

Christ-Centered, Grace/Faith-Based Gospel and Its Implications

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1. God has completed salvation for the human race through Christ's birth under the Law, growing up as a man, obeying everything required of the Law, dying on the cross, resurrection, ascension into heaven, and sitting on the right hand of God as the high priest on behalf of those who believe in Him. The central purpose of this salvation is for man to receive God's image and likeness through Christ and, as a result, to live the life of the Son of God to glorify the Father.

Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him.
Gal 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.
Matt 5:17-18 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
John 19:28-30 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.
Rom 4:25 Who (i.e., Jesus Christ) was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.
Gal 5:24-25 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
Rom 5:18-19 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
Heb 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things *pertaining to God*, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:
Heb 10:12-14 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.
Heb 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:
Eph 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
Heb 2:10-11 For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.
Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

2. To receive such salvation, man has to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit; he/she also must be willing to forsake the fallen, self-centered adamic life. Spiritual regeneration or rebirth happens when a person (who is willing to forsake the adamic life) receives God's Word (i.e., the Gospel) by heart (not just intellectually). A born-again Christian does not desire (like) to live a sinful life but instead a life filled with God's Word and Spirit.

John 16:7-8 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.
1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.
Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Rom 3:19-22 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.
Luke 9:23-24 And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.
John 5:24-25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.
1Pet 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. **Rom 10:9-10** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **1John 5:18** We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. **John 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

3. When a Christian is born again, his/her inner life (i.e., the born-again spirit) is completely renewed. The born-again spirit is one with Christ and has the perfect life and power of the resurrected Christ. However, the mind, emotions, external life, and habits of the Christian need to be renewed over time (according to God's Word and Spirit).

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption (or sonship), whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
Gal 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.
1Cor 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.
2Tim 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
Col 2:9-10 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete (pleroo, completely filled or perfect) in him, which is the head of all principality and power.
John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
1John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
2Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
Col 3:9-10 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

4. Because Christians are joint-heirs with Christ, God has bestowed on them every spiritual blessing (i.e., grace, including righteousness from God, all blessings, holiness, godly nature, unconditional love and acceptance of God, healing, wisdom, power, etc.)

Gal 4:6-7 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. **Eph 3:6** That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the Gospel: **Rom 8:32** He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?
Gal 3:7-9 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the Gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. **John 1:16-17** And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
2Cor 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.
1Pet 1:10-11 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. **Eph 1:3-4** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.
2Pet 1:3-4 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
1Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: **2Cor 6:2** (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.) **Heb 8:12-13** For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away.
Exo 15:26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.
Matt 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. (**Heb 13:8** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.)
Ps 103:2-3 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.
Matt 8:16-17 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.
Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

5. True faith comes from God and Jesus Christ and is received by the human heart (not by the head intellectually) when a person receives revelation of the Word of God by the Holy Spirit. True faith is not a product of human will power but supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in the human heart.

Only by God-given faith can a Christian receive and experience God's grace. (Although a person can experience God's grace to an extent by corporate faith, the latter is not a substitute for the personal faith.) True faith will produce fruit promised by God's Word in a person's thoughts, words, deeds, and external life. Such fruit cannot be produced by human efforts. The sin-and-death problems in a Christian's life cannot be overcome by the works or efforts of natural man. Instead, such "bad fruit" is eradicated when a person receives the Holy Spirit-revealed Word of God to replace the worldly and carnal thoughts, attitudes, and value systems in the person's heart.

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Eph 6:23 Peace *be* to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Rom 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Eph 1:17-19 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.

