

**STOP 7 – Broken by God:** At this step, people realize that they are broken. They come to the end of themselves and agonize over their own limitations. Here, there is a choice... continue to try to rely on self, or fully submit to God.

**STOP 8 – Surrender & Submission:** In this step people fully comprehend themselves as utterly and completely lost without Jesus. In a move of great faith, they surrender their heart to Jesus and trust Him as their Savior. There is no going back from this step of repentance; those who come here will persist in the faith until they die. The Holy Spirit indwells the believer at this point and confirms in their heart that they are children of God. They “know that they know that they know” they are saved. In this step, people begin to submit their will to God and His purposes.

*“In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. All power to him forever! Amen.” 1 Peter 5:10-11 NLT*

**STOP 9 – Profound Love for God:** In this step, people begin to develop a deep, intimate, and profound love for God. They grow in loving Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. They grow in understanding the height, breadth, and depth of the love of God for them.

**STOP 10 – Profound Love for People:** In this step, after being filled with the love of God, people begin to extend God’s love to others. They begin to see others as God sees them and yearn to win hearts for Jesus out of a profound love for them. Service for others is driven by love.

**Message Series: “SIMON SAYS”**  
**Message: “The 1<sup>st</sup> Half of the Gospel”**

**August 22, 2021**  
**Pastor George Wasson**

Jesus asked his disciples (followers): “Who do you say I am?”  
– Matt. 16:15

“Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’” – Matt. 16:16

**WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS? \_\_\_\_\_**

### **The Gospel Comes In Two Massive Movements**

- The English word “gospel” finds its origins in the Greek word *euangelion*, which literally means “good news”
- In ancient times, *euangelion* was used to describe an announcement of victory or celebration heralded through the streets for all to hear
- The gospel is a Scripture-based declaration about Jesus—who Jesus is, what he has done, how he fulfills all Scripture, and how he calls us to respond to him

#### **1. BELIEVING = we choose to believe \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus**

*“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16*

*“Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” – Rom. 3:24*

[Simon Peter] *“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” – Acts 4:12*

#### **2. BECOMING = we choose to become \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus**

*“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.” – 1 John 3:16*

*“The Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.” – 2 Cor. 3:18*

## THE FIRST MOVEMENT OF THE GOSPEL = BELIEVING

Becoming a Christian is a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God; that He is who the Bible says He is and He did what the Bible says He did = He paid the price for our sin  
 [Simon Peter] *“He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.”* – Acts 10:43  
 [Simon Peter] *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* – Acts 2:21
- \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness and removal of the consequences of our sin  
 [Simon Peter] *“We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.”* – Acts 15:11
- \_\_\_\_\_ a forgiven life  
 [Simon Peter] *“Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord.”* – Acts 3:19-20  
 [Simon Peter] *“Be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.”* – 1 Pet. 1:6

### HOW GOD TRANSFORMS PEOPLE’S LIVES (GEORGE BARN, 2011)

Stop 1	___ Unawareness of Sin (1%)	↓ 1 <sup>st</sup> Massive Movement Majority of Christians
Stop 2	___ Indifference to Sin (16%)	
Stop 3	___ Worried about Sin (39%)	
Stop 4	___ Forgiven from Sin (9%)	
Stop 5	___ Forgiven & Active in the Church (24%)	
Stop 6	___ Holy Discontent (6%)	↓ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Massive Movement 11% of all Christians
Stop 7	___ Broken by God (3%)	
Stop 8	___ Surrender & Submission (1%)	
Stop 9	___ Profound Love for God (.5%)	
Stop 10	___ Profound Love for People (.5)	

*“While 4 out of 5 adults say they are Christian, only 1 out of 5 (20%) contends that the single, most important decision they have ever made was to invite Jesus Christ to forgive them and become their savior.”* – Barna, 2011

## “10 STEPS OF CHRISTIAN TRANSFORMATION”

by George Barna, 2011

### The First Half of the Gospel

**STOP 1 – Unawareness of Sin:** At this step, people are completely oblivious to the existence of sin.

**STOP 2 – Indifference to Sin:** At this step, people are aware of the concept of sin, but aren’t concerned about it. They have no desire to stop sinning.

**STOP 3 – Worried about Sin:** At this step, people start to become concerned about sin in their lives. They realize that they have done wrong and crossed some sort of moral line. They may long to be free of certain sins or feel guilt about them. They try to overcome these sins through persistence and willpower, and may or may not be successful. They may seek counseling for guilt or addictions.

**STOP 4 – Forgiven from Sin:** At this step, people hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and may have an intellectual or emotional response to it. They are now aware that they are sinners and that Jesus has offered to pay the price for their sin.

**STOP 5 – Forgiven & Active in the Church:** At this step, people commit to Christian activities. This includes things like attending church services, participating in studies, serving in the community, volunteering in the church, and following religious rites and traditions. Religious rites can include baptism and communion. The outward appearance at this step can be very devout.

### The Second Half of the Gospel

**STOP 6 – Holy Discontent:** At this step, people feel uncomfortable spiritually. They may think, “I’m doing everything I’m supposed to, but I still feel so empty. Why?” They may be plagued with uncertainty about their salvation. They may notice a disconnect between what they believe and how they feel. At this step, people realize that there must be more to Christianity than what they have... and they want it... but may not know how to get it.