THE LOVED BIBLE PROJECT

Foundations: Gospel Living

GOSPEL TRUTHS TO LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH

HOW THE GOSPEL SAVES US, SANCTIFIES US, AND SUSTAINS US

THE LOVED BIBLE PROJECT

A tool designed to help ordinary people make disciples through the use of the Bible

@TheLovedBibleProject

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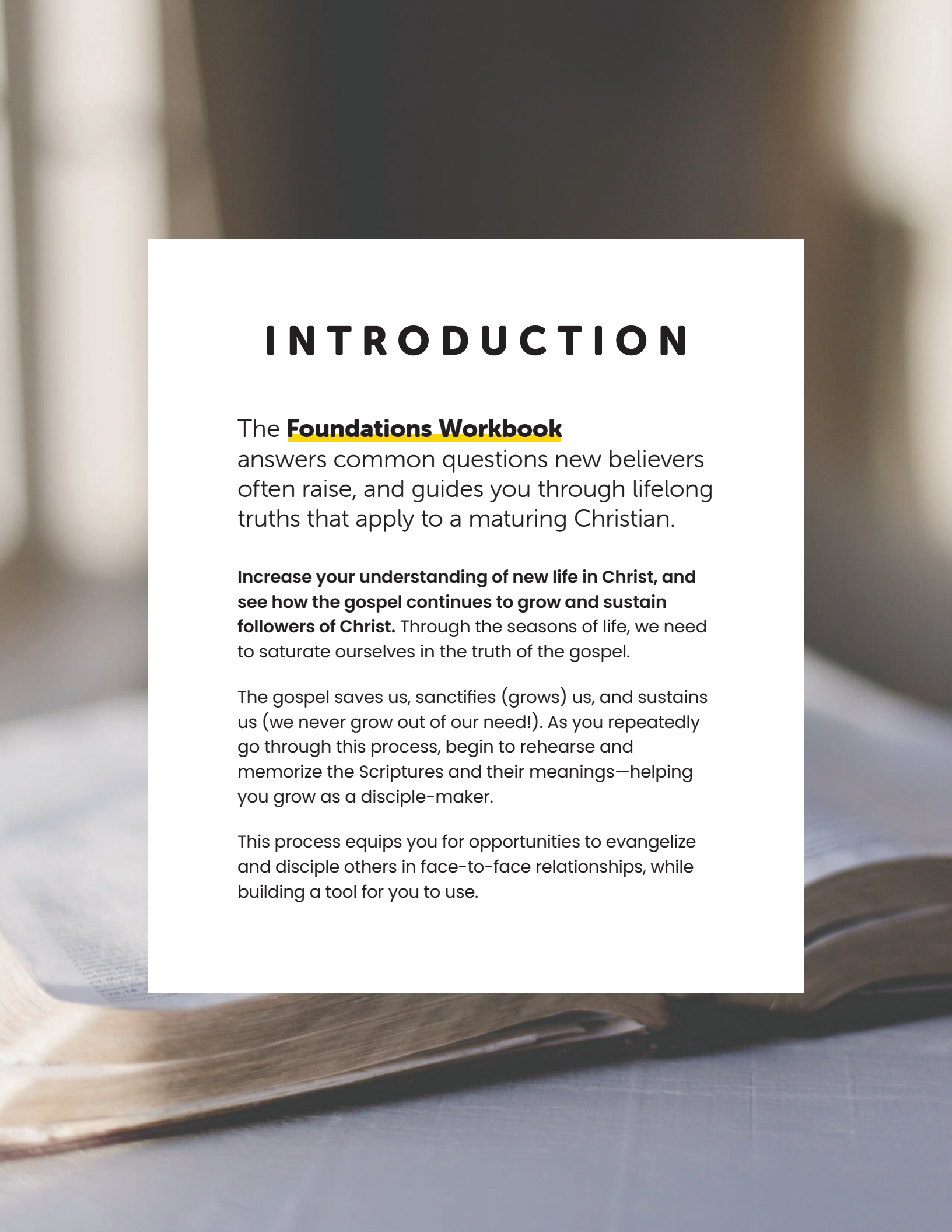
Back Cover **What to Do Next?**

Don't skip this step!

Before starting, be sure you've reviewed the *Getting Started Guide.*



INTRODUCTION

The **Foundations Workbook** answers common questions new believers often raise, and guides you through lifelong truths that apply to a maturing Christian.

Increase your understanding of new life in Christ, and see how the gospel continues to grow and sustain followers of Christ. Through the seasons of life, we need to saturate ourselves in the truth of the gospel.

The gospel saves us, sanctifies (grows) us, and sustains us (we never grow out of our need!). As you repeatedly go through this process, begin to rehearse and memorize the Scriptures and their meanings—helping you grow as a disciple-maker.

This process equips you for opportunities to evangelize and disciple others in face-to-face relationships, while building a tool for you to use.

About TLBP

What is the Loved Bible Project (TLBP)?

EVERY LOVED BIBLE STARTS WITH THE TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL.

What is a Loved Bible?

A Loved Bible equips ordinary people to make disciples through the use of the Bible. If you want to become more familiar with the Bible, and gain confidence in knowing how to help others navigate the Scriptures, the Loved Bible will be a valuable tool. The process of creating and sharing a Loved Bible will help you do exactly that.

Who Are We?

We are an ever-growing, biblically-literate global community of men and women who love and share God's Word. By delighting in the Scriptures, we seek to honor God, make much of Jesus, and trust the Holy Spirit's power in helping others find insightful joy in God's Word.

What to Expect

- Familiarity in navigating the Scriptures
- Confidence in sharing the gospel
- Guidance in making disciples of Jesus
- Community with others doing the same
- Transformation and joy in knowing God

How many entries should I include in my Bible?

We recommend about 50 entries, but feel free to add more. Be sure to include some recommended Scriptures from this workbook.

– TLBP

"Jesus said, **'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'**"

John 8:31-32

A Quick Review

The 5 Steps from the *Getting Started Guide*

Step 1
Prepare Your Heart

Consider how God has provided for you lately. Who has invested in your faith? Pause to reflect and thank him. Pray for the recipient and ask God to lead you.

Step 2
Gather Supplies, Keep It Simple!

The goal of a Loved Bible is not to be artsy, but to apply the Bible to life and help someone navigate the Scriptures. You need: Bible, pen, highlighter, & paper.

We're starting here

Step 3
Highlight & Add Notes

Use our resources and examples to guide you as you highlight, and add notes to emphasize to passages. Pause to appreciate the truths and relevancy of the gospel.

Step 4
Give It Away

Who in your life would benefit from receiving a Loved Bible? Ask God for discernment. Then, give it away! This starts the amazing process of making disciples.

Step 5
Invest & Invite

As you invest in this person's life, invite them to places and events where there will be other Christians (meals, coffee, gatherings). Be present and encourage one another.

A Note About Writers & Scholars

We're so grateful for gifted writers and teachers who help explain Scripture, but always remember the Bible is your primary source of truth. We don't endorse all authors or all literary works by a particular writer, but we've found these quotes and resources to be helpful in our spiritual growth.

It's important to never permanently cover up any Scripture.

"As Christians, we come face to face with God through the Scriptures. We begin to understand who he is and what he has done for sinners like us. When we taste the goodness of God through the gospel, we delight. And this is a taste that we pray we can never get out of our mouths! So we work to meditate, to chew, to enjoy the Word of God and the God of the Word."
- Erik Raymond

1. **Open your Bible** to the Book of Psalms.
2. **Highlight** Psalm 1:

> Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

3. **Circle the keyword** delight.
4. **Look up the definition of** "delight."
   "Something that gives you great pleasure."
5. **Add a note.** Write this quote on a note.

What is the Bible?

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

The Bible is God's Word and as such, it contains his words for us. *(1 Thess 2:13)* The Bible is written by God through human authors. It's one big unified story, made up of many smaller stories. **The entire book is really about Jesus,** and it will transform people and communities. The Bible tells us how the Creator made all things *(Genesis 1:1)*, sustains all things, *(Hebrews 1:3)*, and is carrying his creation to its ultimate destiny—full re-creation *(Revelation 21:3-5)*.

Sixty-six books comprise the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. About 40 different human authors contributed, over a period of almost 1500 years. The authors were a diverse group: kings, fishermen, farmers, priests, government officials, shepherds, and doctors. The literary styles include books of law, history, poetry, wisdom, prophecy, biography, and formal letters. Yet, there's great unity with common themes woven throughout *(Luke 1:1-5)*.

SEE EXAMPLES:

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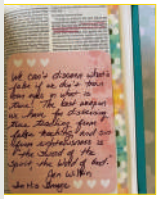

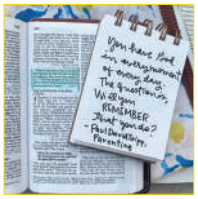

The human authors wrote exactly what God wanted them to write, resulting in the perfect and holy Word of God *(Psalm 12:6, 2 Peter 1:21)*. The Bible's unity is due to the fact that ultimately, it has one Author—God himself. The Bible is "God-breathed" *(2 Timothy 3:16)*.

NOTE THE QUOTE

"I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses.

They report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and claim their writings are Divine, rather than of human origin."

- Voddie Baucham

pause

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Truths to Remember: THE BIBLE

It's significant enough to repeat: The entire Bible points to Jesus. - *John 5:38-40*

1 THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT TO LEAD US TO CHRIST.

2 Timothy 3:15,17

Sufficient: enough, adequate, ample, plentiful

The Bible provides all that we need to understand:

1. Who God is.
2. Who we are in relation to Him.
3. How He made us to live in this world He created.

2 THE BIBLE IS AUTHORITATIVE.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

"The authority of any particular instruction flows from the authority of the person giving it. Whether it comes from a parent, coach, friend, boss, or stranger largely impacts how much weight it carries.

Scripture is the authority over every person and every aspect of life because it is breathed out by God. Every word is valuable and without mistake."

- *Mary Wiley, Everyday Theology*

3 THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT ERROR.

John 17:17

Since God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18, Titus 1:2) and all Scripture is "God-Breathed", he would cease to be God if he breathed out errors.

"We can't discern what's false if we don't train our eyes on what is true. The best weapon we have for discerning true teaching from false teaching, and sin from righteousness is "the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God." *Ephesians 6:17, Philippians 4:8*

- *Jen Wilkin, In His Image*

4 THE BIBLE IS THE CHRISTIAN'S JOY AND DELIGHT.

Psalm 1, Psalm 119:24

"As Christians, we come face to face with God through the Scriptures. We begin to understand who he is and what he has done for sinners like us. When we taste the goodness of God through the gospel, we delight.

And this is a taste that we pray we can never get out of our mouths! So we work to meditate, to chew, to enjoy the Word of God and the God of the Word."

- *Erik Raymond, Why it is Good and Right to Delight in the Word of God*

NOTE THE QUOTE

"

The Bible you possess is evidence that God loves you and wants a relationship with you.

No matter who you are or how many times you've spurned his love, he is still moving toward you, still talking to you—still befriending you—through a book."

