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FOUNDATION LEVEL – Lesson 2: Salvation; Repentance and Belief

One question you can ask and get so many varied answers to is “What exactly is the Gospel?”

To answer that question accurately and biblically, we must look into the scriptures to answer them.

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He was seen by ^[a]Cephas, then by the twelve. 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you ^[a] have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having ^[b] loosed the ^[c] pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the ^[d] remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:22-24, 36-39



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²³Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Romans 4:23-25

¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him should ^(c)not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:14-17

We deduce the Gospel of Christ from these scriptures:

- Jesus Christ was delivered unto the punishment of death on account of our sins according to the scriptures
- Jesus Christ was buried for three days
- God raised Him up from the dead on the third day testified by witnesses.
- If we put our faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work, we receive Everlasting Life, Righteousness and justification from God
- We receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit who is available to all who believe in Christ.
- We are saved from condemnation because we believed.



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REPENTANCE

In the English translations of the Bible, the verb to repent is usually translated from the Greek verb metanoein. This Greek word in classical notions of the language right across to the NT is always the same meaning; “to change one’s mind”

This means repentance is not necessarily an emotion but a decision.

The classic idea of repentance in the church is one of tears, high emotion and penance.

In the old testament the word repent means “to turn, to return”

This harmonises with the NT because in the new, this relates to the INNER decision to change one’s mind or heart. Whilst the OT relates to the OUTER manifestation or action of the inner decision.

Repentance is therefore an inner change of mind which results in an outward turning around or changing direction entirely.

17"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." '

20"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' Luke 15:17-21

Contrast with metamelein – Matthew 27:3-4 (Judas)

Repent and Believe: Right across the New Testament we see that true conversion combines Repentance as a prerequisite before Believe.



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¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel ^[f]of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God ^[g]is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Mark 1:14-15

⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, ^[l]and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:46-47

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the ^[a]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

²⁰ how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ Acts 2:20-21

So we see a biblical pattern emerging here where when the Gospel is preached, the first reaction is a change of heart and mind, a turning away from dead works and sin and a turning towards God.

The ministry of God the Father and the Holy Spirit has to be highlighted here as the Love of the Father is what draws the sinner in the first place

. ⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;.. John 6:44

Faith and Belief

Faith translated pistis in Greek can be described as that faculty that God has given to every man to discern, perceive and believe THE TRUTH whenever it is presented irrespective of natural, physical, spiritual or mental factors that may be contrary.



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⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

...with the heart one believes unto (into) righteousness...

Salvation faith is not just a mental acknowledgement of the truth but a deeper embracement of the message leading unto transformation.

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new

The active word here is IN. Our faith has an active relocation component within it:

*¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and ¹⁴conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption ¹⁵through His blood, the forgiveness of sins
Colossians 1:12-14*

You believe in (into) God, believe also in (into) me John 14:1

Thus the verb believe or to believe carries a notion of a process of change or movement or motion. We are moved from one dimension into another when we believe in Jesus Christ.

Final note;

And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:10

This tallies with Matthew 12:34: for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

*¹³And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak,
2Cor 4:13*