

*Following
Jesus
Together*

GOSPEL FLUENCY

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL OF LIFE

Following Jesus Together: Gospel Fluency

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HOW TO USE THIS TOOL

Romans 1:16 tells us that the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. In other words, through Jesus by His Spirit, we are in the process of being freed from the power of sin.

This means the gospel is not just a one-time thing to believe in in order to become a Christian, rather, the gospel is something we're called on to believe as we follow Jesus daily. The more we believe, trust/and internalize the good news of Jesus, the more we're empowered by the Spirit to live the life Jesus has called us into.

This tool helps with just that. Here you'll find Scriptures, broken down by topic, to help you apply the good news of Jesus to all of life. To do so, follow these three steps:

1 - Examine where in your life need to be reminded of the gospel.

What areas in your life are you tempted to doubt or forget that Jesus is good news for you?

2 - Then, go to Scripture that speaks into what you need to hear.

In light of step 1, what about God's character and promises do you need to internalize and meditate on? Consult the Table of Contents on the next page to find relevant passages, asking the Spirit to guide you to specific truths you need to sit with.

3 - Lastly, hold fast to these promises/truths.

Internalizing these truths could look like writing this passage on a piece of paper and putting it somewhere prominent. It could look like memorizing the passage or praying it over yourself. Or, it could look like writing a prayer based on a particular and saying it over yourself during certain times of the day.

And, because we follow Jesus together, Gospel Fluency means reminding one another of this as well. So to get really practical, as people in your group confess sin to you, Gospel Fluency could look like saying to them:

- "Hey thank you for sharing, and I'm reminded of Romans 8:1 which says there's no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus - so the good news is if you're in Jesus you no longer need to live in shame and guilt. Jesus has taken that from you."
- "I just want to encourage you with Ephesians 2:8 which says by grace you've saved through faith, which means the pressure is off. You don't have to perform for God. You saved by Jesus' work, not your own."
- "Hey, thanks for sharing and I know you know this but Psalm 34:18 comes to mind that says God is near to the brokenhearted, and He died for you so that He could be with you in all of this."
- "I'm sure you probably know this but, I just want to remind you that God loves you a lot and the same Spirit that rose Jesus from the dead is alive in you and you are actually able to see victory over sin so that you don't have to be enslaved by what you're going through."

Now this may be a bit clunky at first, but like learning a new language, Gospel Fluency will become more natural the more we practice it on ourselves and on others. And in the process, the more fluent we become, the more we can further internalize God's goodness and become more like Jesus.

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THE GOSPEL BRINGS CHANGE

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

The good news of Jesus, who He is and what He's done, has the power to free us from sin and its effects no matter who we are or what we've done.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works

God's grace has the power to change us from the inside out which means we can now repent of sin and live the life Jesus has called us into.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 10:10

I came that they may have life and have it to the fullest

Romans 8:37-39

in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...

Jesus died for our sins and rose again.

Colossians 1:19-22

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him...

We were separated from God because of our sin, but God made a way for us to be right with Him when he died on the Cross and rose again

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

GOSPEL FOR DEEP IDOLS

GOSPEL FOR APPROVAL IDOLATRY

Exodus 19:5

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine

Because Christ has already fully obeyed the voice of God and kept His covenant on our behalf, we become God's treasured possession in Christ

Matthew 3:16-17

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold a voice from heaven said, "this is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

The Father makes a scene to pronounce His pleasure in and love for His Son when He is baptized. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father feels the same way about us as He does about Christ.

GOSPEL FOR POWER IDOLATRY

The good life is found when we realize our spiritual poverty apart from Jesus, we bring nothing to the table save only our neediness.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

When we realize we don't have all the power, God's power is able to strengthen us all the more.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

God saved us not because we were powerful but because we were weak.

Psalms 73:26

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Habakkuk 3:19a

God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

GOSPEL FOR COMFORT IDOLATRY

2 Corinthians 1:5

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

True lasting comfort comes from joining Christ in suffering (probably by doing some difficult things).

Psalms 119:50

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.

Psalms 119:76-77

Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant. Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.

Isaiah 12:1-2

You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

True comfort is rooted in the fact that though God had wrath towards us, Jesus has appeased that wrath and welcomed us into a living relationship with the living God. Finding comfort there invites us into living from that comfort, not for it.

GOSPEL FOR CONTROL IDOLATRY

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

If God was in control even in the death of his son, can't he be trusted when our lives seem out of control too? The cross shows us how trustworthy God is.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There is nothing that could happen in your life that would keep you away from the one thing you need—the love of God in Christ.

Luke 12:25-30

And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

The hard truth is that you are absolutely not in control, but that's not the end of the story. You have a heavenly Father who is in control and knows exactly what you need.

GOSPEL FOR DOUBTING GOD'S CHARACTER/PROMISES

GOSPEL FOR DOUBTING GOD'S GRACE/FORGIVENESS

(Also Gospel for Shame and Feeling Unclean)

Psalms 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Isaiah 43:25

"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more

Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Ephesians 1:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Daniel 9:9

The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him;

Matthew 26:28

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Leviticus 16:30

for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the Lord.

The ultimate Day of Atonement was when Christ died for the sins of His people. His people are now forever clean.

Jeremiah 33:8

'I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me and by which they have transgressed against Me.

1 Peter 2:24

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

GOSPEL FOR FEELING DEFINED BY YOUR PAST

Psalm 103:12

*as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!

Ezekiel 36:26

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart for stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Revelation 21:5

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

GOSPEL FOR DOUBTING GOD'S LOVE

Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ -- by grace you have been saved

1 John 3:1

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have love God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another

Isaiah 30:18

Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him

GOSPEL FOR SUFFERING

Psalms 40:11

As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me

Mercy = compassion/hurting with those that are suffering from the effects of sin.

Psalms 34:18

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.*

Matthew 28:20

"Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2 Corinthians 1:5

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Jesus identifies with our suffering and is with us in it to comfort us.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

God comforts us in suffering, in order that we might learn to comfort others in theirs.

You can be a tangible example of God's presence in suffering, by being present yourself.

When in doubt, be there.

Revelation 21:3-4

"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

GOSPEL FOR FEELING DEFEATED BY SIN

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Romans 8:37-39

in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

GOSPEL FOR SPECIFIC SIN STRUGGLES

GOSPEL FOR HABITUAL SIN & ADDICTION

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Because of Jesus, we have the ability and motivation to say no to sin.

Our sin has been put to death along with Jesus, so that we might be raised to power over sin.

GOSPEL FOR SEXUAL SIN

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Your body does not belong to you because Christ has bought (redeemed) you, which means He owns your body and gets to say what you do with it.

GOSPEL FOR STRUGGLING TO FORGIVE

Hebrews 10:30

For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people"

Colossians 3:13

bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

GOSPEL FOR LOVING OTHERS

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have love God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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