1Cor 2:13-14 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Matt 8:13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Heb 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Heb 4:1-3 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Jas 1:5-8 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Rom 4:16-24 Therefore *it is of faith, that it might be by grace;* to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

Matt 17:14-21 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a *certain* man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Col 1:6 Which (i.e. the Gospel) is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Phil 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Heb 4:9-11 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Prov 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

6. God establishes relationship to and interacts with man through Jesus Christ, according to the faith of Christ and the faith of Christians that is received from God and Christ, not according to their works (behavior). True faith, however, brings good fruit to a Christian's life naturally. As mentioned above, godly good fruit cannot be produced by human efforts.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
1Tim 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.
Rom 5:1-2 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.
Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
Rom 3:22-23 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.
Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.
Rom 11:6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.
Rom 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because *he eateth* not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.
2Tim 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.
Jas 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. (Note: James was not asking Christians to rely on their works or use their works to convince themselves of their faith. Instead, he was pointing out that the reason why those people lacked good deeds was that they did not truly believe.)
Gal 3:23-25 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.
Phil 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

7. The growth of a born-again Christian happens through the revelation of God's Word by the Holy Spirit in the heart. The faith produced by the revealed Word of God will enable him/her by the power of the Holy Spirit to live out the perfect life of Christ that he/she received at spiritual rebirth. The Christian life is not about pleasing God through works or deeds. It is absolutely NOT about gradually changing a sinful Christian to make the person more righteous.

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.
John 15:1-5 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every *branch* in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
1Cor 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity. (1Tim 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned.)
Rom 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
1Cor 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. (Note: Although the Corinthian Christians had all kinds of problems (sins) in their thoughts, words, and deeds, the Apostle Paul still said they were already "washed, sanctified, and justified".)
2Pet 1:3-7 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

Note 1. Any revelation mentioned in this document refers to the work of the Holy Spirit that makes a human heart (not just the head) understand or “see” what Christ has accomplished in the salvation. This revelation begins with the basic understanding of the salvation for a person to be born again but has no end, because the salvation of God through Jesus Christ is limitless. (John 16:12-13 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. Gal 1:16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood. Eph 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; Eph 1:17-19 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.)

Note 2. When a Christian has not seen (by spirit or with the help of the Holy Spirit) what Christ has accomplished in the salvation, he/she will try to use his/her own strength to obey God’s commandments (i.e., to accomplish God’s will regarding Christian service, prayer, or any area of the Christian life). Such intention is often and indeed good to begin with, but relies on human efforts to overcome sin, achieve sanctification, or please God. Because humanistic efforts are not through Christ and not according to Christ’s finished work, they inevitably fall under the bondage of the law. Once a Christian believes that such natural man-derived humanistic efforts are the “faith and obedience” required by God for man, he/she will pursue this legalistic sanctification with zeal. While seeking to accomplish God’s will, he/she does not realize that human-derived works are the biggest obstacle for God’s work that is by grace through faith. A person not born again only knows ways of legalism. Even for a born-again Christian, he/she is still under legalism in whatever area of life that has not received the revelation of God because therein he/she is still living on human strength instead of the Holy Spirit’s power. The mission of the Christian church is to help people understand Christ’s finished work so that they can walk in grace and faith, to unite with God through Christ (the only way, truth, and life to the Father). This grace/faith-based salvation is the only way for Christians to glorify God and witness for Christ. Although no one can receive the full revelation of God to live a life completely by Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, every born-again Christian should strive to enter God’s rest/grace and be set free from the bondage of legalism (humanistic self-effort). (Gal 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Heb 4:9-11 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. Phil 3:7-11 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.)

Note 3. A main reason for the falling away from the true Gospel discussed is that Christians try to understand the Word of God by human wisdom instead of seeking the revelation and teaching of the Holy Spirit. In other words, they unknowingly study the Word of God by the same method they use to study worldly knowledge (not realizing God’s Word is spiritual and can only be understood/applied spiritually). Also, if Christians do not understand that God dealt with His people in the Old Testament era under the covenant of the law, they will directly apply the law-based requirements of God for man and the law-based interactions between God and man to New Testament Christians who are under grace—this is another main reason why Christians fall under the bondage of the law. (Heb 7:18-19 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw nigh unto God. Heb 8:10-13 For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away. Gal 3:21-25 *Is* the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.)

