

DEVOTION

The Gospel Defined

by [Greg Laurie](#) on Jul 14, 2022

"And they were preaching the gospel there"

-Acts 14:7

What is the gospel? We know we should preach the gospel and live by the gospel, but do we know what the gospel is?

A literal translation of the word "gospel" is good news. Now, sometimes before we can appreciate the Good News, we first have to know the bad news.

Here's the bad news: We're all sinners. The Bible says, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard" (Romans 3:23 NLT). And 1 John 1:8 tells us, "If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth" (NLT).

If you're sharing your faith with someone, don't assume they'll necessarily know what sin is. In the Bible, we can translate the word "sin" in different ways. We can translate it as "trespass," which means to cross the line. Another translation comes from the Greek word *hamartia*, which means "to miss the mark."

When the Bible says that we've sinned or missed the mark, it means that we've fallen short of God's standard for humanity. And what is that standard? It's perfection.

Are we perfect? No, we aren't.

That is where Jesus comes in. Because God knew we could not hit this mark, because God knew we could not be perfect people, Jesus died on the cross for our sin. That's the good news. Romans 5:6 says, "When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners" (NLT).

Here's the first verse every Christian should memorize: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 NKJV).

That is the gospel in a nutshell. Share it with someone. Let's not turn the Good News into bad news by the way we deliver it, distort it, or leave out parts of it. Let's deliver the explosive, dynamic, gospel.