

Gospel and Four Spiritual Principles

Outline

1. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin (*Heb 9:22*)
2. Without repentance, you will perish (*Luke 13:3*)
3. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (*Heb 11:6*)
4. Without Me you can do nothing (*John 15:4-9*)

1. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin (*Heb 9:22*)

Mahatma Gandhi loved the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament but commented that the Old Testament was revolting to him. Gandhi was an Indian and a vegetarian, and the shedding of blood is repelling to all Indian vegetarians. There's blood and blood everywhere in the OT sacrifices — all required by God to forgive sin. But why does God require blood for the forgiveness of sins? Because the wages of sin against God is death (Rom 6:23)! Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness (Heb 11:22). Of course, the blood of bulls, sheep and goats cannot pay for human sin. It was only pointing to the perfect blood of Jesus. Jesus is God and became man to pay for man's sins. (By the way, none of us will accept a blood transfusion from an animal, but only from another human being of whatever race or social status. No animal blood can pay for our sins).

Anthropologists (those who study the history and practices of human cultures) say that every people group in the world, at some time or the other in their history, practised blood sacrifice to appease their gods.

In all the world religions, except Christianity, the blood flows from the devotees to their gods to appease them for their sins. But in Christianity, the blood flows from God towards us, who are His followers, to cleanse us from our sins. All that is required of us is faith in His sacrifice. This is a vast difference! (Source Unknown).

We see this as we study *Isaiah 6:1-9* below.

2. Without repentance, you will perish (*Luke 13:3*)

The Bible says, “*Man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment*” (Heb 11:29). If you meet any random person and ask, “Why would God admit you to heaven when you die?” they would answer, “I hope He would because I'm a good person and I have done a lot of good things in my life.” Most people honestly believe they are good.

But God is perfect and majestic in holiness (Exodus 15:11). God is a consuming fire (Heb 12:29). He requires moral perfection for us to stand before Him. The prophet Isaiah was a good person by our standards. Yet when he beheld God, he immediately realised his sinfulness and was terrified. Isaiah faced the wrath of God.

Isa 6:1-8 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” ⁴ At the sound of

their voices, the doorposts and thresholds shook, and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it, he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Most people do not believe in the wrath of the Holy God. They think that somehow God will wink at our sinfulness. But then God wouldn’t be righteous. We are all destined to die once and face judgment after death. But we can be like Isaiah today and accept the provision of God to take away our sins or face God’s wrath on judgment day. There are four elements to consider in Isa 6:1-8:

- **A high view of God** (*Isa 6:1-4*)
- **We may sincerely repent** (*Isa 6:5*). We know we will face God’s wrath for rebelling against Him. We do not trust our reasonable opinion of ourselves. But we change the direction of our life to surrender to God. Turning and surrendering to God is repentance.
- **Accept the provision of our salvation that God provides from heaven** (*Isa 6:6-7*). That provision speaks of the Son of God who came from heaven, became man in Jesus Christ and shed His blood on the cross for our salvation—which is the gospel (good news). Jesus lived a life we should have lived but didn’t. Then He died on the cross to pay the punishment for our sins that we should have paid, but He spent instead because he loves us. He rose again from the dead, having satisfied the justice and holiness of God on our behalf.
- **Be willing to spread the message of the gospel to others out of gratitude to God** and concern for our fellow men (*Isa 6:8*).

3. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (*Heb 11:6*)

God so loved the world that He provided the atonement for man’s sin by giving His **one and only Son, Jesus** — to die for all humanity — so that **whoever** believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life (the marvellous message in John 3:16). But if we don’t believe (without faith) in God’s **only** offer of salvation through Christ, then we will perish. There is no other way but the only way through Jesus. Therefore, without faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord, it is impossible **to please God** (*Heb 11:6*)!

So, what is this faith that saves you? It has three parts—(a) we must know the content of the gospel as the only way to salvation, (b) we must mentally agree with the gospel, and (c) we must trust our lives on the gospel (which includes repentance).

