



# Sharing The Gospel

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “SHARE THE GOSPEL”?

It is the task of communicating a message from God the Creator to people.

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The gospel (good news) is the answer to the bad news that every person has rebelled against God and His authority. This rebellion is called sin and its consequences are physical and spiritual death because of God’s justifiable wrath. The gospel is not just good news about eternity. It includes transformation from the power of sin in this life.

The gospel may be summarized in four truths—truth about God, sin, Jesus Christ, and man’s response!

### 1. The truth about God

God is the holy Creator with all authority over His creation (Genesis 1:1)

- We owe our very existence to Him (Acts 17:25).
- We are always in His hands and under His watchful eye (Psalm 139:7–12).
- We were created by Him to worship Him and serve Him (Matthew 4:10).
- We are to live for His glory (Romans 11:36).

**Truth:** We are absolutely dependent upon God, our holy Creator, who has an absolute claim on us.

### 2. The truth about sin

- Sin is an offense against God and separates us from Him (Isaiah 59:1–2).
- All people have sinned by falling short of God’s standard (Romans 3:23) and by rebelling against God’s specific commands and authority (Exodus 20:1–17; Matthew 22:37–40).
- We are basically bad, which makes us do bad things or fail to do good things (Romans 7:18). We feel guilty for specific wrong things done or good things left undone (Psalms 32:1–5; 38:4).
- All people need to be made right with God. All are guilty, helpless in sin, and are under God’s wrath (Romans 1:18; 3:10–12). Nothing we do can bring us into God’s favor (Romans 3:20).
- We earn death by our sin (Romans 6:23).

**Truth:** Our sin separates (alienates) us from God and we need to be reconciled to Him.

### 3. The truth about Jesus Christ—who He is and what He has done

#### • His Incarnation

Jesus of Nazareth is God the Son who was made man to save sinners according to His Father’s eternal purpose (John 1:14; Colossians 1:19). Jesus Christ’s words and life reveal the nature of God. Jesus Christ lived a life of perfect obedience to God.

#### • His Death

Jesus lived as a man in order to die for men. He took the guilt of sinners upon Himself and endured God’s judgment for it in His death on the cross. His death satisfied God’s just anger against sinful, rebellious people. By His suffering and death, He bore away the world’s sins (John 1:29, 36; Hebrews 9:27–28). His death demonstrates God’s grace and love (Romans 5:8).

#### • His Resurrection

Jesus was raised from the dead (Acts 2:24), proving that He conquered sin and death and vindicating His life of perfect obedience.

#### • His Exaltation

Jesus ascended to the right hand of God where He reigns as King or Lord of all (Hebrews 1:3; Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:20–21). He freely and sovereignly gives His righteousness to undeserving sinners who receive Him as their Savior and acknowledge Him as their Lord. He lives to save completely all who acknowledge Him as Lord (Hebrews 7:25).

**Truth:** Jesus Christ, the only God-Man, has provided the only way for sinful people to be reconciled to their Creator God.

#### 4. The truth about man's reasonable response and God's power to live a transformed life

God's sovereignty in salvation does not negate man's responsibility.

- **Faith** (belief, trust) — A response of faith is resting one's confidence on the promises of mercy that Christ has given to sinners—forgiveness of sin, assurance of going to heaven, and God's power for a new life that pleases God (Romans 12:1; Titus 3:4–7). This new life lasts forever (John 3:16). Faith is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).
- **Repentance** is the evidence of true faith. Repentance is a change of mind and heart evidenced by a change of behavior—a new life of denying self and serving the Savior as King (Romans 12:2; Titus 3:8). Repentance is a settled refusal to set any limit to the claims Christ may make on your life. He is King and He has the right to expect whatever He desires from you.
- **Transformation** — Christ died so that Christians could die to sin and live for righteousness (1 Peter 2:24). Transformation from a life characterized by sin (disobedience) to a life characterized by righteousness (obedience) is only possible by drawing on the power of God. The Holy Spirit empowers Christians to be transformed in how they think and live so that they can please God (Romans 12:1–2; Ephesians 1:13–14, 19–20).

**Truth:** The only reasonable response to what God has done for you through Christ is three-fold: faith in Christ, repentance, and drawing on God's power to live a transformed life.

Appropriate questions to ask:

- Based on the truths about God, sin, and Jesus Christ, what is your relationship to God?
- In light of these truths, what is your response to God?
- Will you now receive Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin and Lord of your life?
- Saying, "Not yet," is the same as saying, "No." If you say, "Yes," then begin to study the Bible to learn about God, Jesus Christ, and God's power to transform your life.
- Will you come to BSF with me to begin this important part of Christian growth?

#### WHAT MOTIVATES US TO SHARE THE GOSPEL?

1. **God's love for us in providing a Savior (John 3:16)**
2. **Love for God and a desire to bring glory to Him (Matthew 22:37; John 14:15, 21)**
  - We love God when we are grateful for His saving grace in our lives (1 John 4:9–11, 19).
  - God is glorified when we call attention to His character and His actions (Psalm 36:5).
  - God is glorified when we obey His commands (Matthew 28:19).
  - God is glorified when we tell others of His wondrous works of grace (Psalm 29:1).
3. **Love for people and a concern for their welfare—now and in eternity (Matthew 22:39)**

#### HOW DO I PREPARE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL?

1. **Know** how to present the four gospel truths, using simple language.
2. **Listen** to what others say that leads to opportunities to speak of these truths.
3. **Practice** with family, friends, or church members to gain confidence.
4. **Pray** for myself and for lost people.
  - God will remind me of the dread of spending time and eternity without Him.
  - God will cause me to grieve for those who are in that lost condition.
  - God will enable me to speak honestly, simply, accurately, and naturally.
  - God will make me sensitive to the opportunity to share the gospel.
  - God will put lost people in my life and prepare them to embrace the gospel.
5. **Commit** myself to a transformed life demonstrated by systematic Bible study, obedience, fellowship, accountability with other Christians, and interaction with unbelievers.