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*Pastor Bola Ogedengbe*  
*The Gospel is a Promise*

# SUMMARY

## *The Gospel is a Promise*

In this second episode, 'The Gospel is a promise', Pastor Bola Ogedengbe takes us through the various promises that God made to mankind through the gospel and why these are important. In the first episode we saw that something went fundamentally wrong with mankind (referred to as the sorry case of humankind by St Athanasius in his book, "On the Incarnation"), when mankind was made separate from God because of the Fall. God had decided to rectify this and we saw how He then worked with His people over the generations to come to the point where Jesus would come to the earth.

Pastor Bola begins the teaching by relating an incident in which she was driving to Paris from her home and was listening to a news programme on the radio. She remarked how through all the news stories from different parts of the world one thread was running through the whole programme - the sinfulness of man; the evil that humans can perpetrate and the wickedness of the heart of man. She highlights Romans 3:23, which refers to the fact that there is no one that is righteous and vividly describes the wickedness of the human heart and how something went fundamentally wrong humanity after creation.

She explains that it is for this reason that the gosple is a promise. God

God made the promise that He was going to turn things around and to send One who would crush the head of the serpent. In addition, the Bible says that in Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” However, we see how awesome God is in Romans 3:24 because it demonstrates God’s promise to justify freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. We shall therefore explore the various facets of this promise.

### ***The promise of a new Covenant***

Pastor Bola highlights that God deals with human beings in terms of covenant (e.g., He made a covenant with Abraham). In Jesus, there is a new covenant. The Bible calls Him ‘the mediator of the new covenant’. This new covenant signifies that there is a new way in which God is relating to human beings and so when we come to Jesus the promise found in the gospel is that we can be a part of this new covenant; that we can enter into this new form of relationship between God and human beings. The promise of the Gospel is a new Covenant mediated by Jesus.

### ***The promise of new birth***

Pastor Bola refers to Chapter 1 of her book, *Reborn: a new identity*, in which she mentions John 3 when Nicodemus went to see Jesus and how he was so surprised when Jesus told him he must be born again. Jesus explained that human beings could be born in two ways. Pastor Bola then quotes from her book by explaining the two ways of being born,

“First the birth by which we gain physical entrance into this natural world. That is what Jesus called being born of the flesh. Then there is the second birth by which we gain spiritual entrance into the supernatural world of God. Jesus called it being born of the Spirit.” The promise of the Gospel, found in the new Covenant, is new birth when we accept what God offers us.

### ***The promise of salvation***

Matthew 1:21 says, “She will give birth to a son and you are to name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.” Pastor Bola explains that Jesus came to save us from our sins and offer us a rescue because we were lost as none is righteous. Therefore, we needed to be rescued from the dominion of sin and the captivity of the devil into which man put himself.

Romans 10:9 says “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved.” That is the promise of the gospel! We all need to be saved and it is because of our sorry case that Jesus came to die for us. The promise of the Gospel is salvation for everyone who calls on the name of Jesus.

### ***The promise of redemption***

Pastor Bola accentuates that Jesus came to reclaim us for God because we gave ourselves to the devil. A price always needs to be paid for the deliverance of a slave and that is what Jesus did for us. Because of our sins we were under the dominion of the devil and we had to be punished. However, Jesus came and took us out of the dominion of the devil, paid the price for our sins, reclaimed us for God, and now we are redeemed, bought back and belong to God!

Ephesians 1:7 says, “In him (in Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Pastor Bola explains that we have redemption, not through any effort of our or own, having paid the price ourselves, through struggling or convincing God that we are going to be amazing from now on, but we are redeemed for the simple reason that Jesus allowed His blood to be shed for us. The promise of the Gospel is redemption through the blood of Jesus.



## ***The promise of forgiveness of sins***

Pastor Bola observes that often when sharing the Gospel with people in France (where she resides), they claim that religion is always putting guilt on people. They therefore do not want to hear about sin and God because they do not want to feel guilty. She however highlights that it is quite the opposite! Even though we are guilty and need to be conscious of it, the purpose of the gospel is to remove the guilt. The Bible says that we have redemption through the blood of Jesus; in other words, we have forgiveness of sins. We do not have to do anything extraordinary to be forgiven of our sins, all we need to do is to come to the One who has paid the price for the forgiveness of sins.

God truly forgives, wipes the slate clean and does not hold a stick over us to hit us every time we do something wrong. He removes our sins far from us (Psalms 103:12). Pastor Bola quotes Luke 24 vs 44 – 49, which says,

“The Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.”

She explains that Jesus was talking to His disciples before going to heaven when He pointed out that it had been mentioned before that preaching about repentance for forgiveness of sins through the Messiah would take place

In as much as there is a promise of forgiveness, there is also a requirement of repentance. However, we cannot repent unless we know that we have sinned. This is the reason therefore that Pastor Bola mentions sins when

talking about the Gospel so that people will have the consciousness of the fact that they have fallen short of what God wants for them and can therefore repent. The promise of the Gospel is forgiveness of sins to all who repent.

### ***The promise of reconciliation***

Pastor Bola highlights that when man sinned he was separated from God.

When the first parents were driven out of the Garden of Eden, there was a break in their relationship with God. However in the first episode we saw how God continued, because of His love and His goodness, to maintain a relationship with human beings, and how He put in place different systems, such as the law so that He could maintain this relationship.

