



Counselor: Preach the Gospel to Yourself

Authentic Fellowship Conference March 10, 2018

Presented by Rosemary Spence

I. The Gospel is Personal

A. My Treasure – beautiful, sacred, life changing. What a fantastic experience it *was*. When I thought about it, I was thankful, but _____ what?

- 1. My “Old Rugged Cross”?** - *“Jesus suffered and died to pardon and sanctify me.”*
- 2. I Timothy 1:14** – I knew the Lord’s abundant grace poured out on me
- 3. I Timothy 1:15** – I had no problem accepting that I was that sinner Jesus came into the world to save, and I was one of the worst. But I was shown mercy as he displayed His *“unlimited patience”* (30 years’ worth!)

B. My Surprise – a gift given, *Comforts From The Cross*, by Elyse Fitzpatrick

- 1. Put aside** I knew the Gospel! I taught it.
- 2. Picked up** Grabbed by Day 9. *“Consider Him”*. Hebrews 12:3 *“Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”* ESV
 - a. Did I “consider” Jesus in this way?
 - b. Was I “enduring” like Jesus when shamed and/or others “hostile” toward me?
 - c. Did I “grow weary” and just push through in my own strength?
 - d. Was this passage telling me something deeper about My Gospel?

I was missing something very powerful; overlooked and underdeveloped.

II. The Gospel is Powerful

A. Based on The “Word of Truth”

- 1. I Corinthians 15:1-4.** 1) *“Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2) By this gospel you are saved...3) For what I received I passed onto you as of first importance, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”*
NIV

2. **My response:** Is this just the story of my personal Easter or more?
 - a) Just facts that move a believer from death to life?
 - b) How does this Treasure of “*first importance*” live in and out of believers’ lives now, today and every day?

B. Upheld by the “Power of God”

1. **Romans 1:16-17** *“I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, and then for the Gentile. 17) For in the Gospel a righteousness from God that is by faith from first to last , just as it is written, ‘The righteous will live by faith’.” NIV*

a) **“Power of God”** Ephesians 1:19-20 *“and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead...”*

b) **“for the salvation of everyone who believes”**

- (1) **Penalty from sin**
- (2) **Power over sin**
- (3) **Presence of sin**

C. Available through the power of the Holy Spirit

1. **Acts 1:8** Jesus said, *“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”*

2. **I Thessalonians 1:4-5** *“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our Gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction...”*

3. **In Ephesians 3:7**, Paul speaks of becoming a servant of this Gospel *“by the gift of God’s grace given to me through the working of his power.”* As he prays for these Ephesian believers and leaders, he reminds them that the Father *“may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being”*. 3:16

Today, if you believe God has called you to mentor, disciple, counsel or simply care for another with the truth and grace of Jesus Christ, these promises are for you in that calling, as well as living a life worthy of your Savior and Redeemer.

Paul brings the **Personal Gospel** and the **Powerful Gospel** together so clearly in Romans 15:13-14: *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him , so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. I myself am convinced, my brothers that you yourselves are full of goodness and competent to instruct one another.”*

The Gospel is a truth, a grace, and a power beyond anything we can ever totally know, but we grow in it daily as we begin see it as a rich resource; The Source of which never ends. It began before time and continues until there is no time, but it serves this time in our lives provisionally.

“Every day you preach to yourself some kind of gospel...No one is more influential in your life than you are because no one talks to you more than you do.” *New Morning Mercies*, Tripp, Feb 4.

III. The Gospel is Practical

- A. **Saved to the uttermost** – absolutely practical, so needed, so basic
- B. **Eternal life** – starting right now and continuing until...well, eternity
- C. **The counselor’s closest “companion and counselor”**. Let’s look at this.

The Gospel turns negative into positive, provides correction, “puts off and on”:

1. **Pride to humility** - Jesus died for sinners
2. **Criticism to compassion** – Jesus saw them lost and had compassion
3. **Self-righteousness to grace** – Ephesians 2:8, God’s greatest gift
4. **Despair to hope** – Romans 8:26, the interceding work of the Holy Spirit
5. **Discouragement to encouragement** – II Thess. 2:16-17. Given by Lord Jesus Christ himself and God the Father, with hope and hearts strengthened.
6. **Weariness to endurance** – Hebrews 12:3 *“Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*
7. **Desperation to peace** – John 16:33, the peace that Jesus gives overcomes
8. **Failure to comfort** – II Corinthians 1-11, “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of ALL comfort”, beyond ability to endure but with great and glory giving purposes.
9. **The Accuser vs Our Savior** – Revelation 12:10-11; I John 2:1-2
10. **The Scriptures, Prayer and Markers** – 100s more; no limit, no end!

When you preach the Gospel to yourself, you’re giving yourself the hope, grace, truth, mercy, comfort and joy that is always yours from your Savior, Redeemer and Intercessor; your Gospel mentor and counselor.

IV. The Gospel is Perfect

- A. “Peace fills my soul when I remember the truth of the Gospel: I am more sinful and flawed than I ever dared believe, more loved and welcomed than I ever dared hope. I deserve less than nothing but have been given everything.” *Comforts From The Cross*, Elyse Fitzpatrick, page 89.
- B. *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* Galatians 2:20

V. **Suggested Resources:**

***Comforts From The Cross* by Elyse Fitzpatrick**

***Counsel From The Cross* by Elyse Fitzpatrick**

***Gospel Primer* by Milton Vincent**

***Evangelizing Those Who Wrong You* by Milton Vincent - from Counseling and Discipleship Training at Grace Fellowship Church, Florence, Kentucky**

***New Morning Mercies Daily Devotional* by Paul David Tripp** - Introduction: "I am calling people to see the Gospel as a window through which they are to look at everything in life. So, read and remember God's new morning mercies and celebrate your identity as the object of mercy that reaches beyond the ability of the heart to grasp and words of one author to describe."