John 6:44-47

- Matt Smethurst, *Before You Open Your Bible*

Who is Jesus?

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

The Bible's main character and hero is Jesus Christ. Although we don't see his name in every book, all 66 books point to him. He is referred to as the second person of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). He is also the Good Shepherd who brings abundant life *(John 10:10-11)*.

The more we understand who Jesus is, the more we'll grow in our love for him. This is an ongoing pursuit since he is infinite, and we are finite. "Christ" means "Messiah" or "anointed one." As the Christ, Jesus is the one who fulfills all Old Testament expectations.

The apostle Paul's phrase "in Christ" indicates the intimate relationship between Jesus Christ and his people *(Colossians 3:1-3, 1 Corinthians 6:17)*. He is the head of the Church, often called his body. He leads and unifies this body, which is made of diverse parts with unique purposes *(Ephesians 1:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)*.

NOTE THE QUOTE

John 1:1-18 reminds us that the promises beginning in the book of Genesis and continuing through the entire Old Testament are finally realized in Jesus Christ. He is the promised Messiah. He's the answer to man's need for a Savior.

This man is far more than a man, he is God became man."

- Matt Carter, *Exalting Jesus in John*

pause

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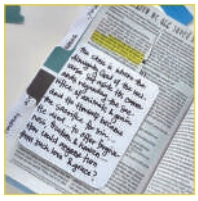
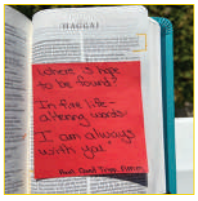




Truths to Remember: JESUS

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God."
- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

1 HE IS GOD IN HUMAN FORM. HE IS THE WORD OF GOD. FULLY GOD, FULLY MAN.

Matthew 1:18, Phil. 2:5-8, Hebrews 1:3

"He is God. He is Maker of all. He is Ruler of all. The angels not only give the gospel to the shepherds, they give the true identity of Christ." (Luke 2:8-20, Colossians 2:9-10)

- Thabiti Anyabwile, Exalting Jesus in Luke

2 NOTHING WAS CREATED WITHOUT HIM.

John 1:3, Colossians 1:16

"Jesus Christ, the one in whom life dwells, acted to create something from nothing in Genesis 1. And he is still doing so today." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- Jen Wilkin, None Like Him

3 JESUS LIVED A LIFE WITHOUT SIN. THERE IS NO SALVATION APART FROM HIM.

Hebrews 4:14-15, John 14:6

"But instead of sacrificing an animal for sins, he sacrificed himself for all of God's people—past, present, and future. Jesus became the Lamb of God to fix what humanity had broken." (John 17:1-4, Romans 5:8-10)

- Jaquelle Crowe, This Changes Everything

4 HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS DEFEATED SINS' POWER AND CONSEQUENCE.

1 Peter 2:24, Colossians 2:13-15, John 19:30

""It is finished" means exactly what it says. You simply have NOTHING to add to a job that is completely done." (Acts 2:22-23)

- Paul David Tripp

5 HIS RESURRECTION DEFEATED DEATH AND BROUGHT NEW LIFE.

1 Corinthians 15:17, Isaiah 25:8-9

"Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day. He is alive! He lives for us and, by his Spirit, he lives in us and works through us."

- Jeff Vanderstelt, Saturate

6 JESUS WILL RETURN FOR HIS PEOPLE, HIS BRIDE.

John 14:1-4, Matthew 25:31-34

"If you're God's child, the final chapter of your story will take place in an eternal paradise beyond your wildest dreams."

- Paul Tripp, New Morning Mercies

7 JESUS RULES AS KING OVER HEAVEN AND EARTH.

Hebrews 1:3-4, Revelation 17:14

"Jesus is God's beloved Son, gloriously crowned here as the promised King from God." (Psalm 2:7, Matthew 3:17)

- David Platt, Exalting Jesus in Matthew

NOTE THE QUOTE

"The Son, the shepherd, and the servant we were looking for has come. And he lived and he died and he rose. To know him is to find the treasure the world is still looking for."
Matthew 13:44-46

- Jackie Hill Perry, *Proclaim Truth Conference*

digging deeper

What Happened on the Cross?

THE SHORT ANSWER IS THIS:

Christ died for our sins.
1 Corinthians 15:3

CHRIST'S DEATH FOR OUR SIN MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN THESE TWO BROAD WAYS:

FIRST:

When Jesus was nailed to the cross, the Father charged to him all of our sin, and judged the full penalty of our sin in Jesus as he died.

2 Corinthians 5:21, Colossians 2:14

SECOND:

Jesus conquered the power of Satan, darkness, and death as he died for our sin. In this, he established his supreme authority and power over everything in creation.

