

THE
SIMPLE
GOSPEL

YOUR HUNGER CANNOT BE COMMON. YOU MUST BE CONSUMED WITH JESUS. THERE CAN BE NO OTHER GOD THAT YOU WORSHIP—BE IT REPUTATION, MINISTRY GROWTH, NUMBERS, OR PEACE WITH ALL MEN. TO HOLD HIS HEART IS THE PRIZE—TO MISS THIS PUTS YOU IN JUST ANOTHER EMPTY RELIGIOUS PURSUIT. YOUR HUNGER MUST PERSIST, AND INCREASE, WITH EACH AND EVERY SEASON. OUR HEART MUST BURN WITH A TENDERNESS AND LOVE THAT LOOKS LIKE JESUS IN THE GOSPELS. TO BE SATISFIED WITH YOUR PRESENT CONDITION IS WHAT MARKS THE COMMON! AS WE FACED THE REALITY OF THE POWERLESSNESS OF OUR COLD CHRISTIAN LIVING, THIS HUNGER TO HAVE MORE CONSUMED OUR EVERY DISCUSSION, MEETING, PHONE CALL, AND PRAYER TIME.

We would cry out: Lord show me my sin! ... Lord send your refiners fire! ... Lord break me again! ... I want your heart! ... The trials increase as we ascend the narrow path—to the pastures sought rarely—covered with the riches of the Kingdom. What does it cost to have a faith that will walk on water? Smith Wigglesworth said that “great faith is a product of great fights ... great testimo-

nies are the outcome of great tests ... great triumphs can only come after great trials.” So you find yourself once again in that place of desperation? To put your feet in His footprints, and walk where He would walk, will always outweigh the momentary trial of today. Wigglesworth went on to say:

"If you were really reconstructed it will be a hard time not in a worship meeting but when you think there is no hope for you tried by fire God purges you. Takes the dross away and brings forth pure gold. Only melted Gold is minted. Every trial is a blessing. Hard times are always opportunities to give to the Lord more glory when He manifests His power. There have been times when I was pressed with circumstances and it seemed like a dozen railroad engines were going over me but I found the hardest things are just lifting places into the grace of God. Before God could bring me to this place of compassion he broke me a 1,000 times.

I have wept I have groaned, I have travailed many a night until God had broke me. It seemed to me that until God mowed you down you can never have this long suffering for others. You must not think these gifts will fall upon you like ripe cherries. There is a sense in which you have to pay the price for everything you get. You must covet God's best gifts and say Amen to any preparation the Lord takes you through that you may be humble useable vessels for whom He can operate by the means of the Spirits power. There is a sense when we go through purging only if we really want to press forward. Don't expect much purging and discipline from the Lord. I am not talking about kidney stones and sickness (He suffered from kidney stones). I am talking about the Holy Spirit pressing upon you with every kind of circumstance. The Holy Spirit pressing upon you by revealing areas in you that need to be crucified. Don't expect that to happen, the purging to come, don't expect trying of your faith unless you determined to move forward. When you are determined to move forward, things are going to change. Things get hot."

All of us have begun to operate with such force that the devil now has you in his sights—the scope of his rifle is pointed. It is time to get out of the boat and move forward, instead of sitting in the boat with all the scared disciples. It is time to press into the very heart of God! It will always hurt for compassion to be birthed in us. There is no passivity in agape love, nor is there any fear or unbelief.

This is the moment to put everything in perspective. The big picture is what this is really all about. The power of our salvation presses us into deeper intimacy with Jesus, and when you get that close, you will be transformed. You begin to sound and act more like Him in everything you do. To seek power will always end in ruin, for what is the difference between that and those who wish to rule

over others? Power will never be meek unless it pours forth through the one who beats with His heart. This is not Christian cliché, but rather one of the very reasons the Sermon on the Mount is in place.

To gain His heart you must be the hungriest of all—and hunger you cannot fake. It is either there, or it's not. The language of brokenness has its own sound and actions. The power that marks the broken cannot be mistaken. It is one thing to want someone you respect to pray for you, but it is quite another to ask them what it cost them to walk in the anointing that is in their life. We can want the mantle, but not the cost, and become frustrated when our ministry continues to fall flat. Then we blame others. The issue is not with others, but with us. We come and say no to the cost, and as soon as we say no—our progress stops. The ugliest word to speak to Jesus is "no," and I know this from personal experience. In His grace he brought me into the furnace, yet again, until my "no" melted which left only a "yes." To seek a formula is the language of the proud, for it is the wide road and many are those who choose it. To walk by the Spirit—is this not what Jesus-ministry is all about? Yes! So it starts and ends with His heart.

Think of what you have learned so far and how this has to be the focus. This is the treasure chest in which you will find the greatest joy. The praise of men will fade away—and often turn to criticism even in the same day—so why run for the cheers of men? Life is about an audience of one! To hear Jesus cheer you on—as you walk with His heart, hearing and obeying all that He asks—this is the reward that will never rust or fade away.

WORKING OUT THE HEART OF JESUS

In this teaching we will:

- *Make key observations regarding the life and ministry of Jesus as seen in the Gospels.*
- *These observations will reveal truths that are central to unleashing the power of our salvation and will show us some of the heart attributes of Jesus.*

- Reflect on these heart attributes as you meditate on each truth.
- List the specific attributes of Christ that you want to explode in your life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower the culture of your life by specifically praying into each one.

This exercise is not designed to be exhaustive, but to spur our hunger and desperation to have a heart like Christ's. When we see the great prize of His heart, repentance becomes a treasured privilege, and His heart an undying quest. Intimacy with Jesus deepens as we awaken to the Kingdom of the Heart. As we grasp a greater understanding of the heart of Jesus, our lives explode into first and second commandment lifestyle. A love for the culture of the kingdom increases as our lives move into greater alignment with the very heart of God.

THE SIMPLE GOSPEL: *Jesus' entire essence is the action of saving, healing and restoring. To have His heart means our actions reflect His essence in every area of our lives.*

Jesus' "essence" refers to His permanent attributes. Meaning, it is the very core of His being. Webster's defines essence as; "the most basic, significant, and indispensable element, attribute, quality, property, or aspect of a thing."¹ When we see Jesus operating in the Gospels, we see the very image of God!

FOR IN HIM ALL THE FULLNESS OF DEITY DWELLS IN BODILY FORM.

—COLOSSIANS 2:9 (NASB)

Jesus' life was not a public relations move from God the Father, as if He were all wrath and then decided one day to be merciful. God was not saying to Himself when He sent Christ that, "Alright, if I have to, I will heal, save and restore—but only for three years!" The word compassion is mentioned more times in the Old Testament than the New Testament. God has not changed! Jesus was only doing what the Father was already doing. God's character, as seen in His Son, is all about saving, healing reconciliation, and restoration. So it is very simple: we should be all about saving, healing, reconciling, and restoring as well!

