



What is the Gospel and What are the Right and Wrong Ways to Respond To It?

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I. We must know and understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4):

- A. Jesus Christ who is God and the Son of God took on the form of a man (John 1:14-18, Philippians 2:5-11).
- B. Jesus Christ took on the form of a man to pay the penalty for the sins of the human race (Hebrews 10:1-18).
- C. Through Christ's physical death on the Cross, literal burial, and resurrection from physical death, Jesus paid the penalty for the sins of mankind (Acts 2:22-36).
- D. Christ's physical death on the Cross, literal burial, and resurrection from physical death result in deliverance from the penalty of sin and the power of sin for those who put their faith (trust or confidence) in the person and work of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1 – 6:15).
- E. Christ's physical death on the Cross, literal burial, and resurrection from physical death result in deliverance from the presence of sin for those who put their faith (trust or confidence) in the person and work of Jesus Christ (Revelation 21:1-27).
- F. Christ's physical death on the Cross, literal burial, and resurrection from physical death result in receiving a resurrected heavenly body like Jesus and being with Him forever when He returns, for those who put their faith (trust or confidence) in the person and work of Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:17-21).
- G. Christ's physical death on the Cross, literal burial, and resurrection from physical death result in receiving a salvation unto a right relationship with God the Father that lasts eternally for those who put their faith (trust or confidence) in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This salvation is to motivate one to know God intimately, to become like Him, and to be useful to Him practically (Romans 5:1-2, John 17:3, Philippians 3:7-11, Ephesians 4:17-24, 2:1-10, John 15:1-5).

II. What is the right response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ? (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

- A. We are to listen to the validity of the Gospel message (Romans 10:1-17).

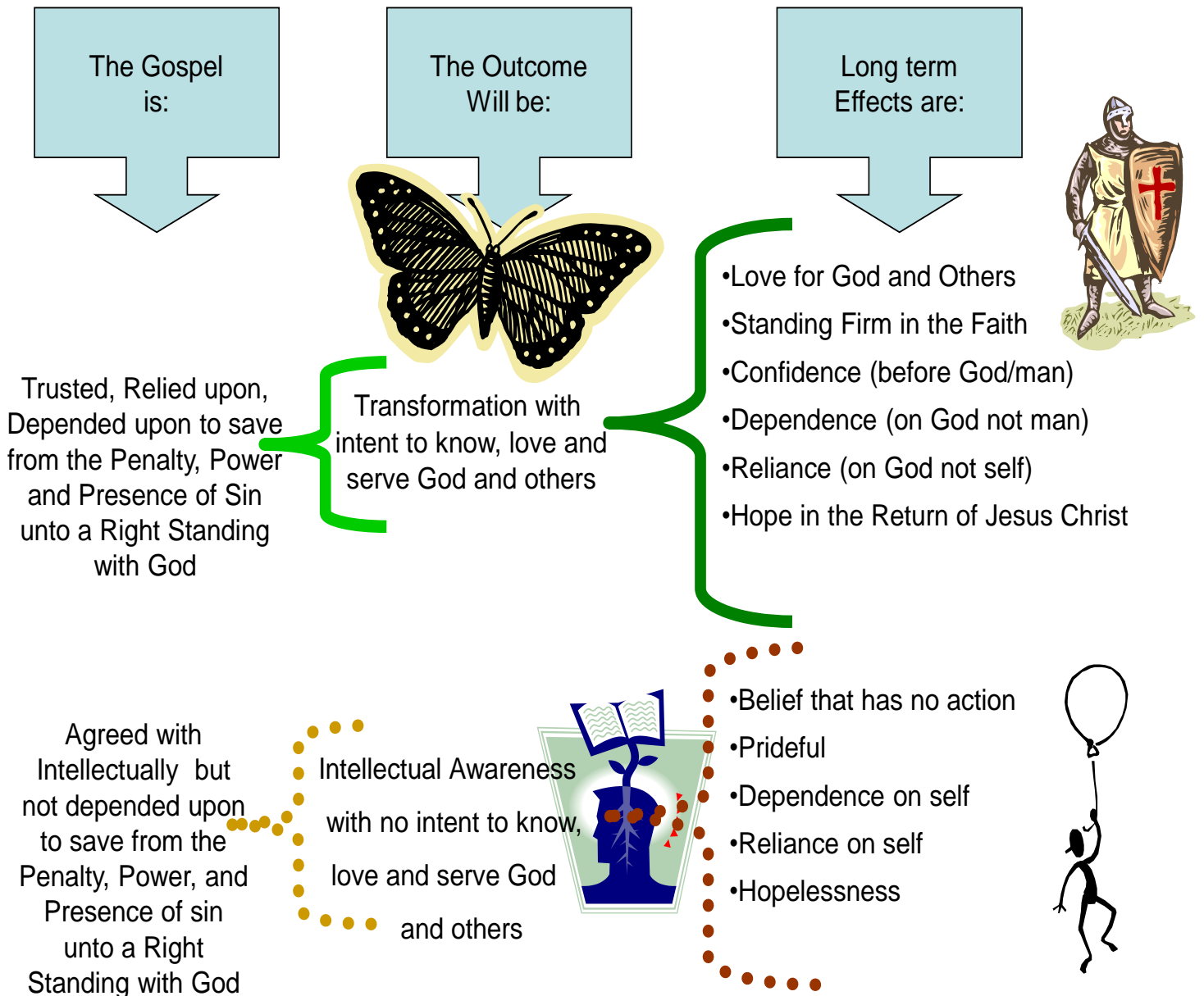
- B. We are to affirm the message by accepting the reality of our sinfulness and our need to be forgiven of our sin (2 Corinthians 7:10)
- C. We should then turn from sin to put our faith (trust or confidence) in the person and work of Jesus Christ to deliver us from our sin unto a right relationship with God the Father (2 Corinthians 7:10).
- D. We are to be steadfast in the conviction that we are saved eternally from the penalty of sin, the power of sin and soon the presence of sin as a result of putting our faith (trust or confidence) in the person and work of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1 – 6:1-15).
- E. We are to be steadfast in the hope of the return of Jesus Christ, knowing that when He returns we will receive a heavenly body like His since we have put our faith (trust or confidence) in the person and work of Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:17-21, Romans 8:18-25).
- F. We are to be steadfast in the conviction that we are saved unto a right relationship with God the Father that will last eternally as a result of putting our faith (trust or confidence) in the person and work of Jesus Christ (John 3:16, 17:3, Romans 5:1 – 8:39).
- G. As a result of trusting or putting our confidence in the Gospel message resulting in an eternally secure salvation, there should be a desire to pursue and know God intimately leading to seeking to learn how to walk with Jesus Christ. This should result in one learning to live by faith working itself out in obedience to God and love for others. If this is not happening it means that we didn't have a genuine/sincere faith or we have forgotten that we have been purified from our sins to live for Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:15, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 3:1-16, Romans 5:1-8:39, Galatians 5:1-25, 2 Peter 1:1-11).