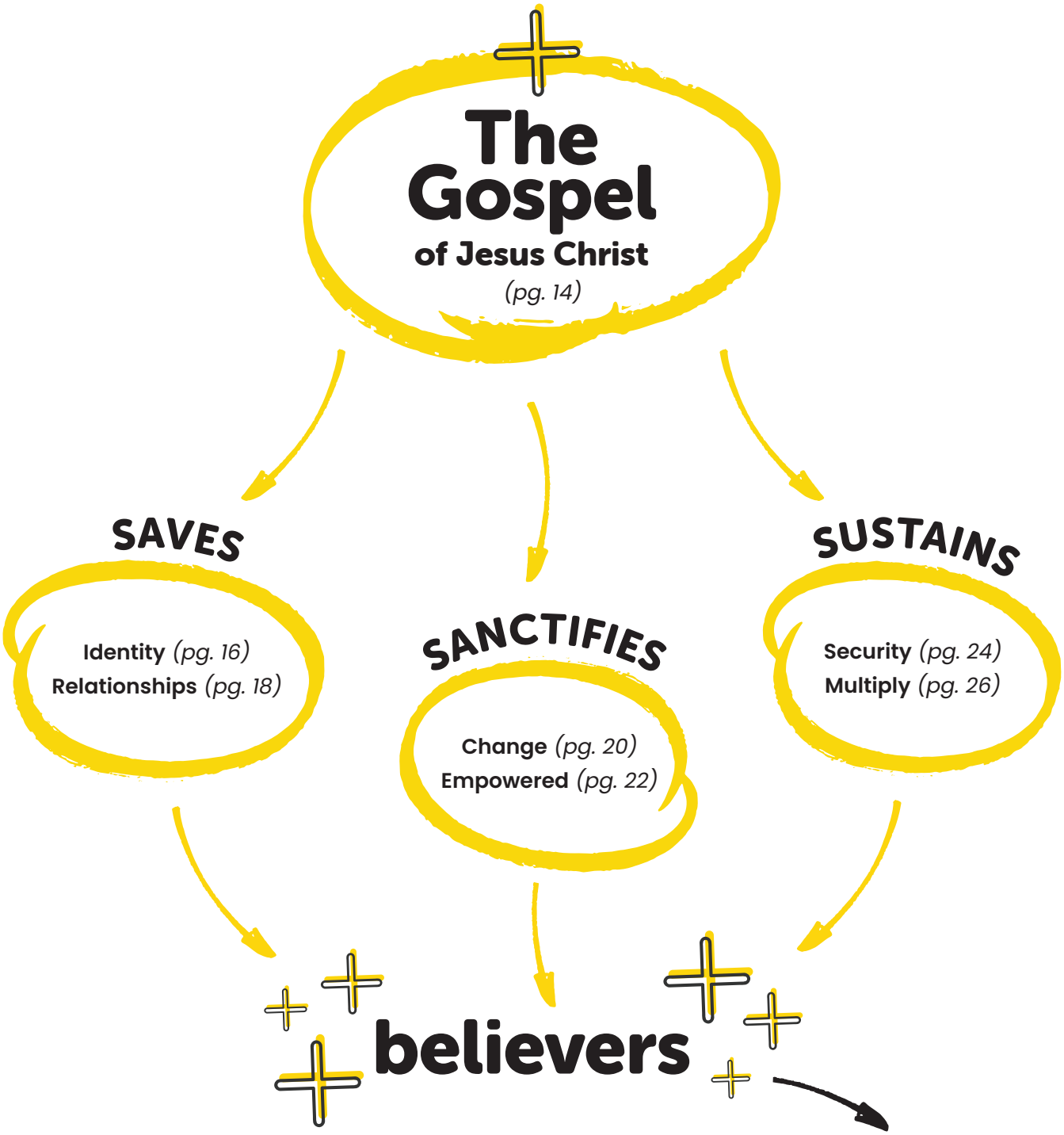
Colossians 2:15, Hebrews 2:14, Ephesians 1:20-23

SUMMARY:

In his death on the cross, Jesus fully paid the penalty for our sin, and he totally defeated the power of sin and death.

[CREDIT BRUCE A. WARE]

What does The Gospel mean for believers?
We'll explore this over the next few sections.



Turn the page to start exploring The Gospel!

What is the Gospel?

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of what Jesus did on our behalf through his life, death, resurrection, and ascension. It's the work of God that saves, sanctifies, and sustains His people. All of humanity is born into a state of sin, without Christ and separated from God. That's the bad news. But God, because of his great love, made a way to restore us into his presence. This is the good news! He sent Jesus to be the perfect human—fully God and fully man—to take the punishment for the sins of all people who repent and believe in Him ***(John 3:16-18)***.

We never outgrow our need for the gospel! Sinners need the gospel for salvation; rescue from death. Saints need the gospel to grow in understanding of Christ and knowing how to live. And until Jesus returns, we continually need the gospel to sustain us, carrying us with hope, power, wisdom, and lasting joy. ***1 Corinthians 15:1-2*** describes how the gospel saves us, keeps working to sanctify us, and continually sustains us as we cling to the truth of God's Word.

pause

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NOTE THESE QUOTES

"The gospel is where the Lord chooses to display His love in full."

- Trillia Newbell, *Fear and Faith*

[We are] applying God's gospel to the sinful condition: separation from God, spiritual confusion, and a broken relationship with God. This gospel gives us a pathway to communion with God... Christianity is centered on Jesus and his life, death, and resurrection. The gospel is not about being perfect because you can't be perfect."

- Harvey Turner, *Friend of Sinners*

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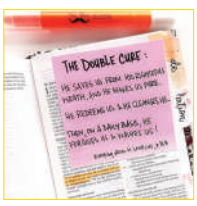

Truths to Remember: THE GOSPEL

"The most important daily habit we can possess is to remind ourselves of the gospel."
- *Charles Spurgeon*

1 THE GOSPEL WAS GOD'S PLAN ALL ALONG.

Genesis 3:14-19, Isaiah 53:10

"The cross of Jesus Christ was not some surprise, not some plan B for God, but rather the plan known about within the Godhead since the beginning." (Acts 2:22-23)

- *Matt Chandler, The Explicit Gospel*

2 THE GOSPEL BRINGS LIFE!

Romans 6:23, Leviticus 5:14-6:7

"To receive salvation and eternal life, we put our faith in Jesus as our sacrifice and our Savior. When we do, in him we are forgiven. All of our past sin, everything we have done that was against God's commands, everything we should have done but did not do, every wicked thought, every careless word—forgiven. No matter what we've done, we will not suffer eternal death separated from God because Jesus died in our place and we put our faith in Him."

