



# Grace Renewal - Applying the Gospel to the Pastor's Heart

## The NEED for Gospel Renewal

**1 Timothy 4.11-16:** 11 Command and teach these things. 12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 14 Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. 16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

**2 Timothy 1.13-14:** 13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

### What is Gospel Renewal?

**Gospel Renewal: a life changing recovery of the gospel.** Personal gospel renewal means the gospel doctrines of sin and grace are actually experienced, not just known intellectually. This personal renewal includes an awareness and conviction of one's own sin and alienation from God and comes from seeing in ourselves deeper layers of self-justification, unbelief and self-righteousness than we have ever seen before. There is a new commensurate grasp of the wonder of forgiveness and grace as we shed these attitudes and practices and rest in Christ alone for salvation.<sup>1</sup>

- How do you know if “a life changing recovery of the gospel” is happening? What are the marks or evidence of gospel renewal?

- What keeps consistent gospel renewal from happening?

<sup>1</sup> Keller, Timothy J. *Center Church*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan 2012). Loc 109/950 (Chapter 4)

## Who does the work of Gospel Renewal? The Holy Spirit and you.

**Corporate Gospel Renewal** — what has sometimes been called “revival” — is a season in which a whole body of believers experience personal gospel renewal together.<sup>2</sup>

### 3 Views of Revival:

1. Charismatic
2. Preaching/events
3. Intensification of normal works of the Spirit

### The ***normal*** works of the Holy Spirit:

1. Conviction of sin
2. Regeneration & Sanctification
3. Assurance of grace

### The ordinary means of grace:

1. Preaching of the Word
2. Prayer
3. Sacraments

**John 16.14-15:** *14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.'*

## Where does Gospel Renewal happen? In the heart.

**Galatians 6.4:** *Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'*

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

**Romans 5.5:** *And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

**The Heart:**

- Feels emotions (Leviticus 19.17; Psalm 4.7; 13.2)
- Thinks and reasons (Proverbs 23.7; Mark 2.8)
- Manages our actions (Ecclesiastes 10.2)

**Ephesians 3.14-19:** *14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

There are two petitions or prayers in this text:

1. That God may strengthen us with power through his Spirit in our inner being (16-17a)
2. That we might have power to grasp the limitless dimensions of the love of Christ (17b-19)

• What assumption is Paul making about his readers?

• In regard to Paul's first petition, why does Paul pray that Christians might know more of God's power? And with what measure of resources is the prayer to be answered?

• In regard to Paul's second petition, what is the benefit of grasping the limitless dimensions of the love of Christ?

• What evidence do you think you'd see in your life (church, marriage, family, evangelism) if the Lord answered these two prayers for you?

# What keeps consistent gospel renewal from happening?

## Idols.

**Idol:** Anything we look to more than we look to Christ for our sense of acceptability, joy, significance, hope, and security is by definition our god — something we adore, serve and rely on with our whole life and heart.<sup>3</sup>

### Idols can be good things...

- Family
- Achievement
- Work & Career
- Romance
- Talent
- Gospel Ministry too!

### Idols can be bad things...

- Lying
- Lust
- Covetousness
- Pride
- Stealing
- Anger

- Looking at this list, in what way would doing the things on this list also cause us to break the first command?

**How to identify your idols:** At the end of *Counterfeit Gods* Keller gives a series of diagnostic questions to ask to identify your idols.<sup>4</sup>

1. Look at your **imagination**, the place where your thoughts effortlessly go when there is nothing else demanding your attention.
  - a. What do you enjoy daydreaming about?
  - b. What occupies your mind when you have nothing else to think about?
  - c. Do you develop potential scenarios about career advancement? Or material goods such as a home? Or a relationship with a particular person?
  - d. One or two daydreams are no indication of idolatry. Ask rather: what do you habitually think about to get joy and comfort in the privacy of your heart?
2. Look at how you spend your **money** because your money flows effortlessly toward your heart's greatest love.
3. Look at your faith. You may have a full, devout set of doctrinal beliefs. You may be trying very hard to believe and obey God. However:
  - a. What is your real daily functional salvation?
  - b. What are you really living for, what is your real—not your professed—god?
  - c. How do you respond to unanswered prayers and frustrated hopes?

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid. Loc 149/950 (Chapter 5)

<sup>4</sup> Keller, Timothy. *Counterfeit Gods*. (New York, NY: Dutton, 2009) p 167-170

4. Look at your most **uncontrollable emotions**. Look especially at the bottom of your most painful emotions, especially those that never seem to lift and that drive you to do things you know are wrong. When you “pull your emotions up by the roots” you will often find your idols clinging to them.
- a. If you are angry ask: Is there something here too important to me, something I must have at all costs?
  - b. If you have fear, despair or guilt ask: Am I so scared because something in my life is being threatened that I think is a necessity when it is not? Am I so down on myself because I have lost or failed at something that I think is a necessity when it is not?
  - c. If you are overworking ask: Do I feel that I *must* have this thing to be fulfilled and signifiant?

- Take a moment to reflect on your own life, what are your idols? Share that with one person sitting next to you then pray Ephesians 3.14-19 for one another.

## Legalism and Antinomianism.

### Three Ways to Respond to God:

**Irreligion:** *avoiding God as Lord and Saviour by ignoring him altogether.*<sup>5</sup>

**Religion:** *avoiding God as Lord and Saviour by developing a moral righteousness and then presenting it to God in an effort to show that he “owes” you.*<sup>6</sup>

**Gospel:** *embracing God as Lord and Saviour by trusting the good news about what has been done by Jesus Christ to rescue us in order to put right our relationship with God.*<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Keller, Timothy J. *Center Church*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan 2012). Loc 131/950 (Chapter 5)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, loc 51-52/950.

