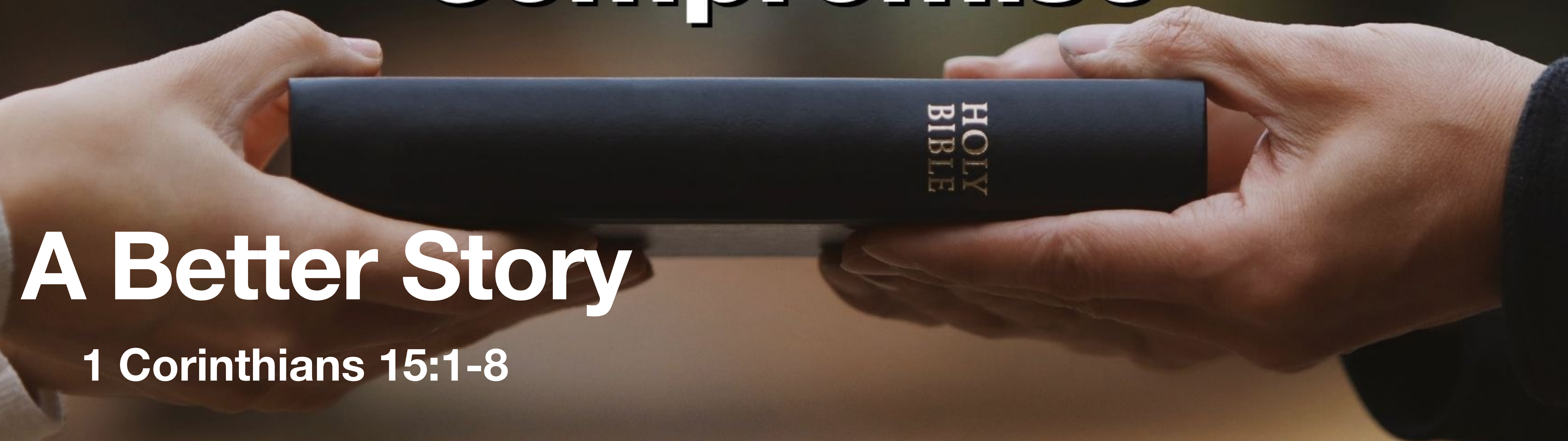


Proclamation Without Compromise



A Better Story

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

6 Sept: Gospel Foundations: What is the gospel?

13 Sept: Gospel Worldview: What competes with the gospel?

20 Sept: Gospel Identity: How do we live the gospel?

27 Sept: Gospel Mission: How do we communicate the gospel?

4 Oct: Gospel Power: How does the Spirit empower the gospel?

11 Oct: Gospel Hope: Where is history going through the gospel?

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-8





Only 9% of all born-again adults and only 2% of born-again teenagers actually espouse these principles (a biblical worldview). Is it any surprise, therefore, that people who call themselves Christians are living in a non-Christian way? One men's ministry newsletter reports 'For every ten men in your church, nine will have kids who leave the church, eight will not find their jobs satisfying, six pay the monthly minimum on their credit card balances, five have a major problem with pornography, four will get divorced, and only one has a biblical worldview'.

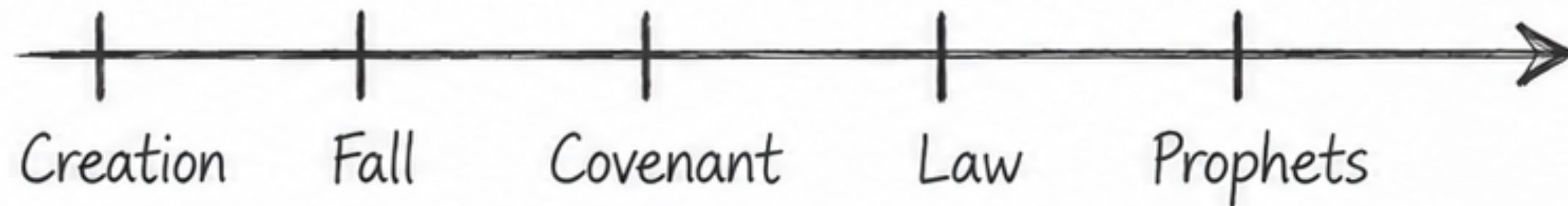
-Ryken, "What is a Christian Worldview", p11

THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION

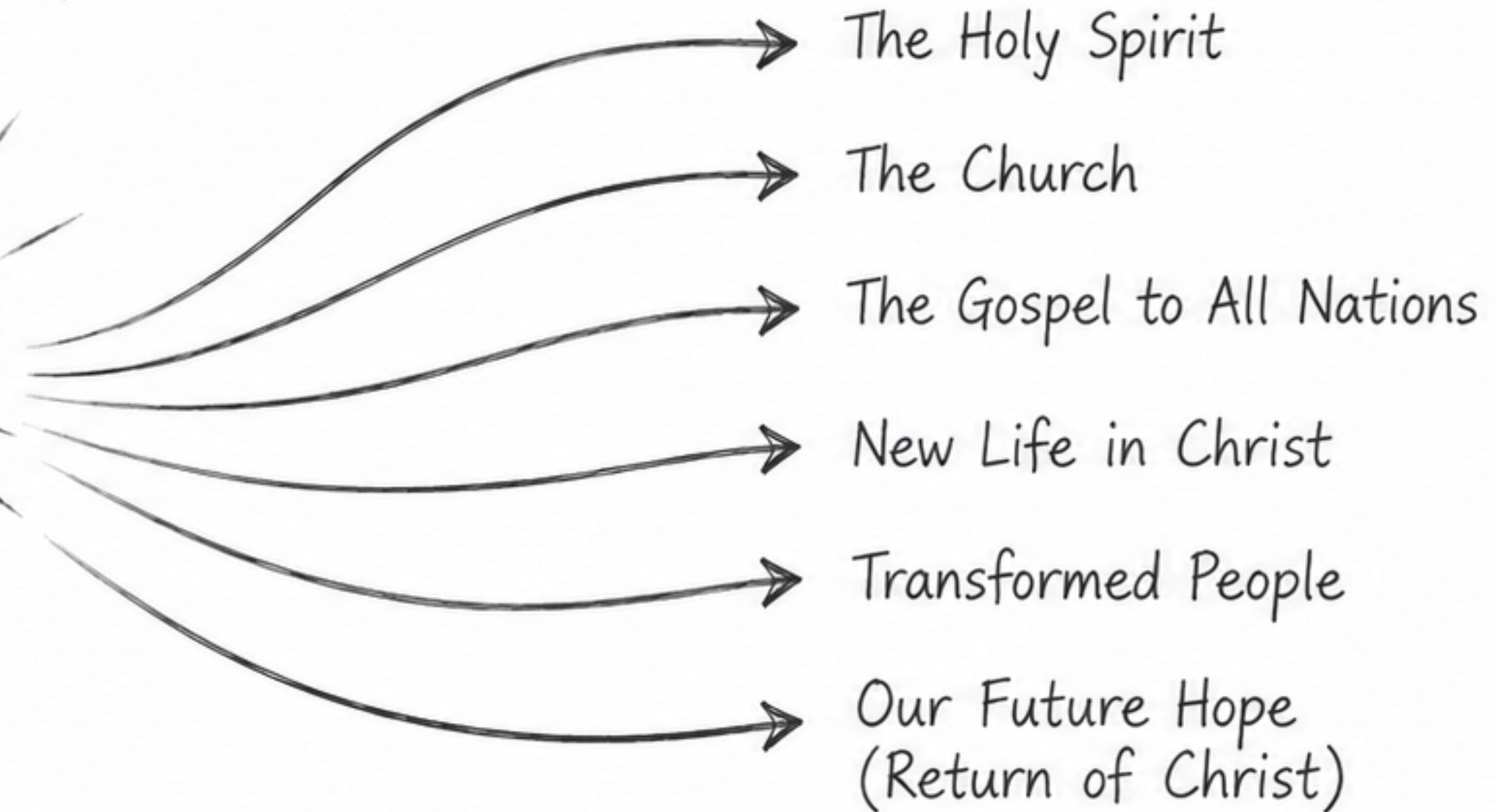
