hope are frequently mentioned as important aspects of the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 13:13

now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Colossians 1:3-5

...faith in Christ Jesus ...love for all the saints ...hope that is stored up in heaven

So, we have faith, hope, and love; and each of these are motivational...

☞ **Faith produces work.** V. 3. Faith is about trusting God. It's believing God even when you can't see everything clearly.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." But the boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." The father replied, "But I can see you and that's all that matters."

This kind of faith will produce action. And this kind of activity is pleasant and stimulating. Whatever God calls you to do will be fulfilling. A couple weeks ago we talked about God's benefits and how he satisfies your desires. He doesn't just give you everything you want, he gives you what he knows is best for you.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

James tells us that faith will be displayed in works. Abraham had faith in God and his actions proved it. True faith produces fulfilling work.

☞ **Love prompts labor.** V.3. Love for God and others is the basic calling of all believers.

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" **37** Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" **38** This

is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

If you really love God and others it will motivate action. And this kind of action can be strenuous and even sweat-producing. When you really love something or someone, you'll put a lot of effort into it. It may be pleasant, enjoyable labor, but it will still be hard work. Men, have you ever had a "honey-do" list? Women, have you ever raised toddlers? It's love, but it's hard work, too!

I've learned to embrace God's call on my life. Though I originally didn't want it, I surrendered myself to God's calling as lead pastor. And, it has proven to be pleasant, enjoyable work. But it is still work and at times can be quite draining.

Hebrews 10:24

and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

True love prompts labor.

☞ **Hope promotes endurance.** V. 3. This is long-suffering: being willing to hang in there even when the going gets tough. However, this is pleasant perseverance, not dismal determination. The Bible calls it cheerful endurance. As I said last week, "it will be worth it all."

Romans 8 promises us that there will be a resurrection for believers. It also promises that since we are God's children, we are also heirs of the kingdom.

Romans 8:18

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— **52** in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

These things should inspire hope and motivate us to keep on keeping on. True hope promotes endurance.

So, let's be imitators of the Lord. V. 6 Jesus is always our ultimate example. He had faith, love and hope. And so should we.

Philippians 2:5

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...

Let's welcome the Gospel and all it implicates, with joy. V. 6. This is joy in spite of suffering. The implications of the Gospel include powerful transformation, the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. We welcome it all.

☞ **Let's become a model to all believers.** V. 7.

☞ **1 Timothy 4:12**

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but **set an example** for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Titus 2:7

In everything set them an example by doing what is good.

The Thessalonians were such good models that their faith became known everywhere. I would like that for OBC. Let's be such excellent followers of Christ with the entirety of the Gospel, that our faith becomes famous.

☞ **Let's embrace the Results of the Gospel.**

Let's be transformed by the power of the Gospel.

Let's be filled to the brim with the Holy Spirit.

Let's be people of deep conviction.

Let's be faithful workers who serve because we love God and people.

And, let's be future-focused followers who endure to end, reaching the goal!

Prayer for salvation.

Prayer for total transformation.

Prayer for baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer for complete assurance.

Prayer for renewed strength to endure to the end.