You cannot be saved without fully trusting Jesus to save you! You can’t face the holiness of God by your heritage, your good works, your knowledge, or even by your church membership. If you do not have faith (trust) in the atonement provided from heaven (*Isa 6:6-7* above), you will perish!

But something extraordinary happens when you put your faith in Jesus.

- **You become part of God’s new creation:** The old creation, ruled by Satan, sin and death, will perish eternally. God will not allow this miserable creation to continue. God has already started making a new creation through Jesus, and when you receive Him as lord of your life, you are part of His new creation (2 Cor 5:16). You will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).
- **You receive a new relationship with God:** You become a child of God with the Spirit of sonship by whom you can cry “*Abba Father*” (*Rom 8:15*). Jesus and the Father love you the same way they love each

other (*John 15:9, 17:23*) and nothing can separate you from His love (*Rom 8:28-39, John 10:27-30*).

- **You receive new spiritual power to overcome sin and worldly temptations:** Everyone born of God overcomes the world and does not continue to sin (*1 John 5:4, 18*). You get a new heart and spirit by which you can obey and serve the Lord (*Ezk 36:25-27, Heb 8:10, 10:15-16*). You have peace the world cannot give (*John 16:33, Rom 5:1*). As you obey Jesus, His joy will be in you, and your joy will be complete (*John 15:11*)

There are a lot more results than those listed above. But none of them you earn by any good works you may have done! All these God freely gives you as you trust His Son Jesus! He becomes the indescribable gift from heaven. The more you believe, the more you will honour God; the less you believe, the less you will honour God. Jesus said, *“The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent (John 6:29).*

4. Without Me you can do nothing (*John 15:4-9*) — Union with Christ

Jesus tells us that without Him (being in union with Him), we cannot bear any spiritual fruit. Before we were born again, we might have had a **formal relationship** with Jesus, which may also include regularly attending church. But after we were born again, we have a **vital relationship** with Jesus. We are in union with Christ through the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Christ), who resides in our hearts when we accept Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. But then, Jesus tells us to **remain in Him** (*John 15:4*), which means maintaining and nourishing that vital relationship with Him. For this, we must do two things:

- a. Let My words remain in you (*John 15:7*)—which means to meditate on His words and make His words rule your heart and direct the way you think and live.
- b. Remain in My love (*John 15:9*)—which means never doubt His immense love for you demonstrated by the cross.

By doing these two things, you will not obstruct the Holy Spirit from bringing divine life into you — as sap flows from the stem of a plant to the branches.

You will bear fruit.

2 Pet 1:3-4 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

The primary fruit is to be a disciple of Jesus (*John 15:8*) and participate, in one way or the other, to make disciples of others (*Matt 28:19*); in other words — Christlike character and participating in Christ’s mission.

All our works will one day be tested by fire (*1 Cor 3:10-15*) to see whether they were of noble metal or wood and hay. If you have genuine faith in Jesus, it will result in fruit (good works) done in union with Christ, and God will reward you. If there is no fruit, then your faith may not be genuine. Thus, your union with Christ may be a formal or fake and a fruitless union—such a branch will be cut away from the vine and perish (*John 15: 6*). Here, **I must encourage new Christians** to maintain and nourish their vital relationship with Jesus by keep trusting God’s love for them, be faithful in Prayer and Bible Reading, and submit to God and your church leaders for discipleship. Gradually you will bear fruit that will remain.

Conclusion: The importance of the gospel

The gospel of Jesus is the ONE & ONLY pathway to a relationship with the Father (*John 14:6*). Therefore, the gospel becomes the most beautiful, unique, and excellent news from heaven. We must keep learning, meditating and praying for a greater revelation of the gospel throughout our lives because we will keep receiving new insights for ourselves—especially the revelation of the wondrous beauty of Jesus Christ.

We need to preach it, share it and talk about it as often as possible with others, and as we do so, we will become the most significant possible blessing to others. The gospel is the glorious pathway to true worship of God, discipleship, personal revival, fruitful life, and bringing the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.