

The Foundation of Faith

Distinguishing Salvation
from Spiritual Growth for a
Life of Assurance



God's Two-Fold Will for Humanity

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

– 1 Timothy 2:3-4

God's Will

1. SALVATION

God's first will is for everyone to be saved.
This is the starting point, the event.



2. KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH

His second will is for the saved to grow in understanding. This is the journey, the process.



The inability to distinguish between these two concepts is a primary source of spiritual instability and doubt.

Salvation is a Gift Received, Not a Work Performed

THE COMMON MISCONCEPTION



I need to give my life to Christ.

THE SCRIPTURAL TRUTH



Salvation is *receiving* the life of Christ.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith... it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.”
– Ephesians 2:8-9

“Salvation is of the Lord.”
– Jonah 2:9

At salvation, we are destitute recipients, not valuable contributors. The sinner has nothing to offer; God provides everything.

The Unshakeable Guarantee of Salvation

The Wrong Question:

Can a believer lose their salvation?

The Right Question:

Will God be faithful to keep those He has saved?

YES.



“...I give them eternal life, and they shall **never perish**; neither shall anyone **pluck them out of My hand**.” – John 10:28

“...He who has begun a good work in you **will complete it...**”
– Philippians 1:6

“...unto Him that is **able to keep you from falling**, and to present you faultless...” – Jude 1:24

Spiritual Growth is Discovery, Not Addition



COMPLETE AT BIRTH

DISCOVERY & NOURISHMENT



DEVELOPED THROUGH GROWTH

THE ANALOGY

A baby is born with every organ, bone, and faculty it will ever need to be a fully grown adult. Nothing is added after birth. Growth is the process of developing and bringing to light what is already there.

THE PARALLEL

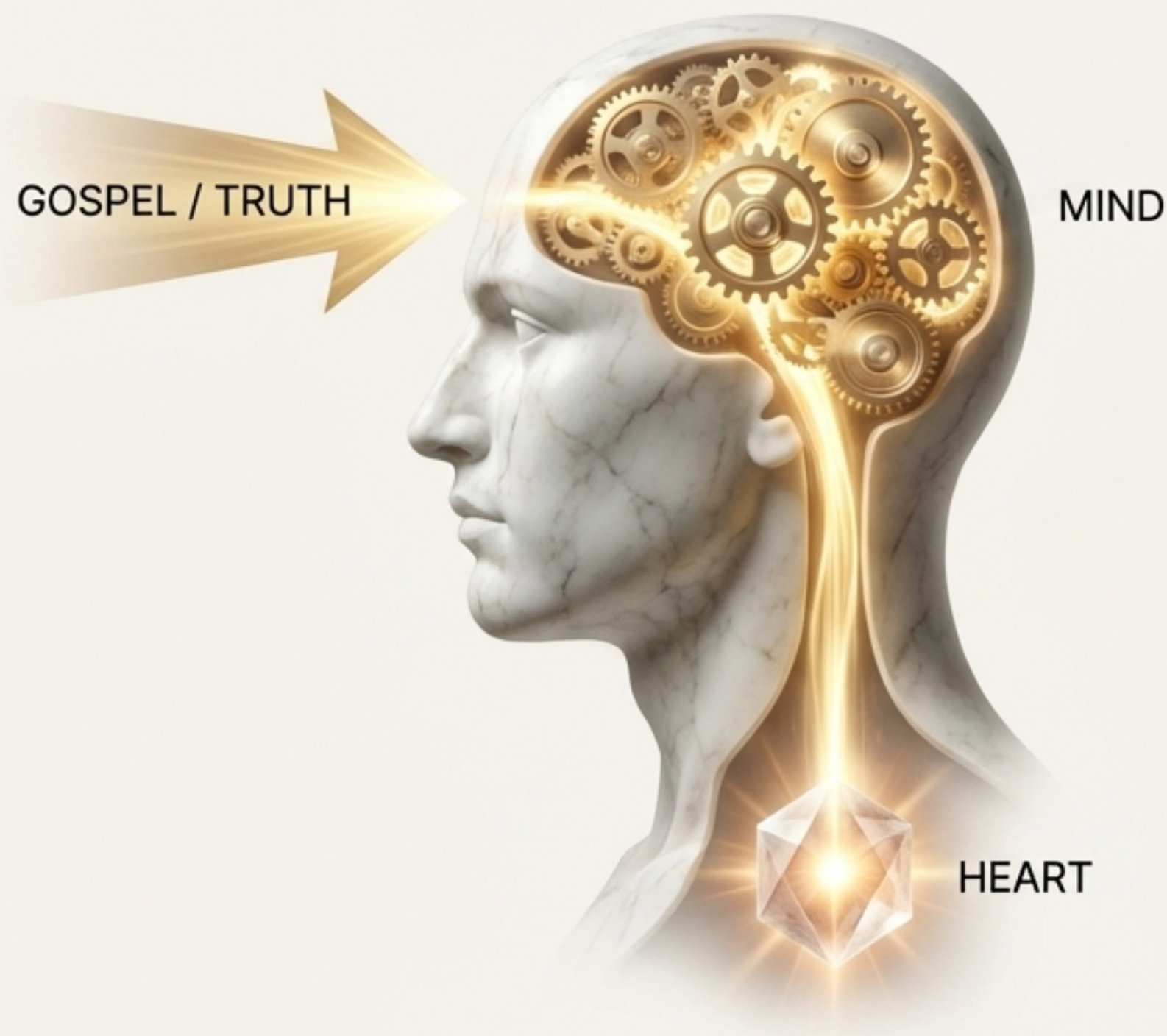
At salvation, you were made complete, receiving everything you need for eternity. Spiritual growth isn't getting *more from* God; it's discovering *more of* what He has already given you. It is your mind becoming conscious of the riches you possess.

