

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL PERSONAL STUDY

As we seek to rediscover the power of the Gospel, an understanding of the gospel ought to create a conversion experience that changes the way we walk, talk, and believe. The primary question becomes: Is God more important to you than anything else in your life?

When you have seen the beauty of God (grace, mercy, and favor), and felt the weightiness (His power and glory), and His compassion (unconditional love) for you, sin's power over you will be broken.

In order to say no to temptation and no to sin, God's authority must be greater than our desires; His beauty (grace, mercy, and favor) should be more attractive than any lust of the flesh. In other words, the reason we can't say no to temptation is not that our desires for those things is too large; it's because our desire for God is too small.

Would you take the next 5 minutes, and ask God to allow you to fall in love with Him, in such a way that He is the most important entity in your life? Ask that He help you to see what is in the way of such a relationship and what you may need to change in your life to sustain a more meaningful and monogamous relationship with Him.

In order to say no to the desires of temptations and live according to the Gospel's power, we need to develop a stronger desire for God.

Until that happens, all changes we make will be superficial. We will obey only when we think there is a threat of punishment or promise of reward. This kind of obedience is wearisome, both to God and to us. We are forcing our hearts to pursue what they don't want to pursue.

The Gospel sets us free from the threat of condemnation and changes our hearts so that we want to know and serve God.

Read Romans 2:4. Only when we believe and let this scripture sink in and guide our behavior will your heart change. The goodness of God, Paul says, is what produces real repentance in us.

While many people describe the grace of God as cheap because it is given to us even though we don't deserve it, the grace of God is not given so that we can do whatever we want. A true understanding of the Gospel and the fact that His grace has been given to us entirely as a gift, we should do whatever God wants not whatever we want to do.

Believing the gospel is not only the way we become Christians, it is the power that enables us to do, every moment of every day, the very things Jesus commands us to do.

Becoming a follower of Jesus means having your heart so consumed by the grace, mercy, favor, majesty, and value of God's gift of Himself to you, that knowing and pleasing Him becomes the one driving passion of your heart. Even if it costs you everything else.

Before Gospel living tells you to do anything, it calls you to sit in wonder and amazement at what God has done for you. Is your heart captivated by the glory and beauty of God? Are you overcome by a sense of awe and drawn in by a feeling of intimacy?

IF NOT, WHY NOT GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES RIGHT NOW AND BEG GOD TO OPEN THE EYES OF YOUR HEART TO LET YOU SEE HIM FOR WHO HE REALLY IS?

YOU'LL NEVER BE THE SAME!