

The Power of the Gospel: Forget None of His Benefits (Ps. 103)

I. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

- A. The gospel has qualified us to freely receive God's love, power, favor, and many other benefits. We experience these benefits by having faith—confident agreement—in Jesus' work on the cross.
- ¹⁶...the gospel of Christ...is the power of God to salvation [from the penalty and power of sin] for everyone who believes...¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed. (Rom. 1:16-17)***
- ¹⁸For the message of the cross...to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor. 1:18)***
- B. Paul's dramatic declaration that we have become a new creation in Christ, with all things becoming new, has vast implications. The "he" that is a new creation is our born-again spirit.
- ¹⁷If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away...all things have become new...²¹that we [our spirit] might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)***
1. ***Old things passed away:*** We were under *condemnation* before God, and *powerless* with regard to overcoming sin at the heart level and resisting the attacks of the devil.
 2. ***All things are new:*** We are *accepted and enjoyed* by God and have the *authority of Jesus' name* and the *indwelling Spirit*, which enable us to resist sin, sickness, and Satan.
- C. David was zealous to experience *all* the benefits of the grace of God available to him (Ps. 103:1-5).
- ²Bless the LORD...forget none of His benefits; ³who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases; ⁴who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; ⁵who satisfies your years with good things, so your youth is renewed like the eagle. (Ps. 103:2-5, NASB)***
- D. ***The Lord who pardons all:*** All of our sins are forgiven; there is no condemnation before God.
- E. ***The Lord who heals all:*** Jesus purchased our healing on the cross. It is God's nature to heal, as revealed through the ministry of Jesus. One reason Jesus came was to destroy Satan's works (1 Jn. 3:8). Healing is partial yet substantial in this age, and full and final for all in the age to come.
- ⁸For this purpose the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil. (1 Jn. 3:8)***
- ³⁸Jesus...went about doing good...healing all who were oppressed by the devil. (Acts 10:38)***
- ¹⁷"These signs will follow those who believe...¹⁸they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mk. 16:17-18)***
- F. Satan attacks God's people through deception, accusation, fear, oppression, etc. Jesus gave His people authority over Satan. Authority is delegated power. A police officer stops a car by the authority of the government (backed up by the might of the military), not his own physical power.

¹⁹*"I give you the authority...over all the power of the enemy." (Lk. 10:19)*

II. OVERCOMING THE ATTACKS OF THE ENEMY

- A. We are transformed by changing how we think. Transformation begins by *knowing* who we are in Christ. As our mind is renewed, our emotions are transformed, and thus our behavior changes. Our emotions are not transformed by *trying harder*, but by *seeing the truth* more clearly.

²*Be transformed [in our emotions] by the renewing of your mind. (Rom. 12:2)*

³²*"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (Jn. 8:32)*

- B. Faith does not come by asking, but by *hearing* the Word. Our heart *hears* best and most when the Word comes *from our own lips* as we speak it to the Lord or to the enemy.

¹⁷*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:17)*

- C. We release Jesus' power in our life by our confession of the Word. Our words are powerful and cause either faith or fear to grow in us, which results in our living in either freedom or oppression.

¹⁴*Let us hold fast our confession...¹⁶*Come boldly to the throne of grace. (Heb. 4:14-16)**

- D. When condemnation, shame, fear, hopelessness, lust, etc., rise up in us to challenge what God promised in His Word about loving, forgiving, empowering, directing, or providing for us, then we must apply the promise of the Word to our heart by *confessing the truth* and *resisting lies*.

- E. When our words agree with God's Word, we release His power in our life in a greater measure. When our words agree with Satan's lies, we allow darkness to continue to attack us. Many have "faith" in the devil's words. Whose words do you allow to take root in your heart?

- F. **Analogy:** Imagine a homeless beggar who suddenly inherited great wealth. The *announcement* of his new inheritance doesn't stop him from living in poverty; he must take the simple step of withdrawing the money. It only takes a few moments, but it is essential to *accessing* the wealth.

- G. Our confession of truth engages our heart with God; it is what we say to the indwelling Spirit about who we are in Christ. The word that contains God's promises and releases His power is so near. It is as close as speaking it. There is a deep connection between what we say and what our heart believes or how it moves with confidence. In Romans 10, Paul refers to what Moses said in Deut. 30:14.

⁸*The word is near you, in your mouth...that is, the word of faith...⁹*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart...you will be saved [delivered from the penalty and power of sin and Satan]. ¹⁰*For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation [enjoying the power of salvation]. (Rom. 10:8-10)***

- H. In Deuteronomy 30, Moses taught that the command to love and obey God was not *too mysterious* (too hard to understand); nor was it *far off* (outside their ability to do it); nor did they need to *ascend to heaven* (have a heavenly encounter) or *go overseas* (receive it from others) to love and obey God.

¹¹“This commandment...is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us...?’ ¹³Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us...?’ ¹⁴The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.” (Deut. 30:11-14)