She further explains that He called Abraham, and set him apart so that he would be a father of a people and through his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. In Galatians 3:16 we see that the seed is Jesus. Therefore, God has done His part, reached out to us, and when we receive the promise of God in the Gospel, we are reconciled with Him. We do not need to go into extensive religious activities to connect with God because He already made a way for us to be reconciled to Him and that is through Jesus. In 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 we see how not only are we reconciled to God but He asks us to work with Him to reconcile other people to Himself. The promise of the Gospel is reconciliation with God.

### ***The promise of adoption***

Pastor Bola underscores that Jesus has enabled us to be adopted as sons of God (John 1:11). She refers to Chapter 3 of her previously cited book, *Reborn: a new identity* in which she describes adoption in the Roman society. At that time adoption was normally the adoption of a male child for purposes of inheritance. Therefore, adoption was not just becoming part of

a family; it also meant that one became heir of the family's fortunes. This is exactly what happens to those that confess their faith in Jesus Christ!

Romans 8:15 further describes how when we receive the Spirit of adoption, God becomes our Father! The promise of the Gospel is adoption by God.

### ***The promise of justification***

Pastor Bola refers to Romans 5:1 which describes the fact that we have been justified (declared not guilty). In Chapter 5 of Reborn: a new identity, Pastor Bola relates a story of a man who goes into court room and he is accused of doing something wrong. He is in fact guilty but then his father offers to pay the price and go to jail on his behalf. When the verdict then comes out and he is declared not guilty, he is astonished. And that is what happened to us in Jesus. We were guilty, we are guilty, but because of what Jesus did, God declared us not guilty.

Romans 3:25 says that God presented Jesus as a propitiation and promised that He would declare righteous anyone who had faith in Jesus. This is God's promise of justifying a world of sinners and allowing mankind to be reconnected with. The gospel is good news because man is no longer condemned and separated from God, but God has actually solved that problem. This separation causes us to live in pain; Furthermore, man has submitted to the devil and allowed the devil to take over his heart, which has caused sin to become endemic to the nature of humanity. However, Jesus came to change that as we saw in the first episode.

### ***The promise of freedom***

The Bible says Jesus, the Son of Man was revealed to destroy the works of the devil. Pastor Bola accentuates that in the book of Ephesians we find out that the devil is called the prince of the power of the air and he dominates

and imposes his will on people. When we receive the good news of Jesus Christ we are set free; we receive freedom from the dominion of Satan, the dominion of darkness and the dominion of sin. Additionally, we receive freedom from condemnation because Romans 8:1 says, “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Not only are we freed from sin, but we are also set free from the guilt that goes along with it; from the burden of sin inherited from Adam; from separation caused by sin and free from condemnation! The promise of the Gospel is freedom from the works of the devil.

### ***The promise of wholeness***

Pastor Bola explains that the promise of the Gospel is wholeness - spirit, soul and body. In Isaiah 53:4, we see how Jesus took up our infirmities and He carried our sorrows. The Gospel is therefore the promise of deliverance from captivity to sin and sickness, and any form of captivity because Jesus took up our infirmities.

In conclusion, we note that God invites us to come to Him as we are and receive all that He has. The Gospel is the promise of a new beginning for all who turn away from sin and turn to Jesus for salvation. The salvation package is rich and plentiful. It is a new and beautiful life that God promises and offers all those who believe and commit their lives to Jesus.



# *Scriptures*



The Gospel is a promise





### **ROMANS 3:10-13 (HCSB)**

"There is no one righteous, not even one, 11 there is no one who understands, there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, together they have become useless; there is no one who does good, there is not even one. 13 Their throat is an open grave."

### **ROMANS 3:23-24 (HCSB)**

23"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. 24 They are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." 25 God presented Him as a propitiation through faith in His blood, to demonstrate His righteousness. God presented Him to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be righteous and declare righteous the one who has faith in Jesus.

### **ROMANS 6:23 (HCSB)**

23For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift if God is eternal life through Christ Jesus.

### **MATTHEW 1:21 (HCSB)**

21 She will give birth to a Son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.

**ROMANS 6:23 (HCSB)**

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus.

**ROMANS 10:9-10 (NLT)**

9 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**EPHESIANS 1:7 (NIV)**

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

**LUKE 24:46-47 (HCSB)**

46 He also said to them, "This is what is written: The Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, 47 and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

**LUKE 24:48-49 (HCSB)**

48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And look, I am sending you what My Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.

**GENESIS 22:18 (NIV)**

18 And through your seed all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.

**2 COR 5:17-18 (HCSB)**

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come. 18 Everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

**2 COR 5:20 (HCSB)**

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."

### **JOHN 1:11-13 (HCSB)**

11 He came to His own,  
and His own people did not  
receive Him.12 But to all who  
did receive Him,He gave them  
the right to be children of God,  
to those who believe in His  
name,13 who were born, not of  
blood, or of the will of the flesh,  
or of the will of man, but of God.

### **ROMANS 8:15 (NIV)**

15 For you did not receive a  
spirit that makes you a slave  
again to fear, but you received  
the Spirit of adoption. And by  
him we cry, “Abba,Father.”

### **ROMANS 8:1 (NIV)**

1 Therefore, there is now no  
condemnation for those that are  
in Christ Jesus.

### **ISAIAH 53:5(NIV)**

5 But He was pierced for our  
transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities; the  
punishment that brought us  
peace was upon Him,  
and by His wounds we are  
healed.