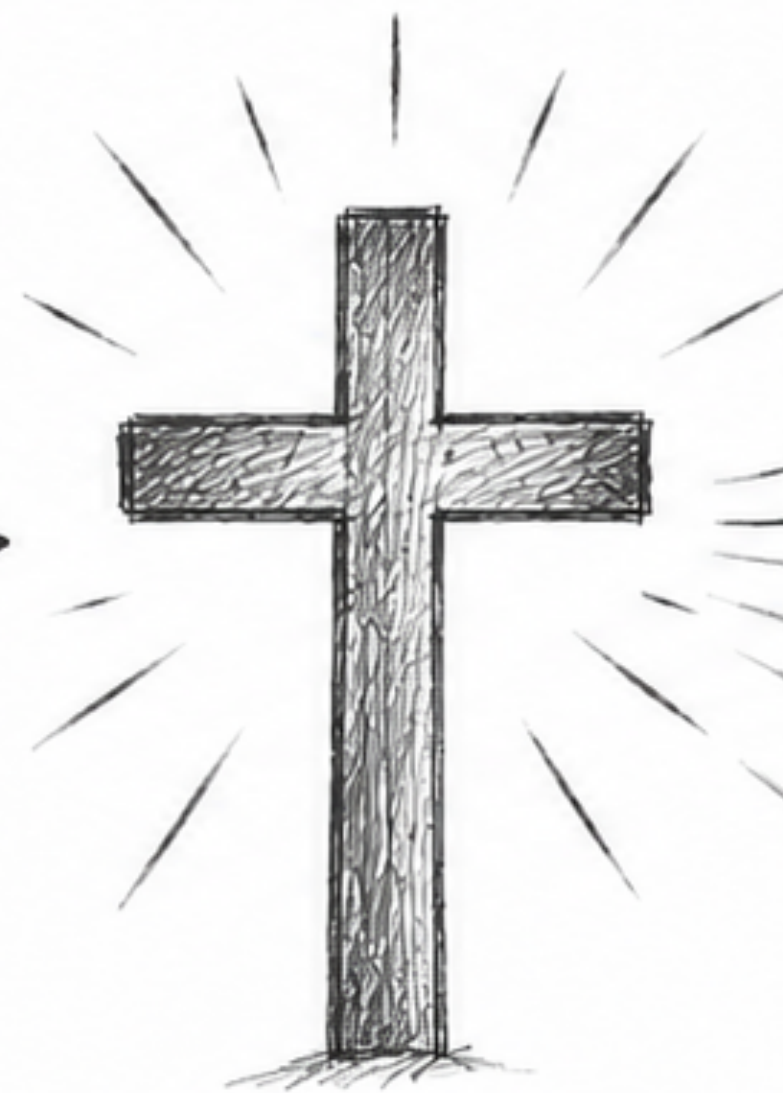
The fulfillment of
God's promises
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

