

The Gospel Apostle Paul Taught

Scripture Researched By Tom Stephens

As mentioned by Apostle Peter in the following scripture reference—in “*all* Apostle Paul’s epistles he scribed many things in which “*some things are hard to be understood*”. In 1 Corinthians 3, speaking concerning the Church, Paul compared “babes in Christ with those who were “carnal” Christians; yet the entire Word of God, including the epistles of the Apostles speaks about those who are no longer walking among the righteous, but still claim Christ; and again I mention the word “all”, for Jesus and the apostles speak strongly of God’s people as continually “walking in the Spirit of God” and not in the flesh. Of course we do make mistakes, and that’s the reason we are taught to repent of our sins every day if need be. Peter said:

¹⁵ And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; ¹⁶As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; ***in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*** ¹⁷Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. ¹⁸But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen. (2 Peter 3: 15-18 [My italics/bold]).

Every biblical prophet and preacher, even from Adam—in both testaments—strongly stressed to the people of God that righteousness will bring eternal joy and peace in Christ Jesus; but all those who *draw back* (Heb. 10:39, 39), stated Paul, shall draw back unto perdition (destruction):

³⁸ *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.* ³⁹ *But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.*

A Perfect Heart

By David Wilkerson

I have walked with the Lord for over 60 years. After all this time, I am convinced it is possible to walk before the Lord with a perfect heart. You may say, “Nobody’s walk is perfect. The Bible makes clear we’re all sinners.” But scripture does tell us it is possible to walk before the Lord with a perfect heart. Let me take you into what this means.

The Lord said to Abraham, “I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect” (Genesis 17:1). God also said to Israel, “Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God” (Deut. 18:13). David, for one, determined in his heart to obey the command to be perfect. He said, “I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way....I will walk within my house with a perfect heart” (Psalm 101:2). Solomon fell short of God’s command to be perfect: “His heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father....(He) went not fully after after the Lord, as did David his father” (1 Kings 11:4, 6).

God’s command to be perfect is found in the New Testament as well. Jesus said, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). Paul wrote, “That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:28). Later Paul added, “That ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God” (4:12). And Peter wrote, “The

God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you (1 Peter 5:10).

What exactly does it mean to have a perfect heart? And how do God's people attain it? First, a perfect heart does not mean a sinless, flawless heart.

Man judges perfection by outward performance, but God judges the heart, the unseen motives (see Samuel 16:7). David was said to have had a perfect heart toward God "all the days of his life," yet we know David failed the Lord miserably. His life was marked forever by adultery and a notorious murder.

The definition of perfection according to scripture is "completeness," "maturity". In both the Hebrew and Greek, the term includes "uprightness," "being without spot or blemish," "totally obedient." John Wesley thought of perfection as "constant obedience." In other words, a perfect heart is a responsive heart. It quickly and totally reacts to the Lord's wooing, whispering and warnings.

This heart says at all times, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is attentive. Show me the path to go in, and I will walk in it."

Here are three things that distinguish such a perfect, responsive heart.

I. A Perfect Heart Is Searchable.

"The Lord Searcheth all hearts" (1 Chronicles 28:9). The perfect heart cries out with David, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me" (Psalm 139:23-24).

God said to Jeremiah, "I the Lord search the heart" (Jeremiah 17:10). The Hebrew meaning of this phrase is, "I penetrate; I examine deeply." Paul attests to this, writing, "For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (1 Corinthians 2:10).

In Revelation 2:24, Jesus speaks about "the depths of Satan," of going down into profound deepness of sin. He's telling us that evil goes down deep into the soul, its roots reaching into hell. Indeed, David said of the wicked, "The inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep (Psalm 64:6). These passages are all holy warnings. We're being told, "You don't realize how deeply this association with evil affects you. It takes you down into hell itself."

I believe there are new depths to sin in these dinal days. It has taken on stronger, deeper roots. Our children are confronted with depths of sin that we never knew and never will know. Temptations come at them in many more subtle forms than with any previous generation. It longs for the Holy Spirit to search out the depths of the innermost man—to investigate, dig out and expose all that is unlike Christ.

All of our hearts hunger to be pure and presented perfect before the Lord. It is a true mark of the Spirit. But shallow sermons don't dig deeply enough to do the work of searching the heart. And

those in the pews who hide a secret sin will avoid any probing. Multitudes of Christians today want a blood covering but not a blood cleansing.

