

## ***THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH***

One day I sat down with a young person who wanted to do “missions work”. This person was full of zeal and very excited about missions. So, I asked: “***How would you present the gospel to someone?***” This person did not know how to answer that question. This person wanted support to do “missions work”, but did not know how to go about sharing the gospel. That is a major issue.

You see if you don't get the MESSAGE right, then it doesn't matter how much you emphasize Missions, Church Planting, or Evangelism.

My concern is that we get the message right.

### **1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV)**

4 [God] who desires all men to be saved and to **come to the knowledge of the truth.**

If people are going to be saved, they must come to the knowledge of the truth. There are some things one must KNOW in order to be saved. There are gospel FACTS (knowledge) that must be shared with people or they cannot be saved. Before we are really equipped to do the “mission”, we must get the “message” right. That is, we must get the gospel message right! Everything builds on this.

The Bible tells us that once we are Christians, we should equip ourselves so that we are always prepared to give an answer whenever we have an opportunity.

### **1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)**

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

### **Definition of Saving Faith:**

Saving faith is from the heart, believing in Jesus Christ alone as my personal Savior Who died for all of my sins and as my personal Lord, Who is God Almighty as declared by His resurrection from the dead.

### **4 Core Gospel Related Truths**

- 1) Sin – Repentance
- 2) Who Jesus is: God-Man

- 3) What Jesus did: Died for our sins/Rose again
- 4) Receive by Faith alone

Every full gospel presentation must include these four things. Paul begins his great systematic presentation of the gospel as found in Romans by addressing the issue of sin as seen in Romans 1-3. We must come to where we admit we are sinners in need of salvation (Rom. 3:23).

John writes his entire gospel so that we might believe in Jesus for WHO He is – that we might believe in His Name (cf. John 20:30-31). His NAME is WHO He is! The very first verse in John begins with Who Jesus is as God (Jn. 1:1), and then a few verses later John explains that the word became flesh (human – Jn. 1:14). The climactic illustration of saving faith in the book is that of “Doubting Thomas” who came to see the risen Lord as “My Lord and my God!” (Jn. 20:28).

Paul repeatedly summarizes the gospel as being that Christ died for our sins and rose again (cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 1 Thess 4:14).

Romans emphasizes that the gospel must be believed (Rom. 1:16-17). There must be a personal response of faith, of which Abraham is the premiere example in all the Scriptures (cf. Rom. 4; Gal. 3).

Putting it all together: We must have a change of mind (repentance) about sin and acknowledge we need to be saved. We must believe in Jesus for WHO He is as Lord/God and Savior. He died for us as Savior and rose again as Lord over all. Saving faith personally accepts CHRIST for WHO He is. It is not merely intellectually believing “facts” but with the heart personally appropriating Jesus for WHO He is (Rom. 10:9-10). It’s not just about receiving a gift, but rather receiving the GIVER for Who He is. It must be REAL in the heart! It must be PERSONAL!

### **John 1:12 (NKJV)**

**12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

### **1 Timothy 1:15–16 (NKJV)**

**15** This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

**16** However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.