



Episode 1: Gospel Joy

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“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.” — PSALM 51:10-13

Summary

God gives us love, peace, and joy through the gospel. We can't create it. We don't need to try to manufacture it ourselves. We just need to go to Him with our deepest needs and honestly seek His face. Christians ought to do this daily: repenting of sin and believing in Christ, receiving forgiveness and love from God, walking in faithful obedience by the power of the spirit. This is living out the gospel. It produces joy in the Lord and keeps us humble. The process of living the gospel inside/out will also fuel our evangelism efforts. If we cherish the gospel and live from it, we will more naturally see the need that our neighbors have for a Savior. We will view them through the eyes of compassion, because we have hope that God will save them, just as he has saved us through this magnificent gospel. So in our journey to more faithfully engaging in evangelism, the first stepping stone is to rekindle our love for Christ and the gospel. If your heart has grown cold or bored with it, pray that the Lord would ‘restore to me the joy of my salvation’.

Podcast Listening Notes

Reflection Questions

What is the gospel message? How would you summarize it? What are some key verses that summarize it? Take a few moments and record what comes to mind.

Does evangelism feel overwhelming to you? What are some obstacles or fears that you face that hinder you in evangelizing others?

What do you think 'relationship evangelism' means? What role does hospitality play in Christian witness?



Action Point

Take time this week to preach the gospel to yourself while getting ready for work, in the car, walking the dog, doing dishes, or wherever. Confess your specific sins. Remind yourself of the cross of Christ and his resurrection, which is powerful to save. Remind yourself that there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:1). Receive forgiveness, cleansing, joy, and the power of the Spirit by confessing trust in Christ. Speak aloud as you would if you were talking to another.



Prayer Prompt

Pray through Psalm 51. Go to God with your deepest needs. Receive his transforming love. Ask for the joy of the Lord and overflow with that joy to others who need Jesus too.