A perfect heart is after more than eternal security or a covering for sin. Such a heart seeks to be in God's presence to *enjoy communion*. Communion is talking with the Lord, sharing sweet fellowship, seeking His face. It's why David eagerly cried out, "Search Me, O God!" He wanted to enjoy communion with the Lord.

Here is the sequence, reflected in both Old and New Testaments: covering, cleansing, commitment, communion. Yet some Christians today want nothing more than to be covered, secure in Christ's blood. They desire a quick ticket to glory, with no pain, no Cross, no cleansing. They're encouraged by preachers who declare, "All this digging and searching only brings up guilt and condemnation. All your sin is under the blood."

Yet the Spirit's searchings are not vindictive but redemptive. His purpose isn't to condemn us by resurrecting some old transgression. It is to prepare us to come into His holy presence to enjoy sweet fellowship with him. "*Who shall stand in His holy Place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart....He shall receive the blessing from the Lord.*" (Psalm 24:3-5).

II. A Perfect Heart Is Trusting.

The Psalmist said, "Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted thee, and were not confounded (Psalm 22:4, 5). Over and over David testified, "In the Lord put I my trust" (Psalm 11:1). "O my god, I trust in thee" (25:2).

The Hebrew root word for "trust" suggests "to fling oneself off a precipice." It is to be like a child who hears her father say, "Jump!" and she trustingly obeys, throwing herself from a height into his waiting arms.

Contrast this with Christians who feel they are the devil's punching bag. Nothing could be farther from the truth! The enemy is unable to touch any believer without God's permission. He doesn't have free access to harass you or me. What kind of father steps out of the way and allows a bully free access to his child anytime he likes?

Satan couldn't touch Job without permission from God. The Lord had to lower the wall around Job for the devil to have access to him, and that was only temporary. This happened in Paul's life as well. A messenger of Satan buffeted him, but only because God allowed it. Why? The Lord wouldn't permit Paul to be lifted up with pride by the great revelation he received.

The Lord is always in control. Not for one moment has Satan ever been outside the power of God's Word. Therefore, the trusting heart says, "All my steps are ordered by the Lord! He is my loving Father, and he has an eternal plan and purpose behind all that I endure."

III. A Perfect Heart Is A Broken Heart.

David Said, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite [crushed] spirit" (Psalm 34:18). He also said, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:

a broken and contrite spirit, O God, thou will not despise (51:17).

Brokenness is more than weeping, sorrow, a crushed spirit, humility. True brokenness releases in the heart the greatest power God can entrust to man: the *power to restore ruins*. This kind of power brings a special glory to God when his people are in the midst of troubled times.

God associated the walls of Jerusalem with broken-heartedness. “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart....Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem” (51:17-18). Nehemiah was called to oversee the rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls. In the dark of the night, Nehemiah “viewed the wall” (Nehemiah 2:15). There is a Hebrew word *shabar* here that is the same word used in Psalm 51 for “broken heart”.

Some would think Nehemiah became broken when he “sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven” (1:4). Yet his weeping and confessing were only the beginning of the breaking. The prophet’s heart wasn’t fully broken until he came to Jerusalem, saw the ruin, and *set himself to do something about it*.

Such a heart grieves over the reproach cast on the Lord’s name. It looks deep inside and sees its own shame and failure. But all this brokenness leads to another element, *hope*. The truly broken heart has heard from God, “I will heal, restore and build. Let us get rid of the rubbish and go to work repairing the breaches.

Years ago, I walked through Times Square, weeping and mourning because of all the evil I saw in the streets. I went back to my home in Texas, and for more than a year I continued to weep and mourn. The God said, “David, go and do something about all the ruin.” I had come and seen the destruction. But I was not fully broken until I was moved with hope to begin rebuilding the wall.

Have you begun “viewing the ruin” in your life? When you see Christ in all his glory, the sight of him will shatter you. Brokenness means the total shattering of all human strength and ability. Yet it also means recognizing this: “Stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent (Daniel 10:11). It is the deep assurance that things are going to change—that healing and rebuilding will come.

Our ruins are going to be reclaimed for God.

Until we take hold of this hope, we will not get past tears. Our lives may still appear to be a heap of rubble, with mounds of broken-down places that need repair. But we have God’s tools in hand. And above us there is a big sign posted by the lord’s own hand, which reads: “GOD AT WORK, Enemies Beware!”

