

Choosing the Right Fuel

*What is the propulsion behind Christian growth?*

You Have to Burn the Right Fuel – Gospel Propulsion

Initial salvation

*Vs. 2 “Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?” (indicates initial work)*

*Vs. 6 “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” (indicates initial work)*

Growth in Christ (progressive sanctification)

*Vs. 3 – “Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh [human effort]?” (indicates ongoing work)*

*Vs. 5 – “Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and work miracles among you ...?” (indicates present work)*

Growth in the Spirit comes through faith in Christ’s crucifixion and increased confidence in his work

**Flesh**

“I have to fix it.”  
“I can do it myself.”  
“I need to look good.”  
“I’m righteous in comparison to others.”  
“I still desire sin and try hard not to.”  
“I become defensive when critiqued.”  
“I feel alone. I lack a vital daily intimacy with God.”  
“I’m rebellious and resist authority. I’m not teachable.”  
“I’m anxious over felt needs: relationships, money, and health. I’m alone and nobody cares.”  
“I feel powerless to defeat the flesh. I have no heart victory over sin in my life.”  
“My obedience to God is joyless and painful. I resent God who makes me obey him.”

**Spirit**

“Christ has died for this.”  
“I need God’s help.”  
“God, change me on the inside.”  
“I’m righteous in Christ because of Jesus.”  
“Sin is becoming less appealing to me.”  
“I’m aware of my flaws and open to growing.”  
“I have a growing assurance that God is my loving father.”  
“I have a soft and broken heart. I’m ready to learn.”  
“I trust the Father and have a growing confidence in his care. I’m being freed from worry.”  
“I see more and more victory over the flesh. My heart thirsts for righteousness.”  
“I’m beginning to experience God’s promises of power and joy.”

*Pastor Brian’s story from his first discipleship relationship in college: burning the wrong fuel.*

You Have to Put the Right Fuel in the Tank – Gospel Resources

Pursue knowledge

Rom 10:2-3 “For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.  
<sup>3</sup> For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness.”

*Story of Martin Luther*

Look at Christ crucified

*A growing sensitivity to sin and awareness of your forgiveness*

Hear with faith

*Believing the Gospel every day*

“The same Gospel that justifies you (makes you right with God) is the Gospel that sanctifies you (grows you in relationship with God.” – Bryan Chappell

**Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. Why is the Christian life about growth in the Spirit, not growth in human effort?
2. What does the cross say to you that you need to believe?
3. Look at the flesh and spirit comparisons above. Which ones resonate with you and why? Are there any areas in which you need to turn to Christ?
4. How are you pursuing knowledge to avoid foolishness? Do you have any sort of discipline in this area?