

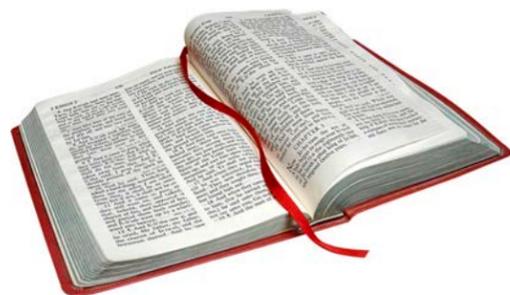
The Basic Good News

By Pattie DeLea

The Gospel is called “The Good News”. So, what is the bad news? The bad news is that so many people in our world have not done the one thing that Almighty God said to do through the Apostle, Peter, in the Book of Acts. You can find it in Acts chapter three verses thirteen through twenty-six.

This entire story follows a miracle after a man born lame was healed (see verses 1-11). In this chapter Peter is responding to the crowd that had gathered. Peter takes no credit for the miracle. Instead, he points out the reasons to trust in Jesus Christ, the one thing they needed to do and why God the Father sent Jesus, His Son.

In verse thirteen Peter begins by telling his audience that God the Father has glorified His Servant, Jesus. He then points out that the people had denied Jesus but wanted Barabbas, a murderer, to go free. He calls Jesus the Holy One and Righteous and the Prince of Life, Whom the Father has now raised from the dead. This is the first and foremost reason they should trust in Jesus. Jesus is the only way to God. There is no other way, in spite of what you may have heard.



Peter later points out in verses 22 - 26 that Moses, in Deuteronomy eighteen verses fifteen, eighteen and nineteen has said “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear. God states in verses 18 – 19: “I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. That Prophet is Jesus Christ. He is to be received and His message accepted.

The one most important thing in a person’s life is in verse nineteen, that is, to repent. Repent is a good word. It means to change your mind about the sin in your life and live for God. Why should anyone do such a thing? God tells us in Acts three verse twenty six, that He sent Jesus to be a great blessing to each of our lives. Also, the reason that Jesus was sent is stated clearly in John three sixteen. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

“The word used for this love is agapao. This is love that is by choice or by will. This word denotes unconquerable benevolence and undefeatable goodwill. This love will never seek anything but the highest good for mankind. It is a love unknown outside of the New Testament.” (WW Spirit filled life Bible.)

The most important thing in your entire life is to repent and receive Jesus, God’s only Son as your personal savior. No one else can do this for you. You will be responsible before God the Father on judgment day only for one thing. Did you receive or reject His Son, Jesus. That is all, but it is everything. This is the Gospel, the good news. If you have read the Scriptures above and never accepted Jesus into your heart, you can do so right now by simply believing in your heart of hearts that the Father raised Him from the dead and saying with your mouth that you want Jesus as your Savior and Lord (this is according to Romans 10:10 and 13. If you long for something “more” and your heart is ready, He is waiting. Say the following prayer.

Father in Heaven, I believe in my heart, that you have raised Jesus Christ from the dead. I realize I need to repent, and do so right now by telling you that I am sincerely and completely sorry for the sin in my life, all of it. I desire to live forever in Heaven with you. I receive You, Jesus, right now as my Lord and Savior.

Lead me in the ways I should go through Your Word. Thank you, Lord. I have called upon Your name and am now Your child. Thank You for Your wonderful cleansing forgiveness of all my sin and for becoming my King of Kings and Lord of my life. Amen Thank you that I will now have heaven as my future home and eternal life with you. Amen.

shield of faith will protect us and allow us to fight back against these attacks. In addition, a united body of believers (like the Roman centurion) looking out for one another, we can grow stronger in our faith. Remember, when we put our faith in God and His Word, we are unstoppable. When the Roman army joined its shields together, it became an almost unstoppable force. If we in God's Church join *our* shields—that is, strengthen each other with our faith, building up and serving within the Body as we are able—we will become an unstoppable force able to take on any challenge. We must remember as we fight that this is not simply our battle. This is the battle of all our brethren, both near and around the world. And if we are to win, it will only be once we put our faith in God and stand side by side, contending earnestly and as one for "our common salvation...the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3).

Helmet of Salvation



It’s difficult to deny the importance of a proper helmet. Countless lives are lost in all sorts of sports because someone neglected to wear a helmet. What is this “helmet of salvation?” Simply put, it is inviting Christ into your heart and surrendering your life completely to Him. Romans 10:8-11 says it like this, “⁸But what does it say? The Word (God’s message in Christ) is near you, on your lips and in your heart; that is, the Word (the message, the basis and object) of faith which we preach, ⁹Because if you acknowledge *and* confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart a person believes (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) *and* confirms [his] salvation. ¹¹The Scripture says, No man who believes in Him [who adheres to, relies on, and trusts in Him] will [ever] be put to shame *or* be disappointed.” Without the helmet of salvation, we will be unprotected from the cares of this world that bombard our thoughts and feelings. The worries and problems would overwhelm us! Psalm 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” As long as we keep our helmet securely fastened, we can have the same confidence that Paul did that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). We understand that *it doesn't matter* what happens to us now. No matter what trials we face, we know that at the end of it all waits God's Kingdom and an eternity of His perfect reign—and what could be better than that? Salvation comes from God, and God is on our side. If we commit to fully follow and obey Him, it is impossible for us to lose our battle or our salvation. Just as a soldier in the battlefield can take off his helmet, so can we. I heard a well know minister say that God will never walk away from us; but, we have the freedom to walk away from Him.

Sword of the Spirit



Do you recall the story of Gideon in Judges 7? He started out with 32,000 men to do battle with a Midianite army of 135,000 men. God whittled Gideon’s 32,000 down to 300. When they went up against the army of 32,000 the unthinkable happened – they blew trumpets, broke pitchers covering their torches and shouted, “The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!” Before the Israelites even had a chance to reach for their swords the LORD plunged the enemy camp into chaos and they killed one another. Such is our God. Throughout history there have been mighty men and their swords – King Arthur and Excalibur, Ali and his Scimitar, El Cid and his sword, William Wallace and his claymore, and the list goes on. We remember these men because it is their sword, and only their sword, that allowed them to ATTACK. The sword gave them the ability to do what needed to be done. The Roman *gladius* has become know as “the sword that conquered the world.” It’s dual edge wreaked havoc on unarmored foes and the tapered point pierced even heavy metal armor. The sword is the only weapon Paul lists as part of the Believer’s arsenal.

What is the “sword of the Spirit?” Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Nothing can withstand God’s Word. The only way we can walk successfully on the individual path God has called us to is with the sword of the Spirit – God’s Word. God’s Word is truth (John 17:17), a lamp to your feet and light to your path (Psalm 119:105). Swords are designed for close-in combat. Our battles / trials are always close at hand. There is NO enemy that the Word of God and the Holy Spirit [in our life] cannot defeat. We fight because we know the end of the story. Romans 8:31 says, “...If God is for us, who can be against us?”

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