Pray this with me: “God, I know you are at work in me and in all my trials. Therefore, Satan has no hold over me. I am not going to deteriorate in my trust. I know I will not fallo. My sin is grievous, but I have repented. Now it’s time rise up and rebuild.”

- **Acts**

The Gospel:

¹⁰ And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach **the gospel** unto them. (Acts 16:10).

The Gospel Of The **Grace Of God**:

²⁴ But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the **grace of God**. (Acts 20:24).

• **Romans**

The **Gospel Of God**:

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

² (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures). (Romans 1:1).

The **Gospel Of His Son**:

⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; (Romans 1:9).

Ready To Preach The **Gospel To You...**:

¹⁵ So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. (Romans 1:15).

The **Gospel Of Christ**:

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16).

My Gospel:

¹⁶ In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to **my gospel**. (Romans 2:16).

The **Gospel Of Peace**:

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the **gospel of peace**, and bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:15).

Concerning The Gospel:

As **concerning the gospel**, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes.. (Romans 11:28).

Gospel Of God:

That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the **gospel of God**, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. (Rom. 15:16).

Gospel Of Christ:

Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the **gospel of Christ**. (Romans 15:19).

The Gospel:

Yea, so have I strived to preach **the gospel**, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: (Romans 15:20).

Gospel Of Christ

¹⁹ Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the **gospel of Christ**. (Romans 15:19).

The Gospel:

²⁰ Yea, so have I strived to preach **the gospel**, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: (Romans 15: 20).

Gospel Of Christ:

²⁹ And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the **gospel of Christ**. (Romans 15:29).

My Gospel, And The Preaching Of Jesus Christ:

²⁵ Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to **my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, ²⁶ But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: ²⁷ To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen. (Romans 16:25-27—end Romans).

• **1 Corinthians**

To Preach The Gospel; preaching of the cross:

¹⁷ For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to **preach the gospel**: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. ¹⁸ For the **preaching of the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:17,18).

Gospel Of Christ; Preach The Gospel; Woe is Me If I Preach The Gospel!

¹² If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the **gospel of Christ**. ¹³ Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? ¹⁴ Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which **preach the gospel should live of the gospel**. ¹⁵ But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void. ¹⁶ For though I **preach the gospel**, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, **woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!** ¹⁷ For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a **dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me**. ¹⁸ What is my reward then? Verily that, **when I preach the gospel**, I may make the **gospel of Christ** without charge, that I abuse not my **power in the gospel**. (1 Corinthians 9:12-18).

The Gospel Which I Preached; I delivered unto you...:

¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel which I preached** unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I

preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (1 Cor.15:1-3).

- **2 Corinthians**

Glorious Gospel of Christ:

³ But if our **gospel** be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴ In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious **gospel of Christ**, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. ⁵ For **we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus** the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. (2 Corinthians 3: 4).

Gospel Of Christ:

¹³ Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the **gospel of Christ**, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all; (2 Cor. 9:13).

The Gospel Of Christ:

¹⁴ For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching **the gospel of Christ**: ¹⁶ To **preach the gospel** in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. (2 Corinthians 10:14,16).

The Gospel Of God:

⁷ Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you **the gospel of God** freely? (2 Corinthians 11:7).

- **Galatians**

Gospel Of Christ; Any Other Gospel

⁷ Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the **gospel of Christ**. ⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach **any other gospel** unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. ¹¹ But I certify you, brethren, that the **gospel which was preached of me** is not after man. ¹² For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but **by the revelation of Jesus Christ**. (Gal. 1:7-9, 11).

That Gospel Which I Preach:

² And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them **that gospel which I preach** among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain. ⁵ To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. (Galatians 2:2, 5).

¹³ Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached **the gospel** unto you at the first. ¹⁴ And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. (Galatians 2:13, 14).

- **Ephesians**

The Gospel Of Your Salvation:

¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the **gospel of your salvation**: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.¹⁵ Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,¹⁶ Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; (Eph. 1:13-16).

The Gospel:

⁶ That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by **the gospel**:⁷ Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. (Ephesians 3:6,7).

Gospel Of Peace:

¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**; (Ephesians 6:15).

The Mystery Of The Gospel:

¹⁹ And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known **the mystery of the gospel**,²⁰ For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

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