Q&A on the Christ-Centered, Grace/Faith-Based Gospel

1. **What are the requirements of the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel for non-Christians and Christians, respectively? What can man do and should man do in such salvation? Do born-again Christians need to (constantly) examine themselves, confess their sins, and repent (to be sanctified)?**
- **God has already completed the salvation for man and has freely given it to everyone through the Gospel. Anyone that believes the Gospel will receive the salvation—this is the same for everyone, there is no difference.** (Rom 3:21-24 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. 1Tim 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.)
 - **A born-again Christian has received the salvation, as well as the resurrected life of Christ through the regenerated new spirit. Those who have not believed the Gospel have not received the new life.** (John 5:24-25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.)
 - **Born-again Christians need to replace the worldly, carnal beliefs in their hearts with the Word of God—this is the true repentance and self-denial in the New Testament (the Greek Word $\epsilon\tau\alpha\nu\acute{\omicron}\epsilon\omega$ in the NT literally means “to think differently” or “to have a different mind”). Only a renewed heart can bring out the life of Christ from within to glorify God. This inside-out transformation is God’s work and is completely different from the self-effort of a man trying to renew his/her life using natural strength.** (Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Eph 4:21-23 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; Phil 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:)
 - **The responsibility of a Christian is to desire, seek, receive, and by the Holy Spirit and faith live out the life of Christ given by God in grace freely.** (Matt 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 1Cor 4:7 For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?)
 - **If a person does not desire God’s grace, even though the salvation is complete and the Holy Spirit is actively working, the human heart is simply satisfied with things of the world/flesh and is rejecting the work of God.** (Matt 5:3-6 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.)
 - **Growth of the Christian life is based on the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. The desiring and seeking of a human heart for God’s grace is the cooperation of the heart with God’s work. Without such cooperation, even though God has already given grace, it cannot enter a person’s life to produce good fruit.** (Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God. Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.)
 - **A Christian should understand the complete corruptness of the adamic life before he/she is born again so that he/she is willing to deny the old man and the flesh—this is the utmost repentance. A born-again Christian should focus on the (new) life of Christ received at spiritual rebirth and look at him/herself from the perspective of the spirit and live in faith. When he/she fails to do so, he/she should admit that he/she has obeyed the flesh (which is totally corrupt). If he/she has sinned against people, he/she should confess his/her transgressions. (1John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess *our***

sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.) However, these (actions/attitudes) are different from confessing or believing that a truly born-again Christian is a sinner. The “self-examination” of a Christian should not be a focus or search for sin(s) in the inner life; doing so is to focus on the flesh and will make the Christian continue to live under the bondage of sin. Instead, a Christian should focus on the sinless, in-dwelt Christ—this is how a Christian can truly overcome sin. (Rom 7:14-18 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. Jas 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Heb 10:1-2 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. Heb 10:18-23 Now where remission of these *is, there is* no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And *having* an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) Rom 8:4-8 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.)

2. What are the fundamental conflicts between the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel and legalism (i.e., humanistic self-effort based on natural strength)?

- **Legalism is the effort of man to reach God’s standard (which is described in detail in the Bible and centers on the complete love for God and the love for others as for oneself). Legalism is the effort/mentality/method to obtain salvation through obeying the Law. It is also the effort/mentality/method to achieve sanctification or to please God through human efforts.** (Rom 10:1-4 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Gal 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Gal 5:2-4 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.)
- **Legalism is an inevitable attribute of self-centered fallen man. The natural man (who is not born again) and the natural mind (which has not received the revelation of the Holy Spirit) only know the ways of legalism. When the Bible talks about God’s commandants, it always talks about the work of Christ (as the representative or high priest of man before God) and the work of the Holy Spirit to help Christians enter Christ’s work—this is the true meaning of the Sabbath. God’s standards are not directly given to man for them to measure up. However, a person under the law always tries to obey these commandments directly, failing to understand that there is no good in the flesh (natural man).** (Gal 3:2-3 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Rom 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. Rom 8:7-8 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Matt 5:17-18 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Heb 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.)
- **A Christ-like external life is the natural result (fruit) of a renewed heart, not the result of humanistic effort. Humanistic effort to Christ-likeness in essence is “self-salvation” or “self-sanctification”, which is not through Jesus Christ and cannot truly change a person’s life.** (Phil

1:9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. Col 1:4-6 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the Gospel; Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth.)

