

Becoming Gospel-Fluent

November 8, 2020

Introduction

How many of you are fluent in a different language? Not too many right?

Here's what happens for most of us are not fluent in another language. Let's just say that you are a native Spanish speaker and you're talking to me, a native English speaker:

- You speak to me in Spanish
- I translate in my head to English
- I respond in my head in English
- I translate that English phrase into Spanish
- I speak that Spanish phrase back to you.

No wonder it's so exhausting, right?

Jeff Vanderstelt has written a book entitled **Gospel Fluency** in which he suggests that for many of us, while we know little catch phrases of the Gospel, we are not FLUENT in the Gospel.

Some of us, in fact, hardly understand it at all. We understood enough words or phrases to be saved from our sins, but beyond that we are practically foreigners to the Gospel.

Others of us, have to work SO HARD in my hearts and minds to constantly translate the Gospel back and forth. Between what know to be true of the Gospel, but what seemingly comes most naturally to us still that is not the Gospel at all.

Because you see, our native language is pride. Our native language is law. Our native language is a works-based performance relationship with God and others that is based on either:

- **pride** (if we're having a good day) or **shame** (if we're having a bad day)
- a **self-righteousness** or **self-loathing**,
- A sense of **security** and **acceptance** (again, based on our good performance) or a sense of **fear** and **rejection** (based on our bad performance)
- And a sense of **acceptance** of YOU or **rejection** of you based on the same.

THAT is our native language. For all of us. We were born into this world speaking pride and shame and fear and performance as the natural language of our souls. And for some, even Christians, that is still their native tongue. It is still the language of their soul.

But what would happen... if we began to be fluent in the Gospel? If we were Gospel-fluent?

Jeff Vanderstelt has suggested in his book Gospel Fluency.

Four Gospel-Forming Questions

- Who is God?
- What has God done?
- Who am I in light of what God has done?
- What I should do in light of who I am?

Because you see, the Gospel is more than just knowing you're going to heaven when you die.

You know... when we speak of the Gospel, we tend to think of the Gospel in terms of BEFORE the cross. And then we tend to go back to our native language AFTER the cross. But Church... there are some things, we never outgrow.

Peter says in the first couple verse of 1 Peter, chapter 2 “Crave the Gospel”. For by it, you were saved. You have born again not of perishable seed but of imperishable seed, through this living and enduring word of God which is the word that was preached to you—the Gospel. You were saved by this Gospel, and now you will GROW by this same Gospel. So crave it like a newborn baby craves his or her mother’s milk. Crave the pure milk of the Gospel. You will never outgrow the Gospel.

Over these next couple weeks, I want us to become more Gospel Fluent. And not in the proverbial catch phrases of the message that likely brought you to Christ—as glorious as those are—but I would like us to consider some of the great truths of the Gospel now that we ARE in Christ.

Specifically, we’re going to look at:

Five Gospel Declarations

In Christ...

- **I am NOT GUILTY.** God Himself has declared me “not guilty”. Therefore, I will reject every voice of shame, fear, or condemnation.
- **I am LOVED.** There is nothing I can do to make God love me more. And nothing I can do to make God love me less.
- **I am FREE.** I have been set free from the power of sin because He who conquered sin lives in me.
- **I am GIFTED and CALLED.** I have been given a special ability and assignment from God to advance His Kingdom.
- **I am COMPELLED.** In view of such a great salvation, I will be holy, love deeply, and witness boldly.

CONCLUSION

Whenever you learn a language, in order to become fluent in it, there are certain things I need to do in order to get there right? To this end, I want to leave you with **THREE PRACTICAL CHALLENGES**:

MEMORIZE

For me to become fluent in any language there is going to be a certain amount of sheer memorization that has to happen, right? You have to memorize certain phrases, words, grammar, etc.

If you are I are going to become fluent in the Gospel, then it’s probably going to be the same. So... I want to challenge you to take a [bookmark](#) on your way out today.

GOSPEL-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS

The other thing that will help me become fluent in the Gospel is to become immersed in a Gospel-centered relationships or community. When learning a new language, probably the fastest way to learn that language is through immersion. That is, you are immersed in it. You live in that culture and you hear it day in and day out. Being surrounded by that language causes you to learn it much, much faster. Similarly, surrounding yourself with people who are exploring the themes of the Gospel and who are intentionally speaking Gospel truths over one another will cause you to become fluent in the Gospel.

GOSPEL-CENTERED PRAYERS

I want us to keep praying over each other these Gospel-centered prayers. We’re going to keep praying Ephesians 1:16-20 over each other again this week:

¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^o of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms...