

## THE GOSPEL OF ABUNDANCE

### Week 5

Going deeper in the gospel requires clarity on the topic of conversion. It's imperative that the believer understands what exactly happens at conversion when someone repents and believes. At the moment of conversion, several powerful, behind-the-scenes spiritual transactions occur, and they come with huge implications for living in the abundance Jesus came to bring. Here are 4 of the spiritual transactions that occur at conversion.

#### **1. We are justified.**

At the moment of conversion God spiritually deletes our record of sin. This is what we classically understand as forgiveness. God no longer brings our sin to mind. Justification has often been described as it's just-as-if-you-never-did-it. This results in peace!

*Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

#### **2. We are made righteous.**

At the moment of conversion we also receive a new status before God: righteous. Not only does God delete our sin, He credits us with the perfect standing of Jesus. He clothes us in Christ's righteousness.

*2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Justification and imputation remind us that we are no longer defined by the ugliest thing we've done or the ugliest thing done to us. We've been redefined by Christ! This security in Christ frees us to run to God in confession of sin—a powerful weapon that dismantles shame.

*Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

#### **3. We experience sozo.**

At the moment of conversion God's saving (SOZO) power invades our life. SOZO is the Greek word most often used in the New Testament for salvation. This word describes God's power to save, heal, and deliver—the heart of Jesus' ministry (Lk. 4:18—19). Here are a few ways SOZO is used in the gospels:

- Physical and emotional healing (Matthew 9:22)
- Deliverance from evil spirits (Luke 8:36)
- Rescue from peril (Matthew 8:25)
- Saving from sin (Matthew 1:21)

#### **4. We start to become who we really are.**

At the moment of conversion the Holy Spirit begins His work of transformation. This changes us to align practically to what God has already declared about us positionally. In this way, salvation is complete, yet ongoing.

Hebrews 10:14 *For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

Romans 8:29-30 *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

QUESTION: Have you ever found it challenging to let go of a sin in your past even though you are forgiven by God? What do you think it looks like to let go of your past sin in a healthy way?

QUESTION: We often think things like "I need to confess any sin before I pray. I need to confess any sin before I worship." If we wear the righteousness of Jesus, is it possible to whole heartedly enter into worship before confessing? Do we run the risk of not repenting if we pray or worship before confessing? Is our worship or prayer hindered by unconfessed sin we committed earlier in the day/week?

QUESTION: Where do you currently see God's sozo power at work in your life?

QUESTION: If there is not continual transformation in someone's life (the small things count!), what could be hindering that work of the Holy Spirit? Do you think we go through seasons where there is no transformation taking place?