- Legalism and the grace-based Gospel/salvation of Christ are completely opposite. The two share absolutely no common ground: the former is based on man's work but the latter God's; the former is not complete and will never be complete, whereas the latter has already been completed by Christ; the former demands man's efforts, but the latter calls man to enter the rest of God by faith; the former asks man to continually modify external thoughts/words/deeds to perfect the life within, whereas the latter tells Christians that they have already received the perfect life of Christ at spiritual rebirth (although they need to continue to receive the Holy Spirit-revealed Word of God in order to experience/live out the life within); the former is by sight focusing on the visible external life (seeing man not meeting the standard of God's Law and unlike Christ), but the latter is by faith focusing on the invisible inner life (seeing born-again Christians being like Christ inside even when their external life is not perfect yet).** (Gal 5:2-4 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. Gal 3:10-12 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Rom 4:16 Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us al.)

3. What are the similarities and conflicts between the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel and the common concept of sanctification of Christians? What is really the way of the cross? How about unity of church?

- The Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel tells born-again Christians that they already have the perfectly sanctified, holy life of Christ in the spirit. It is by this life they received from Christ that they can possibly live a holy external life.** (Col 2:9-10 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power. Col 3:7-10 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.)
- The common concept of sanctification of Christians requires sin-conscious Christians (who are taught many times that they are still sinners after becoming Christians) to strive to renew their life to reach Christ's holiness.** (Heb 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.)
- Both concepts of sanctification recognize that the thoughts, words, and deeds of Christians cannot reach the complete holiness of God in this life, although such holiness (in external life) should be the ultimate goal of Christians in both cases.** (Heb 12:14-15 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled.)
- The concept of sanctification in the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel is based on the finished work of Christ; the other concept of sanctification is based on the (legalistic) self-effort of Christians that have not seen/acknowledged the finished work of Christ.** (Eph 1:3-4 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love. Rom 5:17-19 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.)

- **The Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel tells Christians that their flesh has already been crucified with Christ. The way of the cross is to receive their vicarious (more precisely, spiritual and yet actual) experience of death and resurrection with Christ by faith. It is essentially the complete denial of the old man and the flesh (including its humanistic goodness and zeal for God) and the concomitant receiving of the life and grace freely given by God. On the other hand, the “self-denial” or “carrying of one’s cross” out of humanistic effort is an attempt to perfect by the flesh (i.e., sanctification through works); it is trying to accomplish what can be only accomplished by Christ (and what Christ has already accomplished).** (Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. Col 2:20-23 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.)
- **According to the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel, the unity of church is not to accept/accommodate the different views of everyone in the church. Instead, the unity of church is unity in Christ and through Christ, when everyone in the church is willing to forsake the life/thoughts/value systems outside Christ and replace them with those in Christ. Although this transformation cannot be completely achieved on earth, it is the uncompromisable direction and way of the Christian church.** (Eph 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him. 1Cor 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Phil 2:1-2 If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Eph 4:1-6 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.)

4. What are the similarities/differences and conflicts between the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel and the common concept of Christian service?

