

GOOD NEWS



If you could reach up and pull back the curtains of the physical reality, right at this moment, and look into the eyes of God, what do you think you would see? The Bible says we would see *"God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16 ESV. You would see eyes of appointment not disappointment. You would see eyes of encouragement, not eyes of discouragement. You would see the eyes of love. This is GOOD NEWS! This was an astounding revelation to the world of religious people of the day when it was written. All cultures saw God (or the gods) as vindictive, harsh, and capricious. This is how many imagine God today as well. But the Bible gives us GOOD NEWS. Our loving Father in heaven looks upon us with eyes of love. And He has made the way for us to come to Him in forgiveness, in righteousness, blessing, and in love.

After the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, He commissioned His disciples saying, *"GO into all the world and preach the gospel"*. The word *'gospel'* in the Greek is literally GOOD NEWS. Many modern translations also use that word as a more understandable modern term. There's a lot of bad news out there. Pundits and scientists alike tell us this chaotic world is ending in a climate catastrophe, and the universe is a cold, heartless, and a purposeless accident. It is also true that if you read the entire Bible you are going to find a lot of bad news in there as well. He does not overwhelm us with death, hell, and judgement. He commanded, *"Preach the GOOD NEWS"*

This is a great time to be alive. To live in the day that God shines His grace upon lost souls. The day that the love of God, not the Judgement of God is poured upon all men. The GOOD NEWS is that Jesus paid the price for our sins. Jesus is The Way to the loving arms of God reaching out to us. He said to him who *'believes'*. Trust, or belief is the repair to every broken relationship. Faith, belief, and trust are the most positive instructions. He doesn't anchor us to our failures, He anchors us to Christ. He holds us to faith. This is the Word of FAITH which we preach Roman 10:8. It is GOOD NEWS that God does not required an entrance exam, or a payment for our shortcomings. It's GOOD NEWS that He calls us to believe. A child can believe. A person that cannot understand the *'how'* or the *'why'* can still believe. And that is God's grace.

How does one respond to such wonderful news? How did people respond to Christ when their hearts were enlightened and their spiritual eyes opened to the love that He has for them? Romans 10:8-11 ESV says, *"The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the Word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."* There's the beautiful simple Bible truth.

No better Way to start this Journey of following Christ than to pray as His Word instructs us. *"Thank you Jesus for forgiving my sins, I receive you in my heart, as my Lord. I believe that you died on the cross for my sins, and that you rose from the dead by the power of God. I confess you today as my Lord and Savior. Thank you. Amen"*

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