

Gospel Fluency: Study #5



Getting Real Part 1

Consider...

Now that you have learnt a gospel outline, how do you actually get around to using it? Unless you want to make people cringe, you can't just try and insert it into any old conversation and trot out a script!

The first step is to realise that most people have their own gospel (good news) and that most people love to talk about their gospel(s). If you want to share the gospel of Jesus with someone in a natural way, it helps to have a good understanding of that other person's gospel.

In order to find out what their gospel is, you need to love people. You must spend time with people, build real relationships with people, and spend lots of time *listening* to people. Ask them to tell you about what is important to them. Ask them to tell you their hopes and dreams. Ask them to share their frustrations with you. *Listen, listen, listen.*

If you do this two things will happen. Firstly, you will be genuinely caring for and loving the person. Most people want at least one person in their life who listens to them, cares about them, and takes an interest in them. How awesome would it be if that person was a Christian! Secondly, you will learn about the gospel that person is trusting in.

For example, one popular gospel, that millions have bought into, is 'the Gospel according to Weight Loss.' A gospel Outline for this gospel would look like this:

Creation: People are made to be skinny, toned, and attractive. This is where true happiness and fulfilment lies.

Fall: We live in a world full of junk food, TV, Internet, and busy lives that make exercise difficult. In addition, we can be lazy and lack self control.

Redemption: Through dieting, a great personal trainer, gym membership, self discipline and hard work, I can fight off the fall and get back to what I was made to be.

Hope: One day the new skinny, toned, attractive me will emerge! When that happens, I will feel good about myself, others will like me, and I will be happy and successful!

Exercise

Below are some other popular Gospels that modern westerners believe. See if you can create a Gospel outline for each one.

1. *The Gospel According to Children*
2. *The Gospel According to Career*
3. *The Gospel according to Marriage / Relationships*
4. *The Gospel according to Materialism*

Note: Of course there are many, many other gospels out there, and many people believe more than one. Sadly Christians are a great example of this. Often Christians find themselves trusting in gospels other than the gospel of Jesus, and whenever people are struggling with their faith this is nearly always the cause! On a practical note, if you ever find yourself struggling spiritually, the first question you should ask yourself is: 'have I slipped into trusting in a gospel *other* than the gospel of Jesus Christ'.