- **The Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel tells Christians that only by faith can they live out the inner spiritual life of Christ. The most important service/worship is thus the “inner service”, i.e., the inner desiring for, seeking after, dependence on, loving of, and union with God. The external service of Christians is the natural fruit of the inner life. Only by having the right “inner service” can a Christian receive the power from above to live an external life that glorifies God.** (Luke 10:41-42 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.)
- **Many Christian churches place great emphasis on pleasing God by Christians’ service (works, deeds, etc.). It is frequently assumed that such service automatically brings growth to a Christian’s spiritual life. However, unless Christians are taught clearly how to draw on Christ’s grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, their service often turns into legalistic, flesh-based service. Such service not only will not yield true fruit of God but also can easily cause Christians to burn out.** (John 15:5-8 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.)
- **Both concepts of Christian service ask Christians to implement their “faith” in real life (including service in church). However, these two concepts involve completely different ways/methods/attitudes in the implementation.** (John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. Prov 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.)

5. Will the grace/faith teaching promote sin in Christians? Will Christians under the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel use grace as an excuse to sin?

- **The Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel indeed tells Christians that all their past, present, and future sins have already been forgiven by God. At the same time, however, it tells people that only by forsaking the fallen, self-centered, adamic life and spiritual rebirth do they enter grace.** (Heb 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. Heb 10:14-18 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these *is*, *there is* no more offering for sin. Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Luke 9:23-24 And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.)
- **A person truly born-again has Christ's life in him/her. Such a person not only does not want to sin but actually will feel pain when he/she cannot fulfill God's will in his/her thoughts, words, and deeds.** (Rom 7:15-24 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?)
- **If a person thinks that having God forgive all his/her sins means that he/she can sin more and more freely, this person has not been born again and has not understood the grace/faith-based Gospel.** (Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.)
- **Only the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel can set Christians free from not only guilt/condemnation but also the power of sin in their thoughts, words, and deeds.** (Rom 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law. Rom 8:1-4 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.)

6. Has God lost His sovereignty in the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel since everything is "determined" by "those who have faith"?

- **The sovereignty of God does not mean God controls everything on earth down to detail according to His will. Rather, it refers to that God has sufficient wisdom and power to accomplish His eternal will (through Christ and the Holy Spirit).** (Eph 1:9-11 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: Matt 6:9-10 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.)
- **The central will of God is for man to receive God's image and likeness through Christ and, as a result, to live the life of the Son of God to glorify the Father.** (Rom 8:29-30 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. Heb 2:10-11 For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by

whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren. Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.)

- **Faith is NOT based on selfish goals and will power of a person but instead is based on the work of Christ, the revelation of the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God. Faith only appropriates what God has already accomplished through grace, so that God's purpose in man can be fulfilled. It is absolutely not a tool for a selfish person to get everything he/she desires outside God's will. (Because of this, it is clear that renewing of mind or growing in faith is actually the work of the Holy Spirit in the human heart so that a Christian could truly become a member of the Christ's body to manifest His supernatural life, not a self-promoting discipline, exercise, practice, improvement, or advancement to "be like God".)** (Rom 8:10-11 And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Heb 6:4-5 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come. Eph 1:19-20 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*. Col 1:21-23 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the Gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;)
- **Faith is the only means through which man experiences the will of God and the grace of Christ. Without faith, a person cannot experience the salvation/grace even though it has already been accomplished by Christ and freely given by God.** (Heb 4:1-3 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. Jas 1:5-8 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.)

7. How does the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel view sufferings or tribulations in this world?

- **Sufferings in the current world are the results of sin in a fallen world (general and ultimate results, not necessarily direct results of sin for an individual) and do not come from God. In addition, those who are of Christ will face opposition from Satan and the world.** (Jas 1:16-17 Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Gen 3:17-18 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field. 2Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? John 16:1-3 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.)
- **Christians under the Law and the flesh will suffer sin and death. When weak in faith (i.e., when they are not living by the supernatural faith of God), they will not experience the victory of Christ and suffer discouragement, despair, or other failures.** (Rom 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. Rom 7:8-9 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin *was* dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. Rom 7:18-24 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how*

to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Gal 3:3-4 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain. Heb 3:16-19 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Heb 4:1-2 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.)