III. What is the wrong response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

- A. Believing your own good works can lead you into salvation, not the work of Christ (Mark 10:17-22).
- B. Sorrow over sin but unwillingness to let go of the treasure that keeps you in sin and away from a genuine salvation unto God (Mark 10:17-22).
- C. Sorrow over sin yet seeking to handle the consequences of sin according to your will instead of God's way (Matthew 27:3-5).
- D. Focusing on and enjoying the physical signs and benefits of the Gospel message while disregarding putting faith in the Gospel message (John 6:26-40).
- E. Hearing the message of the gospel and forgetting about it (Luke 8:4-18).

- F. Hearing the message of the gospel, getting excited about it, but not committing to sincerely embrace it (Luke 8:4-18).
- G. Hearing the message of the gospel but not embracing it because one is distracted by the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life (Luke 8:4-18).

True Faith in the Gospel vs Intellectual Awareness of the Gospel



The Conversation We Can Have with God to Embrace His Salvation

If you would like to receive this gift of salvation and be reconciled to a new and right relationship with God, you may use these words as a means to express to God your sincere desire to be saved from the penalty, power, and presence of sin unto a new and right relationship with Him.

Remember, the power to save you is not in these words but in God to whom you are using these words to pray. If these words reflect your desire to be saved from sin and to be reconciled unto a new and right relationship with God, then they will be a means of dialogue with God, who will save you as a result of your sincere faith, not by merely repeating these words:

“Father God I understand that I am a sinner and need to be forgiven and delivered from my sin condition and have a restored relationship with You. I understand that You, Lord Jesus Christ, are God the Son, and that you took on manhood, and were crucified, buried, and resurrected to pay the penalty for my sin in order to deliver me from the penalty, the power and soon the presence of sin unto a new and right relationship with You and God the Father that starts now and will continue in heaven. I understand, believe and trust in this fact and now entrust myself to You, Jesus Christ, as my savior from sin, the Lord of my life and reconciler of me unto a new and right relationship with You and God the Father. Thank you Jesus Christ for saving me so that I may know You and God the Father. Thank you God the Holy Spirit as you now take residence in my soul and will guide me into this new and right relationship and empower me to obey accordingly. May you now lead me, oh God, to the Church that will teach me how to live in this new life I have with you.”

- Romans 6:4: “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”
- Romans 8:11: “If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit which dwells in you.”
- Ephesians 2:5-6: “[God] made us alive together with Christ ... and raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”
- Philippians 3:10: “That I may know Him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like Him in his death.”
- Colossians 2:12: “You were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”
- Colossians 3:1: “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”