For our study, we are going to examine the aforementioned statement about the essence of Christ, and meditate on eight key truths that are found within it.

TRUTH #1: JESUS' PURPOSE WAS TO SAVE, HEAL & RESTORE

There are four major principles we can glean from this statement:

1. GOD'S CREATION WAS DECLARED GOOD.

It was whole and complete in every way. This included God's creation of mankind and mankind's relationship with God, other human beings, the rest of the created world, and his purpose for living. Because of sin through Satan's deceptive assault, that fellowship was broken.

2. THERE WAS NO WAY TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE OF THIS SPIRITUAL WAR WITHOUT CHRIST.

The war that ensued after Satan rebelled could only be resolved by Jesus. Sin was wreaking havoc on the earth, almost completely unopposed. Jesus' death and resurrection ended Satan's free reign, the power of sin and death, and gave believers the authority to take back territory from the enemy.

3. JESUS IS A GIFT, FOR THROUGH HIM SALVATION IS GIVEN FREELY.

God loves His children and sent Jesus who saves, heals and restores. Furthermore, Jesus is a gift to the world because through Christ a person can now have a relationship with God for eternity.

4. GOD PROVIDES EVERYTHING WE NEED TO GROW IN KINGDOM LIVING ON THIS EARTH.

He sent Jesus so that by the power of His Spirit, through His people, His kingdom could advance. His coming also assured that His people could return to the blessed life of God's original design. Jesus modeled how to live this blessed life. His Sermon on the Mount begins with this truth: "*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 5:3, NIV). Prior to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion, He again spoke to them about prospering for the sake of God's kingdom, "*You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.*" (John 15:16, NLT).

HEART ATTRIBUTES RELATED TO TRUTH #1

A. We are to live as David did. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts," (Psalm 139:23, NASB). We are to live in a lifestyle of repentance so that there is no hindrance in our relationship with God. God made a way for us to be in relationship with Him. We must not ignore the profound privilege it is to repent and be in right relationship with Him (1 John 1:7-10).

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Humility, brokenness, teachability, and initiative.

B. We are to live with an expectation for God's miraculous power to save, heal, and restore even the most hopeless person or situation. We are to live, at all times, with the expectation that God can transform any life or situation through His miracle power.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Faith, hope, and trust.

C. We are to live everyday with a humble gratitude and submission to Christ. Without Him, all is lost! We need to understand every meaning of the word lost. We had lost: lost purpose, identity, freedom, eternity, opportunities, joy, hope, relationships, and mission. Through salvation, Jesus restores all of this to us! It is the miracle of miracles!

SPEAKING TO ONE ANOTHER IN PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING AND MAKING MELODY WITH YOUR HEART TO THE LORD.

[_EPHESIANS 5:19 \(NASB\)](#)

LET THE WORD OF CHRIST RICHLY DWELL WITHIN YOU, WITH ALL WISDOM, TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER WITH PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING WITH THANKFULNESS IN YOUR HEARTS TO GOD.

[_COLOSSIANS 3:16 \(NASB\)](#)

REJOICE ALWAYS.

[_1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 \(NASB\)](#)

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Thankfulness, worship, humility, and meekness.

D. We need to acknowledge the ramifications of being created in God's image. Mankind was originally created with God's heart (His communicable attributes). Therefore, our salvation includes being restored to God's heart, which is that very same purpose to save, heal, and restore.

GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED HIM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM.

[_GENESIS 1:26-27 \(NASB\)](#)

This will not be done through ourselves but by the power of God being perfected in our weakness.

THEN HE SAID TO ME, "THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD TO ZERUBBABEL SAYING, 'NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT,' SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS."

[_ZECHARIAH 4:6 \(NASB\)](#)

FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT OF THE FLESH, BUT DIVINELY POWERFUL FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF FORTRESSES. [_2 CORINTHIANS 10:4 \(NASB\)](#)

AND HE HAS SAID TO ME, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR POWER IS PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS." MOST GLADLY, THEREFORE, I WILL RATHER BOAST ABOUT MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY DWELL IN ME.

[_2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 \(NASB\)](#)

FOR INDEED HE WAS CRUCIFIED BECAUSE OF WEAKNESS, YET HE LIVES BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF GOD. FOR WE ALSO ARE WEAK IN HIM, YET WE WILL LIVE WITH HIM BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF GOD DIRECTED TOWARD YOU. [_2 CORINTHIANS 13:4 \(NASB\)](#)

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Agreement, unity, passion, zeal, initiation, vulnerability, humility, interdependence, and a glad boasting in our weaknesses.

TRUTH #2: JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST

There are three major principles we want to glean from this statement:

1. JESUS ATE WITH SINNERS. It is not the healthy that need a physician, but the sick. In other words, only those who know they are sick and broken want the ministry of Jesus.

AND JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, 'IT IS NOT THOSE WHO ARE WELL WHO NEED A PHYSICIAN, BUT THOSE WHO ARE SICK.' [_LUKE 5:31 \(NASB\)](#)

2. JESUS LOOKED UPON THE CROWDS AND THEY WERE LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD. He was seeing the people aimlessly wandering, while their shepherds—the religious leaders—were negligent toward them, rigid, and unbelieving. He came to make a way where there was no way. He became the way for the people to find salvation.

JESUS TRAVELED THROUGH ALL THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF THAT AREA, TEACHING IN THE SYNAGOGUES AND ANNOUNCING THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE KINGDOM. AND HE HEALED EVERY KIND OF DISEASE AND ILLNESS. WHEN HE SAW THE CROWDS, HE HAD COMPASSION ON THEM BECAUSE THEY WERE CONFUSED AND HELPLESS, LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD. HE SAID TO HIS

DISCIPLES, "THE HARVEST IS GREAT, BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW. . ."

[_MATTHEW 9:35-37 \(NLT\)](#)

3. JESUS' LIFE AND ACTIONS SPEAK TO THE WORTH OF ONE HUMAN SOUL. Jesus went out of His way on numerous occasions to save, heal and restore a single person. Examples: the Demoniac at Gerasenes, the Woman at the Well, and Lazarus. Mark 5:1-20; John 4; Luke 15; John 11:1-46

HEART ATTRIBUTES RELATED TO TRUTH #2

A. The condition of man's heart is calloused toward the suffering of the lost. Man lives caught up in his own world, selfishly preoccupied with his own cares. A heart for the lost comes only through prayer, for there is no other way for the Lord to melt the callousness of our hearts. When this hardness of heart is melted, we long for others to be saved and made whole.