- *Allan Moseley, Exalting Jesus in Leviticus*

NOTE THE QUOTE

To the Galatians, "Paul called them back to an awareness that the good news about Jesus—the gospel—is for all of life: everything!"

Galatians 2:20

- Jeff Vanderstelt, *Gospel Fluency*

3 TO RECEIVE THE GOSPEL, CHRISTIANS REPENT AND BELIEVE.

Romans 10:9, Mark 1:15

"When you believe in Christ, you're adopted not on the basis of your record, but on his record. You're adopted into the family and treated as if you'd accomplished everything Christ accomplished...You have to receive it through repentance, and that's not easy at all. The only way to get to that peace is through paying the pain of repentance...All you need is nothing."

- *Tim Keller, The Gospel in a Nutshell*

4 THE GOSPEL IS ABOUT GOD'S LOVE.

1 John 4:10,18-19, Romans 8:31-39

"In Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make You [God] love me more, and nothing I have done that makes You love me less. Your presence and approval are all I need for everlasting joy."

- *J.D. Greear, Gospel*

5 THE GOSPEL IS MEANT TO TRANSFORM US.

2 Cor. 3:18, Gal. 5:22-23, Psalm 51:10-12

"When we believe the gospel, it changes everything. Our understanding of our past, present, and future is reoriented from a self-focused way of life to a Jesus-focused way of life."

- *Jen Oshman, Enough About Me*

The Gospel SAVES

IDENTITY: Who Am I Really?

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

The good news of the gospel declares a Christian's new identity in Christ. The old identity—sinner—is the bad news, from which we are saved. This is the state of all humanity without Christ. ***Ephesians 2:1-10*** describes this change from old identity to new, from sinner to saint. We were dead in our sins (v1), sons and daughters of disobedience (v2), and children of wrath (v3). Verse 4 describes God's act, motivated by his love and mercy, taking us from death to life.

Because of God's grace, he gives us a new identity, which is alive together with Christ (v5), seated with Christ in the heavenly places (v6). We are God's 'workmanship,' a word sometimes translated as 'masterpiece,' newly created in Christ for good works (v10).

While it may seem as though this new life is personal, this passage—in fact, most of the Bible—was written to a corporate group of people. This Ephesians text, for instance, is for the Church. In our new identity, Christians are saved into the Church, Christ's bride. Together, Christians make up the church, and through love and unity, we represent God to the rest of the world. **Of course, no church is perfect, but, by God's grace, it ought to be a constant example of the gospel on display.**

NOTE THESE QUOTES

"We went from being sinners to saints, from enemies of God to dearly loved children of God, and from powerless to overcome sin to mightily empowered by the Spirit to defeat sin."

- Jeff Vanderstelt, *Gospel Fluency*

We live in the beginning of the end of the story that we're still in the middle of. Anyone who loves this story longs to see the One [Jesus] who is the center of the story.

He's coming to make a new beginning and to finish what he started. So keep waiting for him. Keep believing in him. Keep trusting that the story isn't over yet. God's promises never fail and the Promised One never disappoints."

- Kevin DeYoung, *The Biggest Story*

pause

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Truths to Remember: IDENTITY

"This is our identity. This is our calling. Show the world the love of the Father, the healing and reconciling power of the Spirit, and the sacrificial servanthood of the Son in how you live." - *Jeff Vanderstelt*

1 THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST.

Romans 8:1, 1 John 1:9

"But God tells us in his Word that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. That means if you are found in Christ, God does not disapprove of you. In fact, his response to you is just the opposite. God not only approves of you, he even counts you as righteous because of his Son."

- *Trillia Newbell, If God is For Us*

2 THE GOSPEL MAKES US AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, WITH A NEW PURPOSE.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20, 1 Peter 2:9-10

"No matter what our job is, we view it not as our purpose in life but rather as where God has sovereignly placed us for the purpose of making Christ known and his name great. If you are a teacher, if you are a politician, if you are a businessman, if you are in agriculture, if you are in construction, if you are in technology, if you are in the arts, then you should not be saying, 'I need to find my life's purpose in this work,' but rather, 'I need to bring God's purpose to this work.'"

- *Matt Chandler, Explicit Gospel*

3 OUR SIN DOES NOT DEFINE US, BUT REMINDS US FOR OUR CONTINUAL NEED OF CHRIST.

Romans 7:20-25

"Satan shows us our sin so we might despair.... God shows us our sin to lead us to Jesus....We may struggle with sin, but it's no longer our identity if we're in Christ."

- *Melissa Kruger, Identity Theft*

4 IN CHRIST, WE HAVE TRUE FREEDOM AND POWER.

John 8:36, Galatians 4:1-7, 2 Timothy 1:7

"What does the gospel say you have been given right here, right now, so that you can be what you've been called to be and do what you've been called to do? The answer is Christ! He is in you. He is with you. He is for you."

- *Paul David Tripp, New Morning Mercies*

5 OUR RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST IS THE ONE THAT DEFINES US.

Galatians 3:26-29

"The way to get inner security and courage...is to remember that a Christian's ultimate confidence and self-worth come from having the Father's strong love because we are in Christ. Christ names us - not our spouse or anyone else."

- *Tim Keller, God's Wisdom for Navigating Life*

6 GOD MADE MAN AND WOMAN IN HIS IMAGE - THE IMAGO DEI

Genesis 1:25-27

"You are infinitely valuable and worthy of dignity, not because of what you do, but because you are made in God's image."