The Mind: Doorway to the Heart

Both salvation and spiritual growth are processes that crucially involve the mind. God does not force belief; He persuades.

The Process Flow

1. The Gospel (Truth) is presented.
2. The Mind processes, understands, and evaluates the message.
3. The Mind's decision (to believe) opens the door to the heart.
4. Regeneration occurs in the heart.



"...the god of this age has blinded the **minds** of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel..." – 2 Corinthians 4:4

Redefining “Repentance”

REPENTANCE

COMMON DEFINITION

~~Stop doing bad things~~

“Come now, and let us **reason together...**” – Isaiah 1:18

God invites us to change our thinking. To see our sins as scarlet, but to reason with Him until we see them as white as snow. This change of sight *is* repentance.

BIBLICAL DEFINITION (METANOIA)

**A change of mind;
a change of thinking**

“**Repent ye**, and **believe** the gospel.” – Mark 1:15

Repentance and belief are presented as parallel actions. To repent is to change your mind about who Jesus is and what He has done, which naturally leads to believing in Him.

Growth is a Continuous “Change of Mind”

Core Idea:

Repentance is not something you outgrow. It becomes a lifestyle—an ongoing disposition for the believer.

The Cycle of Spiritual Growth

1. **Encounter Truth:** We learn a new truth about God from scripture.
2. **Challenge Old Thinking:** This truth confronts an old, incorrect belief we held.
3. **Repent (Change Your Mind):** We consciously choose to discard the old thinking and adopt the new, scriptural truth.
4. **Align Life:** This new way of thinking naturally begins to change our perspective and actions. This is tangible growth.

Example: You may have believed God was angry and distant. You study His grace and learn He is a loving Father. You “repent” by changing your mind about His character. This changes how you pray, see mistakes, and live.



The Foundation & The Building



SALVATION (The Foundation)

- A one-time, complete, and eternal **GIFT** from God.
- Received through a **change of mind** (repentance/belief), not works.
- Absolutely secure, guaranteed by God's faithfulness.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (The Building)

- A lifelong **PROCESS** of discovery.
- Driven by a continuous **change of mind** (repentance) as we learn more truth.
- The goal: To enjoy the benefits of our salvation and walk in the light of who we now are.

Humility is Agreeing with God

"Thinking you might fall is often mistaken for humility, but it is actually pride. It suggests you know better than God and don't trust His promise to keep you.

True humility is agreeing with what God has declared. It is resting in His faithfulness, not your own.

Canela Deck

Jesus said you will never fall because He is able to keep you from falling. For you to agree, 'I can never fall,' is humility. That is you agreeing with the mind of God that He is faithful to His Word.