- **The grace and faith from God are the exact resources or weapons by which Christians overcome difficulties in this world and weakness of the flesh.** (John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. 2Cor 2:14 Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 1John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. Eph 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Rom 8:31-32 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.)
- **Christians should resist (NOT “obey”) difficulties/problems from the flesh, the world, and Satan.** (Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 1Pet 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 1Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 2Tim 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Eph 3:8-10 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.)
- **Whether a Christian can overcome difficulties/problems from the flesh, the world, and Satan depends on his/her personal faith and also the faith of related people.** (Jas 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. 1Pet 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered. 1Cor 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 1Tim 1:20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.)
- **Even if Christians cannot completely overcome the difficulties/problems in this world, their failure is only temporary and local. Christians are already victorious in Christ. Their victory in the physical world is based on the victory already won by Christ for all Christians.** (Eph 2:6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus. Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. Col 2:15 *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. 2Cor 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.)
- **Christians very likely will suffer persecution (from the unbelieving world). Those who stand for Christ likely will suffer even more in this regard. Christ has not redeemed Christians from this type of suffering but, instead, expects those who are faithful to Him to willingly suffer this suffering of Christ when such suffering cannot be removed. However, this is not to say that such suffering is what God wants or wills to happen to His children.** (Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. Phil 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Phil 3:10-11 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 1Pet 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye

may be glad also with exceeding joy. Heb 11:35-38 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.)

8. What are the similarities/differences and conflicts between the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel and the prosperity theology?

- **The Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel says that Christ's salvation includes physical health (see Questions 9 and 10 for details) and material blessings.** (2Cor 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 2Cor 9:10-12 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for *your* food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; Phil 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 1Tim 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; Matt 6:30-33 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.)
- **However, Christians should seek and serve God instead of material blessings; otherwise, their seeking and service become idol-worshipping.** (Matt 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. 1Tim 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.)
- **If a person ONLY wants to USE faith to obtain material blessings, he/she often has difficulty understanding/receiving the supernatural faith from God to manifest these blessings, as true faith only comes from God and ALWAYS focuses on God (not on things).** (Matt 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.)
- **Since a Christian enters the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel through repentance (i.e., renouncing the self-centered adamic life), he/she should continue to deny self (including selfish goals and greed for material things) and seek God's kingdom and righteousness. Material blessings are by-products of seeking God, not the goal.** (Matt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Mark 10:29-30 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the Gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. Gen 39:2-3 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.)
- **As Christians receive more grace and faith (into their soul), they will have more of Christ's life (in their soul). As a result, they will care more about God's will. When needed, they can sacrifice their personal interests for God; examples are Jesus' disciples and the Apostle Paul. (More precisely, as they become more united with Christ, they have fewer interests of their own.) This is the normal choice of godly Christians when they cannot have both God and material blessings at the same time. It is not a desire for poverty, not a belief that poverty glorifies God, and not saying that God wills man to be poor.** (Phil 3:7-8 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ. Phil 3:15-16 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.)

9. How does the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel view physical healing?

- **The Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel tells Christians that they can experience or foretaste part of the finished salvation of Christ in this world. These first fruits of the Spirit are certainly not the entirety of the salvation but are similar in quality to what Christians will experience in the new heaven and earth; both are the manifestation of the supernatural power of God in man.** (Rom 8:10-11 And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Rom 8:23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. Heb 6:4-5 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come. Eph 1:19-20 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*.)
- **Christ's salvation includes physical healing; this has always been God's promise and will.** (Exod 15:26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee. Ps 103:3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Isa 53:5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Mal 4:2 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare *our* sicknesses. Matt 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Acts 28:8 And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.)
- **The redemptive work of physical healing has been completed, just as everything else included in the "salvation package".** (1Pet 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 3John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. Jas 5:14-16 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.)
- **Salvation (including everything in it) has been completed by grace by God, independent of man, but must be received through faith by man.** (Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God.)
- **True faith is not intellectual consent to biblical truths or believing with human will power. It is based on the revelation of God's Word by the Holy Spirit to the human heart. Faith in physical healing likewise is the spiritual understanding of Christ's salvation in healing as revealed by the Holy Spirit to the human heart.** (Gal 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Gal 1:16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood. Eph 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; as I wrote afore in few words. Eph 3:5-6 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the Gospel.)
- **As in any aspect of the Christ's salvation, lack of reception or experience on the human side does not mean that God has not completed it or God does not will it for man.** (1Tim 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 2Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Luke 13:23-24 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. Heb 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. Jas 1:5-8 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.)