SO I SAY TO YOU, ASK, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK, AND YOU WILL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT WILL BE OPENED TO YOU. FOR EVERYONE WHO ASKS, RECEIVES; AND HE WHO SEEKS, FINDS; AND TO HIM WHO KNOCKS, IT WILL BE OPENED. [_LUKE 11:9-10 \(NASB\)](#)

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: *Intercession (one who will suffer with others and identify with them), persistence in prayer, selflessness, self-denial, servanthood, discipline, uncompromising, and compassionate.*

B. We are to live seeking those who are lost. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10, NASB). Paul writes in Romans that; "There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God;" (Romans 3:11, NASB). Paul tells Timothy that God, "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4, NASB).

When we hear the story of Jesus seeking the lost sheep we often imagine a sweet little lamb that has gotten lost.

Many of our Sunday School pictures have this similar feel. However, the sheep that often gets lost is stubborn, and stinks from the filth that covers its wool. It takes a real determined decision of patience for the shepherd to go after that sheep. So, to have the heart of Christ is to look beyond appearances and make decisions of compassion. We are God's ambassadors, and as such, we are to be proactive—not waiting around wondering what our purpose, mission and identity are!

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Proactive, “hands-on,” strong work ethic, boldness, valor and a secure identity and purpose.

C. We are to live as fishermen. “And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men’” (Mark 1:17, NASB). Fishing is the sport of the Spirit. Jesus told the disciples that He would make them fishers of men. Many times we can get so caught up in the details of how to fish, we never get around to actually fishing. Is the weather good for fishing? What type of bait do I use? By the end of our questioning we feel completely unqualified to fish. We just need to start fishing! So it is with evangelism. We can learn ten different methods to share our faith and end up feeling so unqualified that we never share our faith. And the other side of the coin to evangelism is discipleship. If you do not fish, you will not disciple. If you do not disciple, you will not raise up fishermen. If you disciple, and do not fish, you will create barren disciples.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Courage, faith, endurance, consistency, discipline, attention to detail, total commitment, and zeal [enduring, persistent].

TRUTH #3: JESUS CREATES A LIVING WAY FOR EVERY MAN TO COME INTO WHOLENESS AND ETERNAL LIFE

“I am the way, the truth and the life.” Jesus is the way (or path) for every person to come to the Father—to have eternal life.

There are five principles we want to glean from this statement:

1. THE BIBLE OUTLINES (AS DOES JESUS' LIFE) THE STRATEGY FOR BRINGING OTHERS INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD. This strategy is through evangelism and discipleship. Evangelism is the proclamation and declaration of the Gospel.

AND AS YOU GO, PREACH, SAYING, ‘THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.’ HEAL THE SICK, RAISE THE DEAD, CLEANSE THE LEPERS, CAST OUT DEMONS. FREELY YOU RECEIVED, FREELY GIVE.

[_MATTHEW 10:7-8 \(NASB\)](#)

Discipleship is the “life on life” equipping and training of each believer in Christian maturity. This is the method:

GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE.

[_MATTHEW 28:19-20 \(NASB\)](#)

2. EVERY MAN IS GIVEN A CONSCIENCE TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.

EVEN GENTILES, WHO DO NOT HAVE GOD'S WRITTEN LAW, SHOW THAT THEY KNOW HIS LAW WHEN THEY INSTINCTIVELY OBEY IT, EVEN WITHOUT HAVING HEARD IT. THEY DEMONSTRATE THAT GOD'S LAW IS WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS, FOR THEIR OWN CONSCIENCE AND THOUGHTS EITHER ACCUSE THEM OR TELL THEM THEY ARE DOING RIGHT.

[_ROMANS 2:14-15 \(NLT\)](#)

Each person is given a conscience by God. To deny this is to deny the clear teaching of Scripture. The conscience can be seared by ignoring the conviction of God (1 Timothy 4:2). This makes a person hard-hearted and cold, but all have a choice in this matter.

THEIR MINDS ARE FULL OF DARKNESS; THEY WANDER FAR FROM THE LIFE GOD GIVES BECAUSE THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR MINDS AND HARDENED THEIR HEARTS AGAINST HIM.

[_EPHESIANS 4:18 \(NLT\)](#)

The implication is that every person has a conscience and naturally have guilt over sin. Some people may not understand this as conviction of sin, but the Gospel can bring everything into clarity.

3. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT EVERY MAN WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY.

In other words, God makes a way for every man to come into eternal life and wholeness. Jesus is the path for every living person to have eternal life. God chose His Church (us!) to proclaim this Gospel with the heart of Jesus.

4. THROUGH GENERAL REVELATION, EVERYONE IS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK THE QUESTION, "WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING ALL THAT I SEE?"

FOR SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD HIS INVISIBLE ATTRIBUTES, HIS ETERNAL POWER AND DIVINE NATURE, HAVE BEEN CLEARLY SEEN, BEING UNDERSTOOD THROUGH WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE.

[_ROMANS 1:20 \(NASB\)](#)

God has designed each person to ask this question. Man wants to know who their creator is—even atheists. Atheism is a reaction to, and rebellion against, God's authority. If we say there is an all-knowing God, then we know He wants us to submit to His will. Atheism is a desire for self rule, and it makes people into gods who design their own forms of morality.

5. JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE FATHER.

JESUS SAID TO HIM, 'I AM THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE; NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER BUT THROUGH ME.' [_JOHN 14:6 \(NASB\)](#)

There is only one Gospel, yet God uses many diverse means in sharing this truth. The types of divine intervention that God uses are as unique as each person. Jesus, through His Spirit, can use dreams, miracles, and even angels to draw people to Himself. But, once they are drawn, the Gospel must be proclaimed—for how can someone believe in whom they have never heard?

HOW THEN WILL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? HOW WILL THEY BELIEVE IN HIM WHOM THEY HAVE NOT HEARD? AND HOW WILL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER? HOW WILL THEY PREACH UNLESS THEY ARE SENT? JUST AS IT IS WRITTEN, 'HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!'

[_ROMANS 10:14-15 \(NASB\)](#)

HEART ATTRIBUTES RELATED TO TRUTH #3

A. The beginning of Godliness is to fear God; to be holy.

FOR BODILY DISCIPLINE IS ONLY OF LITTLE PROFIT, BUT GODLINESS IS PROFITABLE FOR ALL THINGS, SINCE IT HOLDS PROMISE FOR THE PRESENT LIFE AND ALSO FOR THE LIFE TO COME.

_1 TIMOTHY 4:8 (NASB)

PURSUPE PEACE WITH ALL PEOPLE, AND HOLINESS, WITHOUT WHICH NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD. *_HEBREWS 12:14 (NKJV)*

We gain His holiness through His sacrifice, but our sanctification is dependant on our own free will. God has extended His grace to us, and the ability to follow after Him, but we can reject or neglect this by our own free will. Those who have reverence for God are careful to walk in the fear of the Lord.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: *Hatred of sin, quick obedience, and godliness.*

B. We are the hands and feet of Jesus to the lost. When the power of God shows up, sometimes people scatter. We see this in the Gospels with the Gerasene demoniac. People were so filled with fear that they asked Jesus to leave. Miracles are a wonderful gift from God, but they do not guarantee a welcomed reception. We can get so focused on moving in great miracles, that we miss the fundamental power of love itself. We are not winning people with miracles, but with love.