- *Mary Wiley, Everyday Theology*

NOTE THE QUOTE

"Embrace your identity in the gospel. You are beloved and accepted. Forgiven and free. Now and forever. With nothing to fear."

- J.D. Greear, *90-Day Gospel Devotional*

The Gospel SAVES

RELATIONSHIPS: Why Church Family Matters

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

Relationships are an important part of the Christian life. The Bible has a lot to say about how we are to treat one another, especially fellow believers within the church. Together, the people in the church make up the family of God. We're brothers and sisters because God, our Father, has adopted us. We're co-heirs with Christ, and will one day inherit the Kingdom of God *(Romans 8:14-17)*. **Stop and think about how incredible that is!**

pause

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The New Testament addresses these relationships almost 60 times through "one-another" passages.

There are 5 THEMES:

UNITY

Unity is the foundation for all godly relationships. This doesn't mean uniformity in thinking, but rather, singleness in purpose.

Rom. 15:5-7, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 Cor. 12:25

"The gospel transforms our relationships by giving us one purpose in them: To become more like Christ."
- Jaquelle Crowe, This Changes Everything

RESPECT

This literally means "to place a great value or high price on something."

1 Thess. 5:15, Col. 3:9, Gal. 5:26

"Belonging to Christ means we also belong to everyone else who belongs to him. In Christ, we are part of the Church."
- Megan Hill, Identity Theft

HUMILITY

For unity to be possible, humility is required.

Ephesians 4:2, Gal. 5:13, James 5:16

"When we seek the greater good of the Kingdom over our own personal preferences and desires... relationships can thrive amid imperfection and even offenses. We are not in competition; we are in community."
- Laura Wifler & Emily Jensen, Risen Motherhood

LOVE

God is love. To truly reflect his character in the world, he commands us to love one another. This is only possible because of his initial love toward us.

1 John 4:7-21, John 13:34-35, Rom. 12:10

"Nowhere does the Bible say, 'Love one another moderately.' This world is a loving place. But our love is moderate, cautious, guarded. We make sure we don't get over-extended. Jesus frees us to love earnestly."
- Ray Ortlund

ENCOURAGEMENT

God has given us each other to make it easier to live in a fallen world in a holy way. We must remind each other of the truth that God loves us, equips us, treasures us, and our struggles are worth it.

1 Thess. 5:11, Col. 3:16, Hebrews 3:13

"The church is where we encourage each other while we wait for Jesus to return."
- Laura Wifler & Emily Jensen, Risen Motherhood

Truths to Remember: FAMILY OF GOD

"Friendship begins when one says to another, "You too?" But in the church we say to one another, "You and I are not alike at all. We have no reason to be together. Except Christ. That makes us family. So even though we have nothing else in common, I'm with you. I'm for you."

- Jared Wilson

1 JESUS SAVED US INTO COMMUNITY. WE HAVE A CORPORATE IDENTITY.

Ephesians 2:11-3:21

"We now have a new community in Christ. When God saves sinners, he brings them into community. This new community, called the Church, is made up of various groups of people, united in Jesus...Are we living out our corporate identity by belonging to a local, visible church? Do we have brothers and sisters with whom we love, serve, weep, rejoice, and celebrate? We were saved for community."

- Tony Merida, Exalting Christ in Ephesians

2 GOSPEL COMMUNITY IS A GIFT FROM GOD.

Acts 2:42-47

"Sunday shouldn't be a chore to get out of the way. It should be a community response to God's glory and beauty and work in our lives."

- Jaquelle Crow, This Changes Everything

3 GOSPEL RELATIONSHIPS SERVE OTHERS BEFORE ONESELF, LIKE CHRIST DID.

Luke 22:27, Colossians 3:12-14

Giving ourselves away...doesn't empty out our lives; it fills them up with real meaning and lasting significance. Everything we do for Christ and through Christ and in Christ is going to matter into eternity.

- Nancy Guthrie, God Does His Best Work with Empty

4 A HEALTHY FAMILY OF CHRIST DRAWS OTHERS IN.

Colossians 3:14-15, John 13:34-35

"A Jesus-centered community is an attractive community —a community that encourages, forgives, serves, loves, and invites non-Christians into its community."

- Jonathan K. Dodson, Gospel-Centered Discipleship

NOTE THE QUOTE

"The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes discouraged...The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother's is sure...This clarifies the goal of all Christian community: to meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

The Gospel SANCTIFIES

CHANGE: What is the Process?

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

A thriving Christian life doesn't happen without sanctification (being changed into the image or likeness of Jesus). When you receive salvation, a new and exciting journey of change begins. This change isn't about becoming a better version of yourself. Instead, something greater is in store. Christians, as they are being sanctified, mature into the image of Jesus Christ. The result of salvation is growth into his likeness.

John the Baptist talked about it personally by saying, "He must increase, but I must decrease." ***(John 3:30)***. Paul prayed for this change corporately when he prayed, "May the God of peace himself sanctify you* completely..." ***(1 Thessalonians 5:23)***. **You refers to the collective Church.*

Throughout history, people have experienced change by studying the Bible, applying it to everyday life, and patiently helping others do the same. God will reveal his work in you and others as you pursue him and his purposes.

NOTE THE QUOTE

"The cross is not just about sinners avoiding punishment—
it is about God showing us love. The resurrection reminds us of the mercy and grace that is bound up in the cross, grace that has the power to change a person through and through, even if that change is a gradual process."

- Jonathan Dodson, *Raised? Finding Jesus by Doubting the Resurrection*

pause

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Truths to Remember: SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification means being changed into the image or likeness of Jesus Christ.

