

## THE FOUR SPIRITUAL FLAWS?

*What must I do to be saved? (Acts 16:30)*

Much evangelism in the past 50 years has been modeled after Campus Crusade's "Four Spiritual Laws." For many in the church today, these steps explain both how to be saved and what it means to be a Christian.

1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.
2. Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's plan for his life.
3. Jesus Christ is the only provision for man's sin. Through him you can know and experience God's plan for your life.
4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

How differently the Gospel was presented in previous generations! George Whitefield, the "Billy Graham" of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, embodied a form of evangelism that was much more robust and biblically informed than our contemporary methods. In his sermon *The Method of Grace*, Whitefield presents his own version of the plan of salvation. Based on the text Jeremiah 6:14, his sermon answers the question, "How can I have peace with God?" by outlining five steps a seeker needs to follow to become a child of God. We could call them Whitefield's "Five Spiritual Laws."

1. You must be made to see, to feel and to weep over your actual transgressions against the law of God.
2. Further, you must uncover the root from which those transgressions spring. You must feel the weight of that inward corruption with which you were born that makes you liable to God's wrath and damnation.
3. You must be made sick of your own righteousness and come to realize that your best efforts at reform and religion are nothing more than splendid sins. Even your repentance needs to be repented of!
4. Finally, you must feel the guilt of your most damnable sin of all: unbelief. Many, even in our churches, are merely baptized heathens having no more faith than the devil himself (James 2:19)!
5. Now, by faith, lay hold of the perfect, all-sufficient righteousness of Jesus Christ. This is the only way to have real peace with God.

Dear friends, many in the church today have a flawed and anemic faith because they have a flawed and anemic Gospel! Do you have peace with God? Do you have assurance that your sins are forgiven? Has the power of sin been broken and are you living the abundant life? The only way to be saved is to follow the path prescribed in the Gospel. Come, come to Christ! But come on His terms!

Pastor Stan