

## Gospel Fluency: Basic Vocabulary

To speak the gospel, you must understand all that Jesus accomplishes through the cross. When asked the question, “What does Jesus’ death on the cross do for you today?”, most people respond that His sacrifice pays the penalty for our sin. While true, this is only one aspect of the many far-reaching implications of his death and resurrection. Here is a list of the effects that the gospel has on our daily lives. There may be some big words in this list, but they are biblical. Hopefully, the explanations will help you have a working understanding of how they might help you share the gospel. Remember, salvation is not just good news for our eternity, but for our marriages, jobs, grades, parenting - every aspect of our lives.

- **Salvation** (Acts 4:12, Romans 1:16)—Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection save us from our sins. We are all working to fix our problems through work, relationships, success, etc. - trying to save ourselves, but only Jesus can make us complete.
- **Justification** (Romans 3:20-26, Galatians 2:16)—We are given the righteousness of Jesus and have his perfect standing with God. Our value doesn’t come from who we are or what we do - it comes from Jesus.
- **Reconciliation** (Colossians 1:21-22)—We were once enemies of God through our sin, but Christ has brought us back into a right relationship with God. We can now mend broken relationships with those around us.
- **Adoption** (Romans 8:12-17)—We have been adopted as sons and heirs of God. We are now cherished members of God’s eternal family - the church.
- **New Creation** (2 Corinthians 5:17-22)—We are made into a new creation: new heart, new mind, new desires. We are no longer controlled by our sinful desires or marked by our sinful past.
- **New Identity** (Romans 8:1, 15-17)—We have been given a new identity in Jesus. We are no longer labeled by what we have done or by what has been done to us.
- **Freedom** (Galatians 5:1, 13; Romans 8:1-4)—We were slaves to sin and idolatry, but by the grace of God, we’ve been completely freed. Jesus accomplished what the law, moralism, obedience, religion, and human effort could never do.
- **Eternity** (Philippians 3:12-21, Revelation 20-22)—We have been given eternal life with God. We can experience all of life, the good and the bad, with hope in the knowledge that our future is secure and eternal.
- **Works** (Ephesians 2:4-10)—We are saved by Jesus’ work on the cross and not works of our own. This means that all of our actions can be motivated by having God’s love rather than by trying to earn it.
- **Love** (John 3:16, 1 John 4:4-7)—We are fully loved because Jesus loved us first, so you can rest in his love. We can love other people out of the overflow of that gift, not based off of our similarities, interests, compatibility, etc.
- **Security** (Galatians 3:6-9)—Our salvation is held eternally secure because God promised that he would save us, and then Jesus accomplished that salvation on the cross. Salvation begins and ends with God. No amount of money, success, or titles on earth will provide that security.

- **Provision** (2 Corinthians 8:9)—Jesus provides our greatest need of rescue by dying on the cross. We can trust him all the more to provide for our basic needs of water, food, shelter, clothing, etc.
- **Propitiation** (Romans 3:21-26)—The wrath that God has toward sin and sinners was absorbed by Jesus on the cross. God is not mad at us when we sin. He is not punishing us for our mistakes.
- **Justice** (Romans 3:21-26)—God’s ultimate justice is satisfied by Jesus on the cross - all sin is paid for. We never have to seek vengeance when we’ve been wronged. All sin will be paid for either by sinners or by Jesus.
- **Expiation** (Leviticus 16, Romans 8:1, Hebrews 12:1-2)—Jesus takes away all the shame and guilt of our sin and the sins committed against us. We can talk about our sins and struggles without fear.
- **Sacrifice** (Matthew 16:24)—Jesus gave his life as a ransom to save sinful people. In response to this gift, we can sacrificially give of our own lives for the good of others, knowing the certainty of our future.
- **Sanctification** (Romans 8:9-11, 12:1-2)—Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, He sends the Holy Spirit to indwell and lead believers. As we follow Jesus, He transforms us more and more into the image of Jesus.
- **Mission** (John 3:16, Matthew 28:18-20)—Jesus rescues a people from their sin and send them out to declare this good news as his church. The mission of Jesus gives purpose to every aspect of our lives as we seek to share this good news and make disciples.
- **Empowerment** (John 20:21-22, Acts 1:8, Acts 2, 1 Cor 12)—The Holy Spirit seals and empowers believers for the work of the ministry as missionaries to our world. We are equipped and empowered for all the work God has called us to.