

## ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 10:8-13)

What does it take to overcome one's fears? What is a stronger force than fear –(LOVE) i.e. protection of a child outweighs one's fear etc...snake in yard? Rabid dog? Spider crawling on your child? Quick to action!

As believers, many of us don't share our faith b/c we live in fear: fear of rejection, getting it wrong

\*If you got a 30 sec. glimpse into hell(the reality of eternal separation from God/suffering/regret)

=That experience would change you -help you overcome fear/apathy of sharing faith

**Theme:** Our love for the Lord and loving what He loves can override our fear of sharing gospel  
-Sharing the gospel is a **heart** issue: More than fear; than "right" opp.; than not knowing how...

Donald Whitney states: "Only the sheer rapture of being lost in the worship of God is as exhilarating and intoxicating as telling someone about Jesus Christ. Yet nothing causes an eye-dropping, foot-shuffling anxiety more quickly among a group of Christians like myself than talking about our responsibility to evangelize. In fact, I'm sure I don't know a single Christian who would boldly say, 'I am as evangelistic as I should be.'" \*\***How do we share the gospel clearly with the Lost?** Not by works...then how?

**Read Romans 10:8-13** -listen how Paul pivots here to give a clear presentation of gospel:

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, <sup>9</sup> that if you **confess** with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart *a person* believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame [disappointed]." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord **of all**, abounding in riches for **all** who call on Him; <sup>13</sup> for "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How encouraging is this?? Jesus doesn't put heavy requirements on being saved: -Doesn't say: "clean up your life and THEN come to me" "

**Axiom:** People need to hear the gospel before they can receive it, believe it, accept it/reject it.

(**most lost people are NOT looking for good deals on new Bibles...so how will they hear it?**)

-**WHO shared the gospel with you?** How did you know how to trust in Jesus for salv.?

\*Despite the fear of talking to other people (co-workers, family), evangelism (the sharing of your faith) is *supposed* to be natural -the natural overflow of a changed life that is joyful!

**What are we all about at the WELL?** Elders, staff, deacons, ministry leads, comm. Grp leaders...?

Vision statement: "**Thirsty souls restored; lives changed; JOYFUL people worshipping Christ**"

Our very ministry strategy is to continually point people to the gospel, life-changing gospel:

1. For salvation: Salv. is NOT by works, not by being religious, baptized, good person, or sincere
2. For everyday life: we need to remind our hearts what the gospel means to my life everyday:

A.

B.

C.

Yet, full obedience to Jesus includes the **active** sharing of our faith: -Mt. 28:19 "**As you go...**"

**The Great Commission is not the "Great suggestion"** – Jesus has commissioned us to be faithful to making disciples: **A.** In your own life **B.** Within your family **C.** Sharing w/lost **D.** Disc. in Ch.

-1 Pet. 3:15 "**But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account of the hope that is in you, but w/gentleness & respect**"

-We cannot make disciples if we don't first **evangelize** hearts (share the gospel clearly, gently)

The most important aspect of evangelism is not perfection, but a **willing** heart. It is not only us that speaks of the good news of Christ, **but Christ through us**. If we walk daily with the Holy Spirit, we will naturally be ready to be spiritually intentional with those around us.

As we allow the Spirit to **fill us** daily (Ephesians 5:18), the Bible promises that the Holy Spirit will lead us and give us the very words to speak to others when we share the truth of Christ - Luke 12:12 **"In that very hour the Holy Spirit will teach you what you ought to say."**

**\*\*"Evangelism is simply one beggar showing another beggar where to find bread." \*\*Seminary**

Paul reminds us that the gospel is not complicated: (Even though we try to make it so at times)

**Vs. 8: But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,** -God has given us the gospel in our **hearts** (as we live it out); He has put it in our **mind** (as we think His goodness toward us) & **Bible** our guide

So how are people saved? If not by works-righteousness, being good person, going church??

