

Gospel thoughts

The **Gospel** (Good News about God in Jesus Christ) is the “power unto salvation” as the Scriptures say. It is not merely a doctrine or a philosophical way of describing how things work between God and people, it is an actual power, like the power a fiancée or loving parent has when drawing another person into a good and faithful relationship.

1-The Gospel does not tell me what to do to be saved. It tells me that I do not need to do anything to be saved.

2-The Gospel does not demand a response of faith – it CREATES a response of faith.

3-The Gospel does not say that I decide for Christ. It says Christ decided for me! And it both draws and invites me to live in the decision God in Christ made for me

4-The Gospel says that even when I don’t believe in God, God believes in me!

5-The Gospel does not tell me God will love me if I repent and have faith – it tells me I can repent and have faith because God loves me.

6-The Gospel is not cheap grace. A cheap grace is no grace – it is only conditional grace offered at low prices. Grace is so precious it cannot be bought at any price, only received.

7-The Gospel is always necessary. Whatever else I need to hear, including the law that kills me – I always need to be raised up to new life!

8-The Gospel frees me from the job of earning God’s love **for** the job of loving my neighbor

(Note: this is the “yoke” that Jesus commands us to take from him in Matthew’s gospel; “

Take my yoke upon you, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light”)

God doesn’t scare me into believing.....*who loves the one who scares them?*

9-The Gospel does not tell me what to do to get God to love me – tells me there is nothing I can do to STOP God from loving me!