

Introduction

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1. My need to hear what the Spirit is saying

In 2020, the pandemic hit the world, bringing us all to a standstill. God was speaking and wanted us to listen. I felt God speak to me through “Seedbed” devotionals by J. D. Walt, mainly as he analysed Barna’s research of North American Churches. Walt concludes by saying we need **holy discontent** with where we are in our spiritual walk with God. Walt says,

- *Holy discontent is the distance between the truth one knows and the reality one experiences.*
- *If the gospel’s first half is about believing in Jesus, the second half is about becoming like Jesus.*
- *If the first half of the gospel is forgiveness of sin, the second half is freedom from sin.*
- *If the first half of the gospel is coming to faith in Jesus Christ, the second half is growing in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.*
- *Holy discontent is coming to the place where we know that there is more God has for us, that more God wants for us, and that more God wills to do through us, and we know we can no longer settle for anything less.*

2. Response from my colleagues

I felt God leading me to study the gospel and the cross. And that study left me broken and built up simultaneously. Broken by Jesus’ love for me and built up in the hope (joyful anticipation of the certainty) of being united with Him in the new creation. I found Jesus drawing my heart closer to Him, gratefully and joyfully. The gospel has now become my daily food, my sustenance. Indeed, Jesus is my daily bread of life. I found His gospel to be a message of freedom, liberation and victory. I shared my quest for Jesus with my friends Bert Cherian and Chandrakant Shourie. God had used these two fine brothers in Christ to start a campus revival during their undergraduate studies in technology in 1980. After that, they spent over 40 years planting churches in India. Bert, Shourie and I formed an open-ended group called “Gospel Collaborators”. We invited others to join us in studying and spreading the gospel as it applies to our life. And many did.

3. Response from the field

Among those that joined us was a church planter, Nitin Sardar. He gladly welcomed us to his vast network of rural churches he planted in Central India. We began to teach the gospel to leaders from his churches and other churches. We taught once every week. Each session had teachings on a **gospel-centred life**, followed by questions and answers from the field and prayer — lasting for about two hours. The leaders, in turn, would preach to their congregation every Sunday the gospel message they learned. The response was good. They felt their people were rooted in the gospel, giving them the confidence to share it with their unbelieving neighbours. This book is a collection of my sermons preached to these leaders in India.

Often, church leaders take for granted that their congregation knows and believes the gospel. So, most leaders rarely tend to preach the gospel to the church. However, we all know that our congregation will remember what the pastor is most passionate about. And our congregation will not be passionate about