

The primary, Gospel-Centered, New Testament context in which this process takes place is the local church.

(1) The Holy Spirit energizes the believer because of his union with Christ. (We are in Christ; Christ is in us; we are like Christ; we are with Christ.) See Eph. 1:3, 1:4, 1:5, 1:7, 1:9, 1:10, 1:11, 1:13; read Paul's prayer for God's power in 1:15-23.

(2) Energized by the Spirit, we seek biblical, cross-centered contexts in which the Spirit can and will work in our lives.

(3) Through these biblical contexts the "Gospel" is being "preached" to us daily. (Note: define the gospel accurately: the good news is the person and work of Christ, from eternity past to eternity future, with the Cross being the center-point.)

(4) Gospel-Centered Contexts Prayer (particularly prayers of gratitude for the Cross), Bible Study (particularly who God is and what he has done: the GOSPEL), Biblical Fellowship (accurately defined as sharing, with another, at the deepest level of human experience, which is your experience of God himself), Sunday Meeting, where we celebrate the Good News of Christ, Care Group, where biblical fellowship can happen, Family Worship, the best place for biblical fellowship, Cross-centered singing, Cross-centered reading, Evangelism, which is another way of sharing the person and work of Christ: the gospel!

(5) These different contexts increase our knowledge of the gospel (person and activity of Christ), which is the first step toward faith. Faith comes by hearing (knowledge) and hearing by the Word of God. See Romans 10:17. (Remember, knowledge is not faith by itself. Faith can be considered a 3-step process.)

(6) The knowledge we gain in gospel-centered contexts is then thought about, processed, meditated upon, which is the 2nd step toward faith. Remember, all these things are because of God's grace (favor) on our lives. The unregenerate person cannot appreciate these things because he has not been enlightened by the Spirit of God.

(7) From knowledge we move toward meditation, which provokes us to action, which is when faith becomes faith. Faith without action is not faith at all. If we don't "respond" to the Word, then we have merely knowledge, which can lead to arrogance. Faith is action, which shows our humility. To walk in faith is to walk his way. Faith = Humility.

Never forget that this whole process begin with the work of the Spirit of Christ, actively empowering us through his Word, which led to these wonderful circumstances.

(8) God is glorified, which means his reputation or name is made great in the world. His glorification happens because of our faith (response to his gracious working in our lives).

(9) When God is glorified, he gives more grace (his divine favor and empowerment) to the humble. He will resist the proud, but give grace to the humble. See James 4:6.

(10) This grace energizes or empowers us with more divine favor, which propels us back to seek more contexts in which the Spirit can work in our lives and the lives of others. God is glorified, we receive empowerment and others are blessed.