

- Peter has been laying a solid foundation on what the gospel is – all God has done for us in and through Jesus ... He continues to expound on the **IMPORTANCE OF THE GOSPEL** and the **WEIGHT IT BEARS ON US PRACTICALLY** ... The **living and enduring word of God**, in general, speaks of **HIS ENTIRE COUNSEL** ... Specifically, the **living and enduring word of God** speaks of **THE GOSPEL** ... Gospel is **LIVING** – brings new life and growth; not stagnant, nor powerless or non-effective ... Gospel is **ENDURING** – everlasting and faithful; never falling short or deceptive or undergoing any change
- Through the word of God, the Spirit of God, causes us to be **BORN-AGAIN** and **MADE CLEAN**, from the inside out ... So, what's going on within us, is reflected and experienced outwardly ... In particular: how we relate to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ – members of God's Household ... *From a heart that's undergoing transformation, let us intentionally **pursue loving one another*** (Rm12:9-10; 1Tm1:5) ... God uses His word to bring us to new life, and to mold our character and image into His very own ... The gospel that saves us, is the gospel that changes and sustains us

How does God cause us to be born-again by the Spirit and word:

- Understand that outside of Christ every person is spiritually lost and dead ... Hard reality to grasp because we feel and act the opposite ... Unless given a means to understand otherwise, people are unable to comprehend this ... Before Christ, we know no other way ... We go about life as we've always known
- People who are spiritually dead cannot make themselves spiritually alive ... They don't fully understand sin, or the consequences of sin, nor how they've sinned against God ... Don't see a need to repent, be forgiven ... Unable to stop sinning, clean themselves up, or even begin to truly believe in God ... Unless the Holy Spirit intervenes
 - **THE GOSPEL CALL** – external and internal (1Th1:5; 2Th2:13-14) ... **REGENERATION** (Ac2:37-39; Ep2:1-5; Jo3:6) ... **CONVERSION** – faith and repentance ... *Storms, "Regeneration is prior to and therefore the cause of faith ... Spirit regenerates person in order for them to turn towards God"* ... God **JUSTIFIES, ADOPTS AND SANCTIFIES** ... By faith, the child of God begins to **DAILY LIVE OUT THIS NEW IDENTITY AND POSITION**

How does God work through the Spirit and word to bring about our purification:

- If we're unable to cause our rebirth, but need the Spirit to intervene, then neither can we purify ourselves without the Spirit's empowerment
 - It's the Truth we're following and believing that's purifying us (2Th2:13; Jo3:6) ... This change is occurring from the inside out ... You cannot produce an outward change that hasn't first taken place within (sinful woman, Lk7:47)
 - The Spirit works in us to work through us ... **He10:23-25** ... Do you have another Christian who's speaking truth to your life ... Are you speaking truth to another person's life ... How are you taking steps to the right towards Jesus ... How are you helping someone else take their own steps to the right ... **ABIDE GROW CONNECT**
 - Don't regulate **vs25** to only Sunday ... Each day the Father means to speak His word into your life ... And He wants to speak His word through you into the life of someone else ... The question isn't will He; the question is will you let Him
 - **MAGNIFYING THE CROSS** and **THE GOSPEL GRID**



TAKING STEPS TO THE RIGHT TOWARDS JESUS