The enemy wants to minimize the effect and the reverberation of loving kindness, because it is one of the greatest powers of all. It can be forceful, penetrating, and can turn the hardest heart. The love of Christ is the only thing that will turn our cities and nations to Him.

THOUGH I SPEAK WITH THE TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I HAVE BECOME SOUNDING BRASS OR A CLANGING CYMBAL. AND THOUGH I HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY,

AND UNDERSTAND ALL MYSTERIES AND ALL KNOWLEDGE, AND THOUGH I HAVE ALL FAITH, SO THAT I COULD REMOVE MOUNTAINS, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I AM NOTHING. AND THOUGH I BESTOW ALL MY GOODS TO FEED THE POOR, AND THOUGH I GIVE MY BODY TO BE BURNED, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, IT PROFITS ME NOTHING. *_1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-3 (NKJV)*

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: *Soul-winning love, words of blessing, encouragement, and exhortation.*

TRUTH #4: SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT

There are three principles we want to glean from this statement:

1. GIVING FREELY IS A REPRESENTATION OF THE CHARACTER OF GOD.

FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT THE FREE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

_ROMANS 6:23 (NASB)

The free gift of the Gospel is a reflection of Christ's love for His children. It is a reflection of His generosity, His justice, and His redemptive nature. The free gift of salvation speaks volumes to the heart of God: while we were enemies of God He gave His Son and bore the cost of our sin so that we could know Him intimately.

BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

_ROMANS 5:8 (NASB)

We are to live in reflection of the character of God. We get to be messengers of His free gift, and to bear the cost of others who resist or are ignorant of the Gospel. Our

love must persist, endure, and hope for everyone at all times, just as God hopes!

2. SINCE SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT, IT LEAVES PEOPLE WITHOUT EXCUSE.

FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH; AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD.

_EPHESIANS 2:8 (NASB)

No one can say they wanted to be saved but were unable to afford salvation. They cannot say they were not good enough to receive it, or busy themselves in earning their righteousness through dead works.

BUT THE FREE GIFT IS NOT LIKE THE TRANSGRESSION. FOR IF BY THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE ONE THE MANY DIED, MUCH MORE DID THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE GIFT BY THE GRACE OF THE ONE MAN, JESUS CHRIST, ABOUND TO THE MANY. *_ROMANS 5:15 (NASB)*

Christians have no viable excuse for not living with a single focus toward evangelism and discipleship. The evangelism and discipleship described in the New Testament often looks very different from how we do things today. We cannot settle for anything less than transforming power; dead works and programs accomplish nothing. Jesus told His disciples to: *"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give"* (Matthew 10:8, NASB).

3. THE FREE GIFT PROVIDES THE BELIEVER WITH SOMETHING TO BOAST IN.

BUT LET HIM WHO BOASTS BOAST OF THIS, THAT HE UNDERSTANDS AND KNOWS ME, THAT I AM THE LORD WHO EXERCISES LOVING KINDNESS, JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ON EARTH; FOR I DELIGHT IN THESE THINGS . . .

_JEREMIAH 9:24 (NASB)

SOME BOAST IN CHARIOTS AND SOME IN HORSES, BUT WE WILL BOAST IN THE NAME OF THE LORD, OUR GOD.

_PSALM 20:7 (NASB)

People boast in what they do, or what they build. Many times, the church is no different than the world in their meaningless boasting. Numbers, memberships, buildings, reputation with others, programs and money are no real reason to boast. When we boast in anything other than the things of God, we worship people. We bow to their opinion. Perhaps the meaning of true salvation has become as unknown as the law was in the days of Josiah (2 Kings 22:8-13). When Christ touches us, everything in this world is as rubbish compared to the glory of knowing Him. We will not boast of ourselves! We gladly boast in our weakness, for this is where His power is made perfect!

HEART ATTRIBUTES RELATED TO TRUTH #4

A. Our heart needs to be generous in our expressions of compassion, love, and grace. If we are to have the heart of Jesus we must give ourselves away as Jesus did. Our love must be given with "no strings attached." There can be no conditional clauses associated with it. Our countenance should reflect His grace as we enter a room or walk on the street. If we say we want His heart, we must lose our life to gain His. Our every waking moment should be filled with an outward focus that is more concerned with the burdens of others than our own.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: *Mercy, compassion, tenderness, gentleness, meekness, joy, and earnestness in doing good.*

B. Our actions must demonstrate a willingness to suffer with, and for, others. The suffering Jesus went through so that we can be saved is beyond comprehension and measure. Are we willing to suffer, if required, for others to experience Christ's Gospel of salvation? Paul prayed this prayer for himself:

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS, BEING CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH . . . *_PHILIPPIANS 3:10 (NASB)*

Here, Paul implies that operating in power is only compatible with a heart of compassion and unconditional love. Remember, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 boldly states that without love, the greatest words and actions amount to nothing. Power, like a well fitted glove, fits the hand of the compassionate. We cannot suffer with others unless we ourselves suffer. We cannot minister to that which we do not know. This does not mean we all will suffer in the same way, but we will all suffer if we are followers of Jesus Christ.

We should never arrogantly compare our sufferings to another person's sufferings. Those who live a life of compassion are not about name seeking and glory. When suffering is used for self-pity or competition, we can become blind to everyone who is suffering around us.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: *Generous intercessor (intercession is the prayer that you give away on behalf of another), unassuming, approachable, personable, and outwardly focused.*

C. As we walk among the people of the nations, we cannot be consumed with any agenda other than their salvation. Our heart must live for eternity, not for temporal pursuits. We must have an eternal perspective, or our priorities will be short sighted and foolish. Heaven celebrates when one sinner is righted! When Jesus takes the throne in someone's life, the angels take notice. Each day that our ministries and lives go without the power of Christ, the witness Jesus left the world lays dormant. We settle for living without His power, and spend time endlessly trying to discover new methods and formulas to replace what we have not experienced. This creates a vacuum for the enemy who, if left unchecked, will fill the void with sin and death. If we are eternity minded, everyone around us will know, because we will literally be otherworldly in our love and decisions.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: *Wisdom (the ability to understand how life works), focus, discernment, brokenness, and self-control.*

D. Our hearts need to be filled with the exuberance of the love of Christ. We cannot be apathetic, lethargic, or passive in expressing His love. Jesus did not avoid sacrifice, and neither should we. To live and minister without His love is to sound like the clang of a symbol.

Leaders who do not seek to know the love of Christ often function in religious control. This control chokes the very life out of all it touches. Control is false power. The Spirit surrendered life allows the love of Jesus to be poured out to others. Are we filled with energy and excitement to possess and express the nature of His love? It is His love that gives us the gift of salvation!

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: *Forceful to liberate, infectious joy, and zeal.*

E. Our reaction to receiving the free gift of salvation, must be an inherent desire to return that love to Jesus through obedience. In other words, we cannot say we love Jesus, and not joyfully obey him.

IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS . . . HE WHO HAS MY COMMANDMENTS AND KEEPS THEM IS THE ONE WHO LOVES ME; AND HE WHO LOVES ME WILL BE LOVED BY MY FATHER, AND I WILL LOVE HIM AND WILL DISCLOSE MYSELF TO HIM. *_JOHN 14:15, 21 (NASB)*

This is the simple test of our love. We do not want to waste opportunities to touch those around us. We want to know Jesus' full desire for our day, family, singleness, marriage, work, ministry, etc. We cannot be afraid to ask Him to lead us. Sometimes we do not ask because we are afraid of what He may say! Proverbs warns us not to be "the fool" who does not inquire of God, and thus makes wrong decisions all day long.

Zealous obedience is far different than rote obedience. Joyful obedience is far different than obeying out of resignation. We do not want to repent only because we were exposed. Passion is the inheritance of the church, and those who despise it, miss the miracle of the cross. The cross was violence at its worst and passion at its best. When we experience the love of Jesus we will want nothing but obedience.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Easily moldable, and obedient.

TRUTH #5: SALVATION IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE POWER OF GOD BECAUSE HIS BEING IS "ALL POWERFUL"

There are three principles we want to glean from this statement:

1. GOD'S POWER OPENS OUR EYES TO SEE OUR NEED. An example is Jesus, speaking to Paul in regard to His call to the Gentiles:

. . . TO OPEN THEIR EYES SO THAT THEY MAY TURN FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT AND FROM THE DOMINION OF SATAN TO GOD, THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND AN INHERITANCE AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SANCTIFIED BY FAITH IN ME.

[_ACTS 26:18 \(NASB\)](#)

Paul told the church at Corinth that *"the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God"* (2 Corinthians 4:4, NASB). However, *"whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away"* (2 Corinthians 3:16, NASB).

It is only God's power that opens the eyes of the unsaved to their need for salvation. In the same way, it is only God's power that opens the eyes of the Christian to their need for restoration. How can we continue to minister without the power of God unleashed in us? How can the power be unleashed if unbelief still wars against this very revelation?

2. GOD CHOOSES HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS FOR ETERNAL PURPOSES. He chose us; we did not choose Him. As God opens the eyes of the unbeliever, and the free gift of salvation is received, God wants that person to walk in His design. They have been given an original design by God, this imprint is like our physical DNA, only spiritual.

Since God chose us, does He not have the right to determine our purpose? Without Him drawing near to us, we would be without purpose, lost, and blind. We need to be hungry to learn about the favor of God, and the purposes He desires in our lives.

The church is God's chosen witness, and we see its original design in the book of Acts. Yet, today we often see the Church functioning in only a small percentage of its design. Instead, the Church often argues amongst itself. If we want to walk in our design as individuals and as the Church, we need to take back everything the enemy has stolen. Strongholds arrogantly stand in the way of God's original design for us.

3. GOD'S WAYS ARE HIGHER THAN OURS IN EVERY CAPACITY. We cannot fathom the plans of God, nor the means He chooses to use. This is critical to remember as we observe Jesus in the Gospels. You will not find a methodology to the way He healed people or set them free. It would almost appear that every miracle is a creative work of art — not to be repeated in the exact same way again. Be it by slight variation, or a completely different approach, Jesus simply obeyed the Father as He healed and restored. The constant is Jesus' heart, but the ways and means that He accomplished His will are difficult to comprehend.

Some of His parables leave us wondering why He did not tell people more plainly what He meant. Yet at other times, He spoke simply and no one believed Him. Jesus spoke of eating His flesh and drinking His blood, and the people remained confused and deserted Him. Peter understood who He was and basically said, "We can't leave, because you have the words of life. Where else would we go?" This is what we will find in the Gospel. The principles of truth never change, but be ready for many surprising discipleship lessons along the way!

We will find ourselves in the same boat as the disciples in the storm, or staring at 5,000 people as we wonder how they can be transformed. We are desperate for the

love and truth of Christ . . . we must have it, or we are sunk. Jesus always comes through when faith engages His truth. We must be ready to put away our plans, erase our white boards, and let Him speak freely to us. His ways are higher than ours!

HEART ATTRIBUTES RELATED TO TRUTH #5

A. There is nothing in us that merits being chosen by God. Our best labors are like filthy rags. We are not entitled to being chosen, nor were we easier to choose than others. The miracle is the same every time, in every case. The veil is removed—we see Jesus and our lives are no longer our own—as we open the free gift of salvation. We do not merit our callings or such amazing designs. We have not paid our dues. We can have no entitlements, because we do not merit anything but judgment.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: *Graciousness, kindness, forbearance and thoughtfulness.*

B. Our response to such kindness and grace should be overwhelming gratitude. This gratitude is the source of our worship and how we enter into His courts. The worship of the Psalms flows out of this gratitude.

If we walk in self-pity and victimization for the purpose of drawing others' attention (so they will constantly encourage us), we have nothing in common with the gratitude of the Psalms. If we are dragged into worship—like a car that slowly starts and rumbles to life after 30 minutes—we have not had the revelation that we are chosen. The language of "I" fills the lips of the self-absorbed. But when we celebrate that we are chosen, we tearfully thank God for His overwhelming goodness.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: *Thankfulness, and kingdom of God focus versus "my own kingdom" focus.*

TRUTH #6: THE TRANSACTION OF SALVATION IS INSTANTANEOUS

There are a few principles we want to glean from this statement:

1. WE MUST COME TO AGREEMENT THAT IF WE BELIEVE IN OUR HEART AND CONFESS WITH OUR MOUTH THAT JESUS IS LORD, WE ARE SAVED.

. . . 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.

_ROMANS 10:9 (NASB)

Note the exact words of this confession. We are confessing with our mouth that Jesus is Lord. This means we agree that He is master. We must agree with Scripture by acknowledging that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead. If we say that something is true, but do not apply the truth, do we really encounter the truth? Or have we chosen to rebel against it? Nowhere in Scripture can we support a "mental assent" to faith without heart surrender.

Jesus has every right to ask anything He wants from us, at anytime He wants. If we rebel against His commands, we align ourselves with the kingdom of Satan, and he has been functioning in rebellion from the beginning. Jesus has no agreement with Satan, and neither can we—Jesus is our Lord.