NEW TESTAMENT

OLD TESTAMENT



Points to the Cross
(Luke 24:27)



Flows out from the Cross
(John 20:21)

3 For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

I Corinthians 15:1-8

Main idea: The Gospel Is the Center

- **vs 1a:** The Gospel is an Announcement
- **vss 1b-2:** The Gospel Saves
- **vss 3-7:** The Content of the Gospel Message

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you,

- 1 Corinthians 15:1a

At the core of the gospel are things that happened – actual, real, historical events. The gospel isn't a matter of religious opinions, platitudes, or fairy tales; it is about real historical events.

- David Guzek

“Notice that the preacher does not make the gospel. If he makes it, it is not worth your having. Originality in preaching, if it be originality in the statement of doctrine, is falsehood. We are not makers and inventors; we are repeaters, we tell the message we have received.”

-Spurgeon, "Sermons on 1 Corinthians".

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you **received**, in which **you stand**, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you **hold fast to** the word I preached to you—unless you **believed** in vain.

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,
4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in
accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to
Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five
hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though
some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all
the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also
to me.

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

God the Father laid upon God the Son all the guilt and wrath our sin deserved, and Jesus bore it in Himself perfectly, totally satisfying the wrath of God in our place. As horrible as the physical suffering of Jesus was, this spiritual suffering – the act of being judged for sin in our place – was what Jesus really dreaded about the cross. This was the cup – the cup of God's righteous wrath – that He trembled at drinking (Luke 22:39-46, Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15). On the cross Jesus became, as it were, an enemy of God, who was judged and forced to drink the cup of the Father's fury so we would not have to drink that cup.

- David Guzik, Enduring Word Commentary, 1 Corinthians 15

13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

- Jesus (John 15:13)

4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. . .

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

The Gospel is . . .

- An announcement of something that has happened in history that forever changes circumstances and reality for us.
- Something to be received, believed, stood upon, and held firmly to. . . it saved us, it is saving us, and it will save us.
- The central essence of the content of the Gospel is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. . . it is much more than this, but never less.

“We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.”

- Tim Keller



21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! . . . There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

- Romans 7:21-25, 8:1-2

1 Corinthians 15:1-3

Applying the Gospel To My Past, Present and Future

My response to the Gospel	PAST — Justification-What God has done for me in Christ	PRESENT — Sanctification-What God is doing in me through Christ	FUTURE — Glorification-What God will complete in me through Christ
How am I receiving the Gospel?	I receive Christ's finished work. I receive forgiveness and His righteousness as a gift—not something I earned. <i>Rom. 3:23–24, Eph. 2:8–9</i>	I receive God's grace for today. I come to Christ as I am, continually depending on his grace rather than my performance. <i>Rom. 11:6, 2 Cor. 12:9</i>	I receive God's promise of final redemption. I trust that the salvation begun in me will be completed when Christ returns. <i>Phil. 1:6, 1 Cor. 1:8, 1 Pet. 1:5, Jude 1:24</i>
How am I believing the Gospel?	I believe that Christ died for my sins and rose again. My standing before God rests on Christ's work, not mine. <i>Rom. 4:25, Titus 3:5</i>	I believe the Gospel applies to my present life. Christ's completed work is sufficient for my ongoing battle with sin, weakness, suffering, and failure. <i>Gal 2:20, Rom. 6:14, Jn 19:30</i>	I believe Christ will finish what he started. Death does not have the final word; resurrection and eternal life are guaranteed. <i>1 Cor.15:54–57, John. 11:25–26</i>
How am I standing on the Gospel?	I stand in Christ's righteousness. I don't stand before God on the basis of my record but Christ's record. I am a new creation in Christ. <i>2 Cor. 5:21, Phil. 3:9</i>	I stand in grace rather than performance. When I succeed, I don't boast; when I fail, I don't despair. I return to Christ. <i>Prov. 24:16, Rom. 8:1</i>	I stand firm in hope. My circumstances don't determine my ultimate future because Christ's resurrection guarantees mine. <i>Rom. 8:18, 2 Cor. 4:16-18</i>
How am I firmly holding on to the Gospel?	I hold fast to what I received. I don't move away from the foundational truth that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. <i>Acts 4:12, Gal. 2:16</i>	I keep bringing the Gospel back to my heart. I preach it to myself in temptation, shame, suffering, success, relationships, and everyday life. <i>Col.3:16, Ps.42:5, Titus 2:11-12</i>	I persevere because the Gospel promises resurrection. I keep holding fast even when faithfulness is costly because my labor in Christ is not in vain <i>1 Cor. 15:58, Gal 6:9, Heb. 10:23.</i>

“You are more sinful and flawed in yourselves than you ever dared believe. . . **but because of the cross and resurrection.** . . you are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than you ever dared hope.”