

## The Power of the Gospel

I want to emphasize the purpose of this particular writing. I desire that when you read this, you will be encouraged and strengthened with a renewed strength and confidence in the power of the Gospel; that you will be so sure of the message you believe that you will relentlessly speak of it. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 (NLT) “Let me now remind you dear brothers and sisters of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you – unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.” It is this Good News that saves you. Let us remember the power of those words.

Let me elaborate on the importance of the Gospel and how it should never be forsaken. I am taken to the verse Romans 1:16 (KJV) “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” I have done ministry in a number of different countries, in different villages, cities, towns, you name it. I have noticed a common trend in all of them, every single person who is saved is brought to salvation by the same thing... The Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no message more important than the Gospel, because it is this very message which brings a spiritual transformation that echoes across eternity. Everything else is temporary. Ecclesiastes 2:11 (NLT) “But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless – like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.” In ministry, the most effective form of evangelism is the unadulterated proclamation of the Gospel. The Gospel is the manifest power of God; it is the miracle-working power of God. This

Gospel that we can read in our hands, is also the message which carries the power of God that produces salvation in someone's spirit.

There is no better strategy than to preach the Gospel. In Acts 2, the day of Pentecost, picture this: the Holy Spirit falls on the 120 in the upper room. Peter comes down (perhaps spilled out the door from the power of the Holy Spirit) from the room through the door whilst the crowd (who has been hearing the goings on up in that room) murmurs that they are drunk; but in his bold Spirit-filled proclamation of God's Word, power manifested in the Good News about Jesus Christ, 3000 are added to the church that day! THREE THOUSAND are added to the Kingdom that day! There is no other method than that to bring souls to the Kingdom of God.

Jonah is commanded by God to minister to the Ninevites who were a known barbaric people, wicked in their ways. They had planted seeds of sin and those who plant sinful seeds reap death. God orders Jonah to go to them, but Jonah rebels and tries to run. He is swallowed by a big fish and spat up on the shores of Nineveh just three days later. He approaches the people of the city and declares that if they do not repent then God will destroy the city. Jonah proceeds to sit at the top of a hill awaiting God's judgement on the city, but to his surprise they all come to repentance.

Ministry is like a tree. The trunk of our ministry must be the Gospel rooted in Jesus Christ Himself. Remember that the Gospel carries a supernatural working power within it, no work we can do will carry that same power. Teaching does not carry that power, well-drilling does not carry it, farming does not carry supernatural power. The Gospel carries supernatural power. The trunk is the Gospel, the branches of that tree are the teaching, well-drilling,

farming, and other such work or relief work. If we make any of those things the center of our ministry, the trunk of our ministry, the Gospel will become a branch that is easily broken off.

I do not believe there is any way that will make people come to Christ faster than simply ministering the Gospel. The Gospel is the power of God. Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) "For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." We have methods nowadays that can do work on the joints of people. We can do marrow transplants and things of the like, but what technology do we have that separates the soul and spirit? Can we use a scalpel to divide the thoughts of the soul and the thoughts of the spirit? No, we cannot. The Word of God is the only tool... sword that we have that can bring about the separation of two seemingly indivisible creations. It is alive and powerful. Let us never forget that. We can always have hope that the ministry of the Gospel is doing great work even if we do not see it.

What weather modification system do we have that can stop rain for three years? What type of protective fire resistant gear do we have that can save someone from being inside of an intense furnace? What medical tools do we have to revive a valley of dry bones? Only the Word of God can do these things. The ministry of the word does not disappoint, so let us not lose faith in the powerful things of God.

This is why I so strongly believe in the Gospel. I once met with a college student who was in his first year. We discussed the things of God and he asked me a question. He told me about how he has roommates who are unsaved and he wanted to know what was the best way to minister to them. I told him about the power of the Gospel. I said that he can try strategy

and try to use passive methods to minister to his roommates, but there is a real power in the Gospel. The strategy is to preach the Gospel! The unaltered preaching of the Word is what has shown me the most fruitfulness. I had a friend who would send me messages while they were drunk and just pour out all of their trauma to me. Every time I would simply minister the Gospel. After about a year they finally made Jesus their Lord.

If I were one who had not known the Gospel and someone came in with relief work in the name of Christianity and did not tell me the Gospel, I would be greatly disappointed on the day of judgement. Sure it is great joy in the moment, but I don't want to be the person someone destined for hell looks at and thinks, "if only they told me the Gospel." There is temporary relief from our struggles now, and there is eternal relief for our damnation. One is far more important now.

I remember doing ministry in one country. I was doing house-to-house evangelism and found water filters from a certain well-known Christian organization. They were inside a number of different houses. As I spoke with the individuals of these homes, none of them knew Jesus. None of them had even heard the name. How terrifying to come in the name of Jesus, yet in eternity one person in hell could look at another in heaven and think, "why didn't they tell me the Gospel?" How could one come in the name of our Lord yet neglect their duty as the messenger, as the ambassador of Christ? I was horrified that anyone could say they are doing something for God, for Jesus, and leave the souls to eternal damnation.

God is good and faithful, he will lead us in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Let us never lose faith and hold tight to that message of Christ, just as when we first believed. Let us never forget the one who brought about the most change in our life in both the

temporary and eternal... Jesus. Let us never forget the name above all names. Let us never neglect our duty as witnesses of the resurrection power and that we are ambassadors of Christ. Let us never forget the truth of the Great Commission. Amen!