1 THOSE WHO RECEIVE SALVATION WILL PURSUE HOLINESS IN CHRIST'S STRENGTH.

Rom 6:12-14, 1 Peter 1:13-16, Heb. 12:14

"We strive toward holiness not in our own strength alone, but by the power of grace."

- Jen Wilkin, In His Image

2 FORMER WAYS OF LIFE ARE REPLACED BY GODLY LIVING.

Romans 6:6, Ephesians 4:22-24

"Quit being paralyzed by your past. Grace offers you life in the present and a guarantee of a future."

- Paul David Tripp, New Morning Mercies

3 JOYFUL CHANGE FLOWS FROM A UNION WITH JESUS.

John 15:9-11, 1 John 3:24

"Abiding in Jesus will produce all the fruits of the Spirit in you, but not because you're concentrating specifically on any of them. You're concentrating instead on Jesus. You're resting in His love and acceptance. Then pretty soon you're growing more patience, developing greater self-discipline, becoming increasingly generous. It's the abiding difference of the Gospel."

- J.D. Greear, Gospel Devotional

4 THE JOURNEY OF CHANGE IS UNIQUE, BUT WILL BE COMPLETED.

2 Corinthians 3:18, Philippians 1:6

"Christianity is not reformation through conforming to an ideal; it's transformation, through relating to a living Lord."

- Tim Keller, Long Live the King

5 SANCTIFICATION IS AN ONGOING COOPERATIVE WORK BETWEEN GOD'S SPIRIT AND US.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, Jude 24-25

"Gospel-centered discipleship is not about how we perform but who we are— imperfect people, clinging to a perfect Christ, being perfected by the Spirit."

- Jonathan K. Dodson, Gospel-Centered Discipleship

6 TRIALS AND SUFFERING WILL PRODUCE LASTING CHANGE.

Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4

"If you are hurting, that is an opportunity to lean into God. It is an opportunity to learn something from God you might never know otherwise"

- J.D. Greear, blog post

7 GOD USES CHRISTIANS TO HELP OTHERS.

Matthew 5:14-16, Hebrews 10:24

"We live as a redeemed people of God, becoming more and more like Jesus every day so that more and more people come to him through our visible and verbal testimony."

- Jeff Vanderstelt, Gospel Fluency

NOTE THE QUOTE

"Quit being paralyzed by your past. Grace offers you life in the present and a guarantee of a future."

- Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*

The Gospel SANCTIFIES

EMPOWERED: Ways to Respond to the Gospel

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

One of the most common questions asked by people after they receive the gospel is, "What is God's will for my life?" This is such a great question!

God saves AND empowers people for his purposes. There are so many privileges and meaningful experiences for those who respond to the gospel with gratitude and devotion.

The Apostle Paul often used the imagery of a race when describing the Christian life. He wrote, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it." ***(1 Corinthians 9:24)*** Likewise the writer of Hebrews stated, "Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." ***(Hebrews 12:1-2)***

NOTE THE QUOTE

"Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith."

Hebrews 12:1-2

pause

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GOOD BOOKS

Learn more about the Holy Spirit's empowering work.

Forgotten God
by Francis Chan

Here in Spirit
by Jonathan K. Dodson

Truths to Remember: GROW

Consistently practicing these activities over time will mature your faith, provide deep satisfaction, enrich your life, and bring peace to your soul.

1 TRUST THE HOLY SPIRIT'S EMPOWERING PRESENCE.

Romans 8:9-11, 1 Corinthians 2:12

"The Gospel doesn't just bring about forgiveness of sins and save us from hell. The Gospel of Jesus Christ empowers us to live a whole new life today by the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. There's no greater power than that."

- *Jeff Vanderstelt, Gospel Fluency*

2 OBEY GOD'S WILL REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

Micah 6:8, 1 Corinthians 10:31

"And with eternity in mind, we remember that whatever we do in the body---whether it's eating or drinking, or working out, or whatever, we seek to do to the glory of God."

- *Trillia Newbell, If God is For Us*

3 PRIORITIZE TIME IN PRAYER AND STUDYING THE BIBLE ALONE AND WITH OTHERS.

Psalm 119:105, Ephesians 5:15-16

"When we invest our time in what has eternal significance, we store up treasure in heaven."

- *Jen Wilkin, None Like Him*

4 SEEK TO DEVELOP AND USE THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN TO HELP OTHERS.

Romans 12:3-9, Ephesians 4:11-16

"When you live to satisfy not others but only yourself, you will be eternally unsatisfied."

- *Timothy Keller, God's Wisdom for Navigating Life*

5 BE GENEROUS WITH THE MONEY AND RESOURCES GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU.

2 Corinthians 9:7-11, 1 Timothy 6:17-19

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

- *Jesus Christ, Matthew 6:19-20*

6 GET INVOLVED IN A CHRIST-CENTERED CHURCH.

Acts 2:42, Psalm 34:3

"The Christian community is a community of the cross, for it has been brought into being by the cross, and the focus of its worship is the Lamb once slain, now glorified."

- *John Stott, The Cross of Christ*

7 SPEAK THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST TO OTHERS.

Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 3:19-21

"This is what he sent us to do: to tell the world about Jesus."

- *Harvey Turner, Friend of Sinners*

NOTE THE QUOTE

"Get up and face life with courage because, as God's child, you have not been left to the limits of your own strength and wisdom."

- Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*

The Gospel SUSTAINS

SECURITY: Am I Safe in the Gospel?

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

When doubts or fears arise, look to God's Word to be reminded of his character and care for his people. Too often, those who base their salvation on their current battle against sin or perceived slowness of sanctification will either question their salvation or doubt God's involvement in their life.

