

# **THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST IS POWERLESS**

Scripture: 1st Corinthians 15:1-4

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

Man's true hope of going to heaven through Jesus is revealed in the Gospel.

Yet, there are some things the Gospel cannot do.

**1) The Gospel cannot help a troubled marriage as long as both spouses refuse to hear and heed what the Gospel says.**

The New Testament has specific, helpful instructions for every wife and every husband (Eph. 5:22-33).

When such teaching is carried out properly, marriages will not only survive, they will bloom.

But,

as long as neither spouse is willing to do things God's way, the Gospel cannot help their situation.

**2) The Gospel cannot serve as a substitute for prayer.**

The same Savior that tells us to preach the Gospel also tells us to pray (Luke 18:1).

The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write that the Gospel is God's power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), but

He also led that same apostle to pray for opportunities to preach the Gospel (Col. 4:2-3).

We live by the Gospel, teach the Gospel, and defend the Gospel, but

we still need to bring our petitions and thanksgiving before our heavenly Father in prayer (Phil. 4:6-7).

The Gospel is great,  
but it cannot take away the need to pray.

### **3) The Gospel cannot take the place of faith.**

"We have the Gospel.  
What else could we need?"

It is true that faith comes by hearing God's word (Rom. 10:17).  
And, it is equally true that the word of God can build us up and give us an inheritance among the sanctified (Acts 20:32).

However, we must not be deceived into thinking,  
"Hey, we have the Gospel, so why do I need to have faith?"

Faith is man's proper response to the Gospel message.  
The faith which pleases God is the faith that acts by love (Gal. 5:6).

There is no benefit or consolation in having several copies of the Bible in our house if we are not going to put its teaching to use in our lives.

It is still true that "without faith it is impossible to please" God (Heb. 11:6), and  
"the just shall live by faith" (Heb. 10:38).

### **4) The Gospel cannot save a person that is determined to live in rebellion against God.**

The Gospel has the power to make believers and save obedient believers (Rom. 1:16)  
but it cannot save those who will not repent of their past sins and submit to God's word.

### **5) The Gospel cannot do the work of the church.**

The church must go and preach the Gospel because the Gospel does not preach itself (Mark 16:15).

The Gospel tells us to help the needy, but the Gospel itself cannot feed the needy.

God's Gospel can motivate Christians to be compassionate, but His children must step up and share their physical blessings.

The Gospel contains complete instructions that can strengthen and equip the church, but the Gospel itself cannot take what Christians have learned and teach it to others so that they, too, can teach.

The task of training faithful workers also belongs to the saints (2 Tim. 2:2).

### CONCLUSION:

I am so thankful that precious people taught me the Gospel. I thank God for the power of the Gospel to change people's lives and people's eternal destiny,

But, there are some things that even the Gospel of Christ cannot do.

No wonder that in:  
Matt. 28:19 & Mark 16:15  
Christ says "GO...!"

Warning: Ezekiel 33:7-10  
*"but his blood I will require at your hand"*

Speaking of hands: Song #340\*

- a good song with a message of our duty of sharing the gospel

Another good song: Song #799\*

- share something about the gospel to people we meet day by day

\*Songs taken from: "Praise for the Lord" hymnal