2. AT SALVATION OUR DEBT IS CANCELED.

The believer now stands justified by God as His righteousness has now been credited.

FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD, BEING JUSTIFIED AS A GIFT BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS;

WHOM GOD DISPLAYED PUBLICLY AS A PROPITIATION IN HIS BLOOD THROUGH FAITH. THIS WAS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, BECAUSE IN THE FORBEARANCE OF GOD HE PASSED OVER THE SINS PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED.

[_ROMANS 3:23-25 \(NASB\)](#)

SO THEN AS THROUGH ONE TRANSGRESSION THERE RESULTED CONDEMNATION TO ALL MEN, EVEN SO THROUGH ONE ACT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THERE RESULTED JUSTIFICATION OF LIFE TO ALL MEN. FOR AS THROUGH THE ONE MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE THE MANY WERE MADE SINNERS, EVEN SO THROUGH THE OBEDIENCE OF THE ONE THE MANY WILL BE MADE RIGHTEOUS. [_ROMANS 5:18-19 \(NASB\)](#)

The believer is now empowered to work out his or her salvation.

SO THEN, MY BELOVED, JUST AS YOU HAVE ALWAYS OBEYED, NOT AS IN MY PRESENCE ONLY, BUT NOW MUCH MORE IN MY ABSENCE, WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING.

[_PHILIPPIANS 2:12 \(NASB\)](#)

The process of sanctification continues until the believer meets Jesus face-to-face. Our debt is canceled, but the influence of sin still needs to be dealt with through sanctification.

HEART ATTRIBUTES RELATED TO TRUTH #6

A. Since we can come into salvation so quickly, sometimes the heart is tempted to miss the depths of the riches of salvation. We can be tempted to bypass the life change that is available to us in Christ. We cannot deny that our hearts are capable of sin, and we cannot expect that at salvation all of our strongholds will evaporate. A man who has spent 1/3 of his life completely self-centered does not automatically become a selfless servant of all at salvation.

Denial is strong in the human heart. We can re-write and play down our own history to change the reality of our sin. We start calling our grave sins "a few mistakes" and "a few slip ups." The truth is, our hearts are deceitful, more deceitful than anything else. Our hearts are able to trick us into believing all sorts of lies about ourselves. We can start to believe that we are innocent (we aren't that bad), and not fully own the depths of our wrongs. We need the same salvation that a murderer or a thief does. Both require the same gift; we are all guilty—every one.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Honesty, plainspoken, straightforward, unassuming nature, truthful and accurate.

B. No one deserves or merits salvation for salvation in and of itself is an act of mercy.

HE SAVED US, NOT ON THE BASIS OF DEEDS WHICH WE HAVE DONE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY, BY THE WASHING OF REGENERATION AND RENEWING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT . . . [_TITUS 3:5 \(NASB\)](#)

This mercy is undeserved, and no matter what the degree of the debt of sin, this mercy is new every morning. Jesus tells us plainly that His Kingdom is one of mercy, and those who practice mercy will receive it.

BE MERCIFUL, JUST AS YOUR FATHER IS MERCIFUL. [_LUKE 6:36 \(NASB\)](#)

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL RECEIVE MERCY.

[_MATTHEW 5:7 \(NASB\)](#)

For mercy to be true mercy, it must have an action. It is not merely a state of mind, nor is it pleasant thoughts. Mercy requires action.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Mercy, kindness, forgiveness, hands and words of blessing.

TRUTH #7: SALVATION IS THE TAKING BACK, THE REDEMPTION, OF ALL THE ENEMY STOLE

Salvation (as translated from the Greek word “sozo”) is the redemption of our identity, all aspects of health (emotional, spiritual, and physical), and the restoration and redemption of our soul, mind, and body. Sozo gives back to God what is rightfully His. His sons, daughters, the earth, and everything in it.

FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME TO SEEK
AND TO SAVE WHAT WAS LOST.

LUKE 19:10 (NIV)

1. SALVATION RESTORES THINGS TO GOD’S ORIGINAL DESIGN. Salvation is a comprehensive work of restoration, a redeeming of what the enemy stole through the sin committed in the Garden of Eden and passed on from generation to generation. In the beginning, God crafted the masterpiece of creation. His original design and handiwork was beautiful, and He declared it to be good six times, and on the seventh time He declared it to be very good (Genesis 1:31). Imagine a world of selfless love, unity, peace, relational harmony, and joy. There was no heart-ache, no sorrow or fear, no shame or condemnation, no disease or death. Envision a world with no emptiness or hopelessness, desperation, or despair. This is what the Garden of Eden was like.

The relationship that God had with mankind was intimate and unobstructed. God’s original design included men and women, husbands and wives, parents and children, family members, to always live in relational harmony and joy that came from hearts of humility. We were all created to lavish love on one another and always live for the well-being of others. Life in God’s original creation included wholeness and a sound state of physical, mental, and emotional health. But it was all

lost through sin. Therefore, if salvation includes the concept of restoration—which it does—then salvation will include the taking back and redeeming of what was lost. To be absolutely clear, the fullness of salvation is when we are in the presence of Christ in heaven. Salvation begins the work of restoration, but the condition of the garden prior to sin will not be restored until the end of the age.

FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME TO SEEK
AND TO SAVE WHAT WAS LOST.

LUKE 19:10 (NIV)

2. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT “LOST” MEANS. The English term “lost” in Luke 19:10 is a translation of the Greek word “apollumi.” This is the same word translated “destroy” in John 10:10 where Jesus states: “The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness” (NLT). The word “apollumi” is translated over twenty-five times in the New Testament by the word “destroy” and over thirty times with the word “lose” or “lost.” The word communicates to destroy, ruin, render useless, and to put to death.

Once again in John 10:10 we read that Jesus came to give life in all its fullness. This is in contrast to Satan, who can (and does) only steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus’ life ministry was to give life and recover what Satan and sin had stolen, destroyed, and killed of God’s original design at creation. The imagery again is that of restoration and recovery.

NOTE: Luke 19:10 is translated by prominent American English Bible translations (NKJV, NASB, NIV) as saying that Jesus came to seek and to save (restore, make whole) what was lost, or that which was lost; not merely who was lost. Some English translations (NRSV, ESV) do translate the verse seek and save who was lost. Jesus began the work of restoration by making a way for people to have right relationship with God, but it goes even beyond this to restoration of all that was lost in Adam’s sin. This restoration work is ultimately completed in heaven.

FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME TO SEEK
AND TO SAVE WHAT WAS LOST.

LUKE 19:10 (NIV)

3. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO "SAVE" IN JESUS' KINGDOM – "SOZO."