**Paul reminds us that salvation is a spiritual process (within our hearts)= Belief/TRUST**

**Vs. 9: If we believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead** =(TRUST in God's testimony of Himself: Jesus, as the Son of God was sinless, died for our sins, & **RAISED** from dead

**\*To Believe is to have faith in is to TRUST wholeheartedly in.....(not mere intellectual)**

-Jas 2:9 **"You Believe that God is One; you do well; but even the demons BELIEVE and shudder"**

=Belief in Christ is an act of trust, of complete **surrender**, putting your life/eter. in *His* hands

=An act of the WILL; complete surrender. **How is this act of surrender verbalized???**

**...you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord**=This is a willful proclamation of giving up **control**

This is a verbal declaration that you accept Jesus as your Savior, your LORD/MASTER/KING

....and IF you place your faith/trust in Jesus & declare Him your LORD, =(Lord's promise: **you will be saved** -Not works; not being good; not being perfect; holy; right theology; right church

BUT simply trusting in Jesus to save you; willfully surrendering your life/future to Him/LORD

**Vs. 10: for with the heart a person believes** (demonstrates faith), **resulting in righteousness** (salvation), **and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.** <sup>11</sup> For

the Scripture says, **"Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame [disappointed]."**

**\*Paul reminds us that the good news of the gospel is FOR everyone. No exclusions!!**

The gospel is **INCLUSIVE** - given to all for all! **Vs. 12: For there is no distinction between Jew**

**and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all**, abounding in riches for **all** who call on Him; The

gospel is inclusive in that it's true for everyone; AND **EXCLUSIVE** =**Jesus ONLY way to salv.**

-Listen to this divine promise from God to all who dare risk everything on God:

**Vs. 13: For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** =Everyone who ASKS

-Because God made the gospel simple, remember, Evangelism is His idea; The more we *share* our faith, the more we become like the Savior (who ultimately shared His whole life with us and for us on the Cross!). **We are called to give ourselves away** -to risk *all* for the sake of the Lord (**risk rejection; risk reputation; risk comfort; risk saying it wrong; risk all**)

\*Think about this way:

-Evangelism is telling the story of God. Nothing more complicated than that. You are telling His story through **your story**. Have you ever written down (thought strategically about) your testimony? How would you share your salvation experience in 1 min. or less? In 5 min.?

1. God's story involves you and involves the one with whom you are sharing. Your story includes how you met God and how your life has changed since you met God.

**AXIOM:** YOU CAN NEVER GIVE AWAY WHAT YOU DO NOT POSSESS. If u have it, *then* share it

2. Evangelism is powerful because it involves you giving away the greatest treasure that has been entrusted to you: **The Gospel of God** = the good news of Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection! -2 Corinthians 4:5,7

*"For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, ...AND we have this treasure in earthen vessels [our bodies], so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves."*

3. We need to learn that sharing the gospel is successful evangelism. We always leave the results up to God. ONLY He can change hearts! (Titus 3:5)

We ought to have an obsession for souls and tearfully plead with God (PRAY) to see more people converted, but conversions are fruit that God alone can give. **In this regard we are like the postal service -you can deliver it; only they can open it.** Success is measured by the careful and accurate delivery of the message, not by the response of the recipient.

**Romans Road:** A clear path to share the Good News of the saving gospel

**Romans 3:23** The Bible teaches that every person ever born has sinned against God. No one is exempt from sinning. We have all done it. The Bible says, *"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"* Further, the Bible makes this really clear: We are all in the same sinking boat without God **Romans 3:10** *"No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."*

**Romans 6:23** Even worse, the Bible teaches that the penalty for sin, my sin and your sin is death. Our actions of rejecting God means that we have forfeited our relationship with Him and must face eternity apart from God and heaven. The Bible says the *"wages of our sin is death."*

**Romans 5:8** However, there is really awesome news. The Bible teaches that God still loved us so much, even though we have sinned against Him, He sent His perfect and holy Son –Jesus Christ- to this earth to pay the death penalty that each of us deserved. Jesus took my place in death. He died for me, so that God could forgive my sin and still have a relationship with Him. The Bible says, *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* It's just like **John 3:16**, the most famous verse in the Bible which says, *"For God so love this world that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, that whoever would believe (trust in) in Christ Jesus would not die apart from God, but would spend eternity with God."*

So, the Bible tells us that if we BELIEVE in Jesus, and TRUST in HIM to save (rescue) us from our sin, that He would really do just that...Save us and give us a real relationship with God for eternity. The Bible says, **Romans 10:9-10** *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.* **Romans 10:13** *For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

**1 John 5:13** *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."*

**APPLICATION** -Who shared the gospel with you? Have you thanked them lately?

-When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone? Are you actively praying for someone to hear?

-Why do you think so few people feel comfortable sharing the greatest news on earth? What is stopping you?