10. According to the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel, is it the lack of faith that makes a person not get healed physically (since God has already provided healing by grace)? Should a Christian see doctors if he/she falls sick?

- **The first important thing to understand is that only Jesus Christ has the true faith and the only true faith Christians can have is what they receive from God and Jesus Christ. The main reason why Christians don't experience God's grace is that they try to use their humanistic believing to receive God's grace.** (Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Eph 6:23 Peace *be* to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. 1Cor 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit.)
- **If Christians, when born again, can accept that their natural man has no good, they should easily accept that their natural self (i.e., flesh mentioned in the NT) does not have any Christ's type of faith.** (Mark 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God. Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.)
- **Only those who admit the inability of the natural self to have faith will humbly seek the true faith from God and Jesus Christ.** (Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard *it*, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Rom 7:24-25 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. 2Cor 12:9-10 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.)
- **Even if a born-again Christian receives (portions of) Christ's faith (in the soul) as revealed by the Holy Spirit, no one on earth can have the complete faith of Christ in the soul (i.e., manifested faith or faith that can be experienced). Faith is the correct understanding/knowledge of spiritual truth/laws, in a way similar to scientists' (correct) understanding/knowledge of the natural laws. Just as all scientists put together still cannot fully understand and apply all the natural laws, no Christian can fully understand all spiritual laws to completely experience God's grace.** (1Cor 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. Phil 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.)
- **Inability to understand/know all the spiritual laws does not mean that we should stop trying to understand spiritual laws. On the contrary, Christians should seek God's revelation with all their hearts to receive the supernatural faith of Christ. The more they receive such faith, the more they will experience God's grace; the less they receive, the less they experience.** (Phil 3:8-11 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.)
- **The faith of an individual Christian is not only his/her personal matter or choice but is also affected/limited by the entire Christian church in his/her generation (even previous generations). This is because Christians can receive God's revelation through other people's teaching. If Christians around them (broadly speaking) or entire generation of Christians have not received the revelation of certain truths in God's Word, even if they are written in the Bible, it is extremely difficult for individual Christians to truly understand these truths, as spiritual truths are not understood directly by the natural mind or received by the carnal life.** (Eph 4:11-14 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness

of Christ: That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 1Cor 2:13-14 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. 1Cor 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Luke 5:36-38 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was *taken* out of the new agreeth not with the old. And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. Mark 10:15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.)

- If a Christian has not received revelation of healing in the salvation to have true faith in healing and there is no one around him/her to have such faith or gifts of healing, he/she certainly should seek the help of a doctor. It is not wise and even dangerous for a person without the (supernatural) faith of healing to use man-derived “faith” to receive healing while refusing medical help. However, if the Christian church has not grown in the faith of healing, Christians won’t be able to obey Christ’s commandment for them to heal the sick, neither can they follow Jesus’ healing ministry or witness him in this regard.** (2Chr 16:12 And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease *was* exceeding *great*: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians. Mark 5:25-27 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. Jas 5:14-16 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. 1Cor 12:7-9 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; Matt 4:23-24 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. Luke 9:1-2 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. Matt 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. John 14:11-12 Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.)
- The fact a Christian has true faith (in the soul) in one area of salvation does not mean he/she will have true faith in another area. (Faith regarding the application of Christ’s salvation to certain areas of a Christian’s life is being discussed here, not the “basic” faith to make a person born again or “saved”.) However, all true faith is based on the revelation of the Holy Spirit that enables Christians to understand, believe, and receive what God has accomplished through Jesus Christ. Individual Christians can of course choose to seek the help of earthly doctors in physical healing instead of seeking divine healing accomplished by Jesus Christ. However, they still have to face this challenge when they have not grown in this aspect of faith but run into diseases that earthly doctors cannot cure — many such negative cases have already happened to Christians in the past and now. Also, Christians frequently have to face challenges that can only be overcome by God’s power (not by human wisdom or power); thus, they have to deal with such challenges one way or another, regardless of their positions in divine healing.** (Eph 1:15-22 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church. Jas 1:5-8 If any of you lack

wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Matt 7:24-27 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.)

11. Why is the tripartite composition of man (i.e., spirit/soul/body) so important to the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel?

- God is spirit. Our relationship with Him is spiritual. Christians receive the grace and blessings from God through spirit.** (1Thess 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. John 4:23-24 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth. 1Cor 2:12-14 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. Gal 6:18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be with your spirit*. Amen.)
- Faith in a sense is spiritual sight; it is not based on the mind, will, or emotions in the soul.** (2Cor 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. Heb 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. 1Cor 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. Phil 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 2Cor 3:17-18 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.)
- Christians' union with Christ is the union in spirit, not directly a union in mind, will, or emotions. However, when the spiritual life (of Christ) enters the soulish realm, the mind, will, or emotions of a Christian will be renewed.** (1Cor 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Rom 8:5-6 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.)
- The born-again spirit received from Christ is the basis of the new life/nature of a Christian. If a Christian does not use this new life, he/she then has to rely on the self-effort to "renew" his/her sinful, old life/nature—a completely impossible task.** (Gal 5:16-18 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Rom 8:5-8 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.)

12. What are the conflicts between the Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel and common methods of evangelism in Christian churches?

- The Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel places great emphasis on that a person at/prior to spiritual rebirth needs to give up on the self-life outside Christ and forsake human-based "works" and "faith". This point (about repentance) is often not preached clearly in Christian churches because it is feared that such preaching will drive non-believing seekers away. Many churches also in evangelism lower the standard of saving faith in the Bible (that man has to**

repent in order to believe) and make people believe that a person can just be a “believer” and later on be a disciple of Jesus as an option. The implication for such preaching is that a person can get saved without true repentance or without truly following Christ. (Matt 3:1-3 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Mark 1:14-15 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel. 1Cor 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. 1Cor 1:18-19 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Matt 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.)

- **The Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel demands man to continue to renounce human-based “works” and “faith” after receiving Christ, continue to seek the revelation of the Holy Spirit to receive Christ’s faith (in the soul), and learn to bear fruit in the external life through the inner life of Christ. Many Christian churches immediately start encouraging Christians to serve, preach the Gospel, and contribute to the church financially as soon as they believe (without teaching them how to live for/serve God by faith through Christ’s life in them). Christians in such situations often continue to use their natural mind, methods, and strength to fulfill these Christian duties.** (Gal 3:3-5 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Gal 3:10-13 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree.)
- **The Christ-centered, grace/faith-based Gospel considers the true agape love from God is to help man repent to freely receive the grace of God, because only so can the pain and problems in a person’s life be solved. Many Christian churches emphasize helping non-believing seekers material- and emotion-wise so that they feel being loved and cared for. However, unless a person truly understands the salvation and is willing to forsake the self-centered old life, he/she could become as much as or even more self-centered after they “believe” in this way. Not only might they not understand being a Christian means continuing denial of the natural, corrupt, old life to receive Christ’s life, they might even consider the Christian church be a place to protect, care for, and encourage their natural life (which is “the flesh” talked about in the NT).** (John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Mark 8:34-37 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said *unto him*, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel’s, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Phil 3:18-19 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* *their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things. Acts 20:26-27 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I *am* pure from the blood of all *men*. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.)