

The Powerless Gospel

The Bible is clear in speaking of the **miraculous power of the real gospel**. It has the ability to change a person into a **new creation** and **set him free from sin's addictions**. In fact, the Greek word for *power* associated with the *power* of the [real] gospel is the same one from which we get our English word for **dynamite**. That Greek word is *dunamis* and it can be found in the following Scriptures:

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, then for the Gentile. (Rom 1:16)

For **the message of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to **us who are being saved it is the power of God**. (1 Cor 1:18)

In other words, the real true plan of salvation [gospel] is the spiritual dynamite of God which all people need to get forgiven and changed. The problem in our day is, the devil has many counterfeit gospels, yet they share a common trait—they are all **powerless to change a person into a new creation**.

False gospels are not only **worthless**, they are **dangerous**. In spite of their great danger, they are **rampant**, even in Bible believing churches—shocking but true!

These false, powerless and dangerous gospels come in various forms and flavors. Here are several examples:

- A person becomes *born again* and a child of God when baptized. (Catholicism, Lutheranism and others)
- You must keep the Saturday Sabbath to have salvation. (Seventh Day Adventism and most other Sabbatarian groups)
- You must be part of our group or organization to get salvation or retain salvation. (Jehovah's Witnesses, International Church of Christ, etc.)
- You must believe you are getting forgiven in the waters of baptism to be forgiven. (Church of Christ)
- God understands our weaknesses (sins). He knows our failures and accepts us as long as we are sincere. (Many churches of different denominations)
- You must read the King James Bible to learn the truth to have salvation. (Some, but not all, King James Only groups)
- You must speak in tongues and be water baptized in

Jesus' name. (United Pentecostal also known as the Jesus' Only or Apostolics)

● Mentally assenting to the historic death, burial and resurrection of Jesus will bring salvation. (Many liberal churches)

Those are just some of the **demonic** ideas about salvation floating around in various groups which call themselves *Christian*. With so many clashing ideas, many people remain *frustrated* in their effort to know what to believe, which was part of the devil's plan to begin with.

Again, the truth is: All false gospels lack the spiritual **power** to transform a sin-addicted, hell-deserving person into a purified, truth and people loving, new creation and child of God.

Any counterfeit gospel is so dangerously wrong and harmful that Gal. 1:8,9 declares that all who preach such lies will be damned just for preaching such—even a person once saved!

Eternal Security

With all of that being said and all those examples of false gospels, another rampant one which is easily exposed by its **lack of power to deliver from sin is once saved always saved** (also known as *eternal security*, the *perseverance of the saints* or the *preservation of the saints*). **This is the most rampant doctrinal danger in evangelical and Bible preaching circles.**

If any will take issue with that statement about the **powerless** once saved always saved gospel, he should ponder how those teachers distort Rom. 7:14-25. In that passage those **wolves in sheep's clothing** actually teach the **normal Christian life** is described there! Imagine that. The truth is, what is described there is the sinful nature personified as **constantly doing evil and not doing good**. Verse 19 is clear:

For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, **the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing**. (Rom 7:19)

That is the eternal security counterfeit Christian, as described by them—a weak, **powerless, continuously evil-doing**, religious person, yet one on the road to heaven in his wickedness—**so they think!**

Changed Lives

Changed lives which shine forth *the evidence of saving grace* (Acts 11:23) consist of **freedom from sin's addictions, a heart of love for God and people and a hatred for deception and sin, among other things.**

Some examples of true conversions and evidence of saving grace in people include Zacchaeus, the Philippian jailer, the unnamed in 1 Cor. 6:9-11 and Paul:

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give **half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.**" Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:8,9)

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night **the jailer took them and washed their wounds**; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and **set a meal before them**; he was **filled with joy** because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family. (Acts 16:32-34)

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Cor. 6:9-11, NKJV)

Paul's example was most noteworthy:

Even though **I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man**, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. (1 Tim 1:13)

In each of those cases there is observable evidence of the grace of God and a changed life. **Paul, being the most obvious, went from Christian-hater and persecutor to Christian lover and helper. He was the greatest example of Christianity.** He too had a **radical change, which reflected the new creation.**

The gospel that they believed in had **power** over sin and **power** to change them. The predominant, popular, social and politically-correct gospels of our day do not! They lack that power because they are not genuine. They are not true. They are based on lies from demons which are trying to damn souls to hell.

Only A Form of Godliness

One of the signs of our times is:

People will be lovers of themselves, **lovers of money**, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, **unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control**, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.** (2 Tim 3:2-5)

NOTE: From 2 Tim. 3:2-5 we observe:

● There are people who have *a form of godliness* (that is, they are *religious*), yet **they deny the power of godliness and are filled with sin. That is the perfect description of an "eternal security Christian,"—not a real Christian, but the product of the once saved always saved security-in-sin gospel.**

Remember, they admit this indirectly by teaching Rom. 7:19 is the *normal Christian life*, denying themselves to be *righteous*, insisting they are *sinners* and not *a good person*, thinking everyone is *lustful* [adulterous] like they are, etc.

● The same Greek word translated **power** in 2 Tim. 3:5 is found in Rom. 1:16 and 1 Cor. 1:18, ***dynamis***. In other words, **they deny the real gospel can give them power to live above the sins listed in 2 Tim. 3:2-5.** (Please don't think that is an exhaustive list. It isn't.) See also Rom. 8:13b which declares, by the Spirit of God, ***we can*** put to death the sinful nature (or flesh). **While false doctrine leads to sin addictions the truth leads to genuine godliness:**

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and **the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness** (Titus 1:1)

Another pivotal Scripture to this is Col. 2:23:

Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they **lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.**

NOTICE: False teaching lacks the power in restraining sensual indulgence. That truth is a key in answering why so many in religious circles are looking at pornography and committing adultery, fornication and homosexuality, yet thinking they are Christians. Folks, do not be deceived: **If there was no radical change and deliverance from these sins, there was no salvation.**

Furthermore, if you are in those sins again, after being set free through the real gospel, you are no longer saved and are now worse off than you were before you were saved (2 Pet. 2:20-22). You are back on the road to hell again and **need to repent for salvation's sake.**

The real gospel centers exclusively around **Jesus** and putting him **first** in your life as Lord and King. That means turning from your many idols, including your **favorite sin** (greed, illicit sex, lust, drunkenness, hate, etc.) You must get committed to the Lord Jesus to where you **follow him first**, not the crowd who are going to hell. You must trust 100% in Jesus for your salvation, who died for you. **To believe on Jesus means to obey Jesus**
<http://www.evangelicaloutreach.org/believing.htm>

When you sincerely, from the depths of your heart, cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness, and turn from your sins to serve God, God's power will radically change you and set you free, regardless the sin addiction. Come as you are, but humbly and with a repentant heart. Anything less will lack this power and you will remain *unchanged* and probably deceived into thinking *you were saved*, when you were not. **If you are not living holy NOW, you are not a Christian NOW.** *You must endure to the end to be saved* (Mt. 10:22; Heb. 3:14; etc.). God bless you.

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