Legalism	Liberalism	Gospel Christianity
God is holy	God is love	God is holy AND love
We are sinful: have to earn it	God accepts all	We are sinful and accepted
Earn your righteousness	You don't need perfect righteousness	Receive God's perfect righteousness
Matter is bad; we are fallen (Asceticism)	Matter is good; we aren't fallen (satisfy physical appetites)	Matter is good yet we are fallen (physical enjoyment; yet simple living)
Sin only effects individuals – just do evangelism	Naïve about depth of human sin – just social action	Sin effects both individual and social systems – do both evangelism and social action
People can't change (OR change is easy!)	People don't need to change	People can change but no quick fixes
Go into guilt (work it off)	Go away from guilt (convince that its OK)	Go through guilt (rest in Christ)
Truth without grace	Grace without truth	Truth with Grace; Grace with Truth
Obey the truth to be saved	We are accepted by God regardless of what we do	We are unconditionally accepted by God
Repent only of sins	Don't repent	Repentance: turning from self-justification to reliance on Jesus' record
Sorry for sins – failure to live up to standards for self salvation	Not sorry at all Only sorry for bad consequences of sins	Christians realize that <i>both</i> their sins and their best deeds have been ways of avoiding Jesus as savior.
Without a knowledge of Christ's completely satisfying life and death, the knowledge of sin crushes us or moves us to deny and repress it.	Without a knowledge of our extreme sin, the payment of the gospel seems trivial and does not electrify or transform us.	Sin's overwhelming load has been taken by the one who could bear it and we are freed to respond in love. The truth of this transforms the Christian's life.

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## Why do we need consistent gospel renewal?

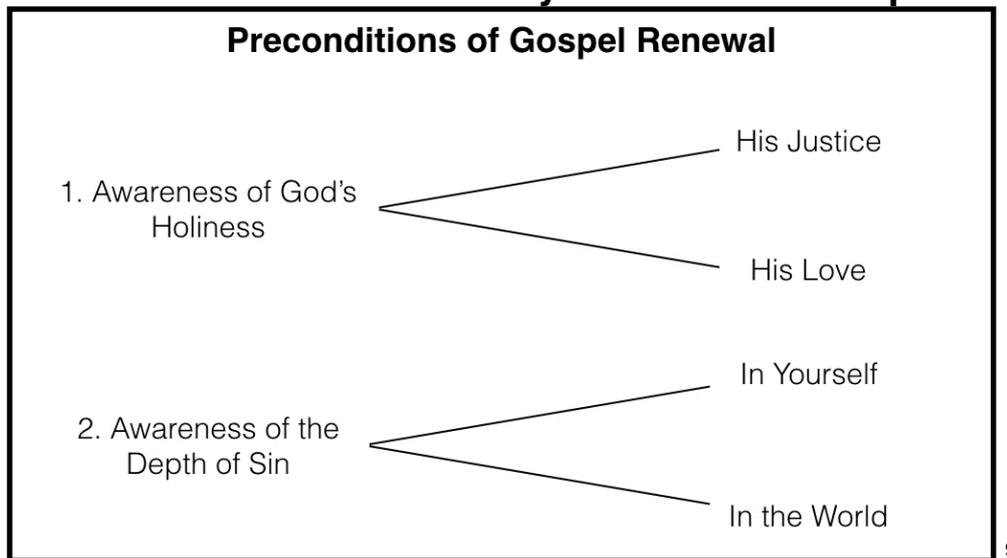
**Jeremiah 17.9:** *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

<sup>8</sup> Redeemer City to City. *Immersion Participant's Guide*

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# The ESSENCE of Gospel Renewal.

## The Preconditions & Primary Elements of Gospel Renewal



## How do you know if gospel renewal is happening?

### Corporate Gospel Renewal:

1. Sleepy Christians wake up.
2. Nominal Christians get converted.
3. Hard to reach non-Christians are dramatically converted.

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<sup>9</sup> Lovelace, Richard. *Renewal as a Way of Life*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. p 136

<sup>10</sup> Lovelace, Richard. *Renewal as a Way of Life*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. p 136

## Personal Gospel Renewal:

1. Enjoyment of the gospel is recovered.
2. Repentance is regular.
3. Sense of God's presence.
4. Ministry is happening around you.
5. Experience of extraordinary prayer.

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## The WORK of Gospel Renewal.

### Prayer

#### Outline for Praying Scripture<sup>11</sup>

- Read the passage through several times for understanding.
- Write a one sentence main point.
- Pray
  1. **Adoration** - Respond to God in heartfelt praise by reflecting on how the passage describes him or his actions.
  2. **Confession** - Respond to God in confession for any sin you've committed mentioned in the passage and any other unconfessed sin.
  3. **Gospel Thankfulness** - Respond to God in thankfulness for how Jesus provides forgiveness for the sin you just confessed, and in thankfulness that Jesus is the best example of how to live out this passage.
  4. **Aspiration** - Ask God to help you live out this passage. Then pray for anything else on your mind.



 **UPCOMING EVENT**

# Identity

14 May 2019

[WWW.CITYTOCITYUK.COM/IDENTITY](http://WWW.CITYTOCITYUK.COM/IDENTITY)

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<sup>11</sup> Adapted from: Keller, Timothy J. *Prayer*. (New York, NY: Dutton. 2014)