The English term "save" in Luke 19:10 translates the Greek word "sozo." Various forms of the Greek word "sozo" communicate the full picture of salvation as deliverance, restoration, protection, preservation, healing, and making whole. They help us understand what Jesus had in mind when He came to minister salvation.

The account in Mark 5 of the Gadarene demoniac is a great example of Jesus bringing salvation or restoration to a person. This man was spiritually fearful, self-destructive physically, emotionally and mentally damaged, irrational and estranged with mankind, living in shame, living a life of futility, and was demonically tormented.

When Jesus ministered salvation to this man, he was restored spiritually because he strongly desired to be with Jesus. He was also mentally restored, physically healed, relationally healed (he could be around other people again), he was given purpose, and he no longer lived in shame.

THEY CAME TO JESUS AND OBSERVED THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN DEMON-POSSESSED SITTING DOWN, CLOTHED AND IN HIS RIGHT MIND, THE VERY MAN WHO HAD HAD THE "LEGION"; AND THEY BECAME FRIGHTENED. . . AS HE WAS GETTING INTO THE BOAT, THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN DEMON-POSSESSED WAS IMPLORING HIM THAT HE MIGHT ACCOMPANY HIM. AND HE DID NOT LET HIM, BUT HE SAID TO HIM, 'GO HOME TO YOUR PEOPLE AND REPORT TO THEM WHAT GREAT THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU, AND HOW HE HAD MERCY ON YOU.' AND HE WENT AWAY AND BEGAN TO PROCLAIM IN DECAPOLIS WHAT GREAT THINGS JESUS HAD DONE FOR HIM; AND EVERYONE WAS AMAZED.

[_MARK 5:15, 18-20 \(NASB\)](#)

4. THE GOSPELS ARE FILLED WITH ACCOUNTS WHERE PEOPLE ENCOUNTERED JESUS AND WERE DRAMATICALLY CHANGED.

One of the characteristics of experiencing the transforming power of Jesus is the want and desire to spread the Good News! There was no evangelistic training or special classes: just an explosion of desire to proclaim the good news to the people who were once just like them—lost. When there is radical salvation, there will inevitably be a powerful evangelist!

FROM THAT CITY MANY OF THE SAMARITANS BELIEVED IN HIM BECAUSE OF THE WORD OF THE WOMAN WHO TESTIFIED, 'HE TOLD ME ALL THE THINGS THAT I HAVE DONE.' [_JOHN 4:39 \(NASB\)](#)

As we begin to take back ground from the enemy in our life, a number of things begin to happen:

- *Humility increases as we see others through the lens of restoration.*
- *We are able to relate to people in a greater and more honest manner as we understand the depths of our own needs.*
- *Our eyes are opened to the depths of our own sinful nature and its damaging affect.*
- *We have a greater understanding and compassion toward the hurt, injustice, and heartache that we see throughout our cities.*
- *It is hard for us to walk by a person without noticing their pain. We have a passion and concern for the unsaved, the suffering, and the broken.*

HEART ATTRIBUTES RELATED TO TRUTH #7

A. We desire to honor, glorify, and reflect the heart of Jesus in and through our lives in both our words and actions. Jesus' ministry on earth was done out of His passion and desire to bring glory and honor to the Father. Jesus wanted all men to see the love of the Father. Jesus is a mirror of the Father reflecting this glory on earth. As we see the honor that Jesus gave to the Father, our hearts will increase in this same desire to glorify God.

This desire has very practical implications that play out in our lives. We long to honor God with holiness and a mouth of purity. Our lives become a living sacrifice because we see this actively in the life of Jesus. He was perfectly holy and every word spoken was pure. His life was lived as the perfect sacrifice so that we could be set free from sin and death.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Purity, holiness, consecration, set apart, faith in action, bold acts of love, severe initiation, and faithfulness.

B. Our heart is to be restored back to our original design, so that the Spirit has full reign to exhibit every fruit of the Spirit.

We see Jesus at all times demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit:

BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS . . .

[_GALATIANS 5:22 \(NASB\)](#)

When others see us coming, they will see this fruit coming toward them. Miracles are a gift from God, but what speaks to a person's heart is love. Fruits of the spirit working through us show Christ's love to others in a dramatic way.

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Love, joy, peace, patience, goodness and faithfulness.

C. As we grow further into demonstrating the characteristics of the heart of Christ, we will begin to live in triumph regardless of the difficulties or trials that surround us.

BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO ALWAYS LEADS US IN TRIUMPH IN CHRIST, AND MANIFESTS THROUGH US THE SWEET AROMA OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM IN EVERY PLACE. [_2 CORINTHIANS 2:14 \(NASB\)](#)

This process of endurance has great fruit as proven character or deep integrity is forged. However, what is most important is the final product of hope. Hope is the expectation that God is good and that God always brings

good in the end. God is incapable of losing. So regardless of what our eyes see, we can avoid falling into defeat and futility.

Perseverance leads to proven character and hope. Hope is perhaps the most expensive attribute of all, because hope is not developed from normal circumstances, but rather from the most trying and overwhelming. Paul is proof of this:

AND NOT ONLY THIS, BUT WE ALSO EXULT IN OUR TRIBULATIONS, KNOWING THAT TRIBULATION BRINGS ABOUT PERSEVERANCE; AND PERSEVERANCE, PROVEN CHARACTER; AND PROVEN CHARACTER, HOPE; AND HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT, BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT WITHIN OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO WAS GIVEN TO US. [_ROMANS 5:3-5 \(NASB\)](#)

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Hope, trust, faith, conviction, reliance and dependence on God, endurance, and fortitude.

D. As we see Jesus' ministry in the Gospels, we clearly see that He did not live for Himself, but rather to do the will of the Father. Jesus came to serve not to be served:

. . . JUST AS THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY." [_MATTHEW 20:28 \(NASB\)](#)

IF ANYONE SERVES ME, HE MUST FOLLOW ME; AND WHERE I AM, THERE MY SERVANT WILL BE ALSO; IF ANYONE SERVES ME, THE FATHER WILL HONOR HIM.

[_JOHN 12:26 \(NASB\)](#)

DO NOTHING FROM SELFISHNESS OR EMPTY CONCEIT, BUT WITH HUMILITY OF MIND REGARD ONE ANOTHER AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELVES; DO NOT MERELY LOOK OUT FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL INTERESTS, BUT ALSO FOR THE INTERESTS OF

OTHERS. HAVE THIS ATTITUDE IN YOURSELVES WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS... [_PHILIPPIANS 2:3-5 \(NASB\)](#)

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: *Selfless servanthood, stamina, humility, thoughtfulness, attention to detail, consideration and respect towards others, living for the benefit of others.*

TRUTH #8: SOZO MOVES A PERSON FROM A RUDIMENTARY AND FUTILE WAY OF LIFE TO A PLACE AND A PURPOSE

1. GOD CHOSE US, SAVED US, GIFTED US, AND IS RESTORING US SO THAT WE WILL BEAR FRUIT AND ADVANCE THE GOOD NEWS OF HIS KINGDOM IN OTHER PEOPLES LIVES.