This can lead to what feels like paralysis of faith. The Christian life will have its ups and downs, yet God never abandons his people. ***(Deuteronomy 31:6, Joshua 1:9, Matthew 28:20)***

As God continues the work he started within his people, his desire is that "love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." ***(Philippians 1:9-11)***

NOTE THE QUOTE

"The Christian life will have its ups and downs, yet God never abandons his people."

- Scott Prentice, *Advance Community Church*

pause

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Truths to Remember: CELEBRATE

When you feel uncertain about life or your salvation, go to the security of the Bible. God's character is revealed through the Holy Spirit to help you run the race of life.

1 THE HOLY SPIRIT GUARANTEES THE SALVATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

Ephesians 1:13-14, 1 Peter 1:3-5

"When tragedy comes, whether we battle sin or sorrow, we never face these foes alone. His Spirit, which hems us in behind and before, also indwells us. He is all around us, and he is in us. How secure are we?"

- Jen Wilkin, None Like Him

2 THIS GUARANTEE ENABLES US TO PLEASE GOD AS WE LIVE BY FAITH.

2 Corinthians 5:5-9, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

For those in Christ, God isn't waiting on a future version of us he will love more. We are fully loved, in Christ, for good, forever. Good news"

- Kyle Worley

3 GOSPEL SECURITY FLOWS FROM GOD'S FATHERLY LOVE FOR HIS CHILDREN.

Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 4:4-7

"Throughout Scripture, we see God's people facing impossible odds. Whether it be the Israelites against the powerful Egyptians (Ex. 14:13), the giants in the land (Num. 13), or the Assyrians (2 Chr. 32:7–8), God tells them not to fear. He doesn't always tell them how he's going to provide; he simply tells them to trust and obey."

- James Williams

4 GOD'S CHILDREN RUN TO HIM WITHOUT FEAR WHEN THEY SIN OR ARE FEARFUL.

Psalm 37:23-24, 1 John 1:5-10

"The marker of those who understand the gospel of Jesus Christ is that, when they stumble and fall, when they screw up, they run to God and not from him, because they clearly understand that their acceptance before God is not predicated upon their behavior but on the righteous life of Jesus Christ and his sacrificial death."

- Matt Chandler, Explicit Gospel

5 NOTHING CAN SEPARATE GOD'S PEOPLE FROM LOVE AND SALVATION.

John 10:27-29, Romans 8:35-39

"Nothing can separate us from him and his love - not our fears, not our trials. We can run to God confidently because of Jesus."

- Trillia Newbell, Fear and Faith

Question:

How have these verses & quotes encouraged you today?

The Gospel SUSTAINS

MULTIPLY: The Gospel Flows Through Us

BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

Jesus' clear command to his followers is to make disciples *(Matthew 28:19-20)*. God's plan for spreading his message throughout the world is accomplished by his people. Making disciples simply means showing and teaching others about Jesus in your everyday life. This requires intentionality, humility, and grace.

Paul says God makes his appeal through us, his people. A follower of Christ is an ambassador, tasked with the mission of teaching others about him *(2 Corinthians 5:11-21)*.

This means helping unbelievers become believers by showing them Christ, and helping other believers mature in the faith.

NOTE THESE QUOTES

We live out our nature as God's ambassadors to the world, in which we join him in his effort to reach people."

- Eric Mason, *Missional Discipleship*

God gives us good things not so that they might terminate on us, but so that we might steward them on behalf of others."

- Jen Wilkin, *In His Image*

pause

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Disciple-makers let their light shine before others, so that they'll see good works and give glory to God.

- Matthew 5:14-16

Truths to Remember: MAKING DISCIPLES

"In biblical discipleship, people are saved into the Church, marked by baptism, unified by ongoing participation in the Lord's Supper, and matured within the context of community." - *Scott Prentice, Advance Community Church*

1 DISCIPLESHIP IS ROOTED IN LOVE FOR CHRIST, HIS LOVE FOR US, AND HIS LOVE FOR THEM.

Matthew 22:36-40, Deuteronomy 6:5

"Being a disciple and discipling others means looking at Jesus with such intensity and delight that you actually begin to reflect his beauty in everyday life. The most important way you can disciple others is by enjoying Christ yourself in such an irresistible way that your enjoyment becomes contagious."

- Jani Ortland, Cracking the Code of Discipleship

2 DISCIPLESHIP HAPPENS IN THE NORMAL RHYTHMS OF LIFE.

Titus 2:1-10

"It is a life-on-life process of learning, where we see the gospel being displayed in our imperfect daily lives, desiring to see a multiplying effect of the transforming work of Jesus Christ."

- Confidence Mokgatle, Discipleship

3 DISCIPLESHIP IS ABOUT GROWING TOGETHER AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.

Acts 4:32-33

"Making disciples requires not only 'sharing our faith,' but also sharing our lives—failures and successes, disobedience and obedience."

- Jonathan Dodson, Gospel-Centered Discipleship

4 DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES HUMILITY.

John 3:30, Philippians 2:3-4

"A disciple is one who has renounced him or herself and pledged their life to being in a lifelong apprenticeship to the Lord Jesus Christ."

- Eric Mason, Missional Discipleship

5 MAKING DISCIPLES IS GROUNDED IN THE COMMUNITY LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

Hebrews 10:24-25

"In a culture of discipleship, we read and speak the Word to each other. We spend time with each other. We pray for one another. We love. We give. We attend the weekly gathering prayerfully and with anticipation...We follow the examples of our leaders who show us how to follow Christ ourselves."

- Mark Dever, Discipling

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