

Lesson 5. S-Basic Gospel Points

Point # 4—Belief/Baptism

1. The Power of the Word of God

Fill in the blanks with one of the following words: Law, Gospel, baptized.

1. It is through hearing the Word of God that a person comes to faith (Ro 10:17).
2. The Word of God includes the Law and the Gospel.
 - 1) Law
 - a. The one-word summary of what the Law demands is love (Ro 13:10b).
 - b. The ___ tells us to love God (Mk12:30) and man (Mk12:31).
 - c. But we have not obeyed this command to love perfectly.
 - d. The purpose of the Law is to show us our sin, not to justify us (Ro 3:20b).
 - 2) Gospel
 - a. The meaning of the Gospel is that we are saved not because of our good deeds, but because of God's mercy and forgiveness (Tit 3:5).
 - b. The Gospel proclaims to us that God has provided salvation for us, which is ours through believing and be baptized. (Mk 16:16)
3. We should have a balance in speaking the Law and the _____.
 - 1) We should not try to scare people into believing by speaking ONLY the ____, and emphasizing the fires of hell--as if God delights in judging people and sending them to hell.
 - a. God made hell for the devil and his angels, not for people (Mt 25:41b).
 - b. He wants all people to be saved (1Ti 2:4).
 - c. He draws people to Himself through His love (Jer 31:3b).Our goal in speaking the Law is so that the person might know he is a sinner and repent.
 - 2) We should not speak ONLY the _____ --as if everyone will go to Heaven. Only those who believe and are baptized will be saved (Mk 16:16). There is no other way than through Jesus Christ that a person can be saved (Ac 4:12). We are happy to share the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes (Ro 1:16).
4. In conclusion, when a person hears the Word of God, the Holy Spirit moves him to believe, repent and be _____ (Ac 2:38).

2. The Goal of our Witness—that People Believe and Are Baptized (Mk 16:16)

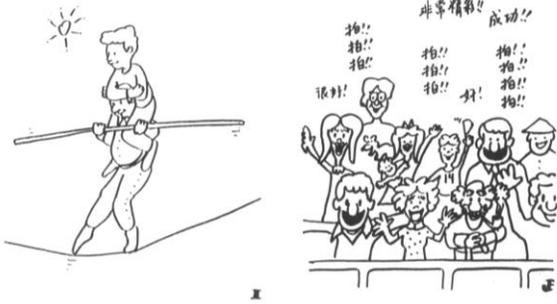
Fill in the blanks with one of the following words: conviction, God, baptized, forgive.

1. Belief (faith)
 - 1) Faith means that we are confident our hopes will be realized (Heb 11:1a).
 - a. For example, if you have a good friend, you have faith that when you ask him to help you, he will if he can.
 - b. More importantly, when we have faith in God, we know that when we ask Him to forgive our sins for Jesus' sake, He will _____ us and someday take us to heaven.

- 2) Faith also means that we have a conviction about things we have not seen (Heb 11:1b).
- For example, we have not seen air, electric power, or love, and yet we believe that these things exist.
 - More importantly, when we have faith in God, we have the _____ that He exists, loves us, and through His Son Jesus Christ forgives our sins and will take us to heaven.
- 3) Faith consists of knowledge, assent, and trust. A good example of a person having faith is found in Acts 8:35-38.
- To have knowledge means that we know basic facts that the Word of God provides. Though originally the eunuch did not understand what he was reading from the prophet Isaiah, Philip explained that this scripture referred to Jesus Christ. The eunuch had some knowledge from the Word of God before Philip spoke.
 - To assent means that we agree that the Word of ___ is true. The eunuch showed his assent when he expressed aloud his belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
 - When we trust, we will have some kind of response to the Word of God. We will want to hear more, to learn how to pray, to be baptized, etc. When the eunuch heard the Gospel, he trusted and immediately wanted to be _____.
- 4) The pictures below give an example of what it means to have faith.

The Tightrope Walker





Understanding the story:

If we look at the crowd in these pictures, we can learn about true faith which consists of knowledge, assent and trust.

In the following sentences (a. to e.) underline the three elements of faith, namely, knowledge, assent, and trust.

- a. After the people saw that the tightrope walker could walk across the falls, they had knowledge that he could do it.
 - b. When he asked them if they thought he could do it again, carrying someone, they showed their assent for they all said they believed he could.
 - c. When he asked the crowd who would be willing to be carried, they all except one said, "No." This showed that they did not really have trust.
 - d. Finally, a boy showed his total faith in the tightrope walker by offering to be carried by him. This boy was the tightrope walker's son.
 - e. Through this story, we are reminded that the Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts so that when we hear the Word of God (knowledge), we verbally agree that it is true (assent). Then, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are willing to repent and let Jesus carry us through all the trials of this life and someday on to heaven (trust).
- 5) As we speak the Word, the Holy Spirit works in the listener's heart. After a person has heard the Word of God and has said that he believes it, we want to him an opportunity to express his faith by saying a simple prayer asking God to give him a clean heart. (Ps 51:10a). In this way, he can immediately have direct contact with God in prayer and begin a new life of repentance and forgiveness. Of course, when he understands more of the Word of God, we will encourage him to be baptized.

Underline these three conquered enemies in the passage below.

2. Baptism

When we tell someone about Christ and he believes, we will encourage him to be baptized.

The following are some of the benefits of baptism.

- 1) Entrance into the kingdom of God (Jn 3:5-6)
- 2) Deliverance from our enemies.
 - a. Sin—Our sins are forgiven and washed away. (Ac 2:38; 22:16)
 - b. Death—We no longer fear death because baptism has united us with Jesus in His death and resurrection (Ro 6:3, 5). Though we die, we will rise to eternal life. (1Co 15:53-54)
 - c. Devil—Jesus, by His death on the cross, destroyed the devil (Heb 2:14b)

When a listener believes, of course we will encourage him to be baptized soon.

3. Faith—All the Work of God

Fill in the blanks with one of the following words: sin, believe(d), glory.

1. God gives faith to the listener.
 - 1) The Father draws a person to Jesus. (Jn 6:44) After a person has heard about God's love, his own ____, and God's provision to take away his ____ through Jesus Christ, we can expect God to move him to repent and believe.
 - 2) It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that a person can say, "Jesus is Lord." (1Co 12:3b) We cannot be proud of ourselves and take credit when someone turns from his sin and comes to Christ. The Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit, should receive all the _____.
2. As it is God Who gives a person the faith to believe, we should not congratulate a new believer on his "decision" for Christ. Instead, we give all the _____ to the Triune God. Suppose someone needed a large amount of money for an operation and his friend gave him the money. People would not praise the sick person for receiving the money, but rather would praise his generous friend for giving him the money. Likewise, when God gives a person free salvation and gives him faith to believe, we give God the praise and glory.
3. When we witness, there are different responses to the message we give. We should realize this, and not try to FORCE a person to believe.
 - 1) When Paul, the great evangelist, preached the Gospel, not everyone _____. (Ac 17:32-34) Some mocked him; some planned to hear him again; some believed.
 - 2) We should not expect everyone to repent and believe immediately when we proclaim the Gospel. We should not consider ourselves failures if people do not _____ when we present a clear message of salvation. They may believe years later when they have heard more.
 - 3) We trust the power of the Word of God, not our speaking ability. Again, we should not try to FORCE the person to repent and believe right away.

Homework Assignments:

1. Complete the blanks and underline the words as directed in this lesson.
2. Be ready to answer this question in class tomorrow: "In what ways does a person grow in Christ?"