So far in this study you have seen the many dimensions and truths to the heart, life, and ministry of Jesus. One of these truths is that you and I are saved for a purpose: to join with Jesus in extending His love, power, truth, and compassion to the world. We now do not live randomly or in futility. We live with purpose, in God's design, for eternal dividends.

Practically, we see this when Jesus called His disciples:

ONE DAY AS JESUS WAS WALKING ALONG THE SHORE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE, HE SAW TWO BROTHERS—SIMON, ALSO CALLED PETER, AND ANDREW—THROWING A NET INTO THE WATER, FOR THEY FISHED FOR A LIVING. JESUS CALLED OUT TO THEM, 'COME, FOLLOW

ME, AND I WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO FISH FOR PEOPLE!' AND THEY LEFT THEIR NETS AT ONCE AND FOLLOWED HIM.

[_MATTHEW 4:18-20 \(NLT\)](#)

Theologically, Paul describes this for us in the letter he wrote to the believers in Asia Minor (today this region is known to us as Turkey).

FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH. AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, NOT A RESULT OF WORKS, SO THAT NO ONE MAY BOAST. FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM. [_EPHESIANS 2:8-10 \(ESV\)](#)

2. JESUS' ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR HIS CHURCH IS THAT WE WOULD LIVE A MISSIONAL LIFE.

The typical believer and local church in Western culture does not understand, nor reflect, the heart and expectation of Jesus for His people. We tend to be consumers, looking for the customer service department in every church, living our lives for Jesus and others out of convenience versus a commissioning. Jesus' prayer for the immediate disciples and all who would believe in Him due to their report (this included us) was to live life like Jesus lived. As His followers we are to continue the work that God sent Jesus into the world to begin. This means we must understand the mission and His heart in carrying out His mission. This also means we must experience and operate in His power.

JUST AS YOU SENT ME INTO THE WORLD, I AM SENDING THEM INTO THE WORLD . . . I AM PRAYING NOT ONLY FOR THESE DISCIPLES BUT ALSO FOR ALL WHO WILL EVER BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR MESSAGE. [_JOHN 17:18, 20 \(NLT\)](#)

3. GOD GIFTS AND EQUIPS US TO LIVE OUT HIS MISSION. The Church is identified throughout the New Testament as the Body of Christ. Imagine that the first body of Christ was His actual body of flesh and

blood. In that body He traveled; He spoke words of hope, forgiveness, life, and instruction; He healed, He showed compassion. That first body ascended to heaven, and He left on this earth His second body. It is you and every follower of Jesus Christ. We are now to be what Jesus was to people on this earth while He walked her streets. As such, Jesus created each of us to be members of His body so that together we will function as one Body—continuing the work and life of Jesus. God gives each of us spiritual gifts so that we can fulfill our part of the mission. He created us with purpose!

THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT IS THE SOURCE OF THEM ALL. THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SERVICE, BUT WE SERVE THE SAME LORD . . . IT IS THE ONE AND ONLY SPIRIT WHO DISTRIBUTES ALL THESE GIFTS. HE ALONE DECIDES WHICH GIFT EACH PERSON SHOULD HAVE. THE HUMAN BODY HAS MANY PARTS, BUT THE MANY PARTS MAKE UP ONE WHOLE BODY. SO IT IS WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST . . . ALL OF YOU TOGETHER ARE CHRIST'S BODY, AND EACH OF YOU IS A PART OF IT. [_1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6, 11-12, 27 \(NLT\)](#)

FOR WE ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE. HE HAS CREATED US ANEW IN CHRIST JESUS, SO WE CAN DO THE GOOD THINGS HE PLANNED FOR US LONG AGO. [_EPHESIANS 2:10 \(NLT\)](#)

4. LIVING A MISSIONAL LIFE IS SO IMPORTANT TO GOD THAT WE WILL STAND BEFORE HIM ONE DAY TO BE JUDGED FOR HOW WE LIVED, AND WE WILL BE REWARDED ACCORDINGLY.

Again, the contemporary Church does not speak often to the reality of judgment for the believer. But one day we will stand before God and give an account for how we lived our lives for Him. The reason is that He left us here on a mission, not a holiday or to live a self-determined, self-absorbed life. Each of us will stand before God to give an account of how we spent our life on earth.

FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, SO THAT

EACH ONE MAY RECEIVE WHAT IS DUE FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE IN THE BODY, WHETHER GOOD OR EVIL.

[_2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 \(ESV\)](#)

NOW IF ANYONE BUILDS ON THE FOUNDATION WITH GOLD, SILVER, PRECIOUS STONES, WOOD, HAY, STRAW—EACH ONE'S WORK WILL BECOME MANIFEST, FOR THE DAY WILL DISCLOSE IT, BECAUSE IT WILL BE REVEALED BY FIRE, AND THE FIRE WILL TEST WHAT SORT OF WORK EACH ONE HAS DONE. IF THE WORK THAT ANYONE HAS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION SURVIVES, HE WILL RECEIVE A REWARD. IF ANYONE'S WORK IS BURNED UP, HE WILL SUFFER LOSS, THOUGH HE HIMSELF WILL BE SAVED, BUT ONLY AS THROUGH FIRE.

[_1 CORINTHIANS 3:12-15 \(ESV\)](#)

HEART ATTRIBUTES RELATED TO TRUTH #8

Because "sozo" moves us back to our original design, we are then able to use our gifts to further the Kingdom. Sozo moves us to live out patient endurance, lovingly leading those who walk behind us. Because we are models for those who follow our leadership, we must be diligent so that no one stumbles. Out of love for God, we want those around us to be fanned into flame. And our hearts will become like Jesus, who seeing the hurt around Him; had compassion, and came with this message:

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD GOD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE AFFLICTED; HE HAS SENT ME TO BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO CAPTIVES AND FREEDOM TO PRISONERS . . .

[_1 CORINTHIANS 3:12-15 \(ESV\)](#)

Culture Shift Key Heart Attributes: Forceful to liberate, humility, deep brokenness, compassion, mercy, and love.

The following is also part of this heart:

- *Relentless and forceful in our pursuit to see someone fully saved and restored.*
- *This heart moves in great humility and a desire for glory to go to God, “all surpassing power is of Him and not of me.”*
- *This heart deals with others in a straightforward, honest, and loving manner. It loves people enough to confront them with truth. Fundamentally, people do not want to confront others, but true love is fearless in speaking the truth.*
- *There is no passivity—it is completely initiative oriented. It is not an event, but a lifestyle of searching out the work that needs to be done.*