The Gospel of John
So That You May Believe
1. The Problem: The **blindness** of man’s natural state.
12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. – 1 Corinthians 2:12-14
1. The Problem: The **blindness** of man’s natural state.

2. The doctrine of divine **election**
10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
– Isaiah 55:10-11
For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

– 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5
And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved, 28 for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.” 29 And as Isaiah predicted, “If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring, we would have been like Sodom and become like Gomorrah.”

– Romans 9:27-29
Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? 3 “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” 4 But what is God's reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” 5 So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. 6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. – Romans 11:2-6
“God is not obligated to save anybody, to make any special act of grace or to draw anyone to Himself. He could leave the whole world to perish, and such would be a righteous judgment.” – R.C. Sproul
The doctrine of divine election says that God has sovereignly and graciously chosen, before the foundation of the world, a people for Himself, a remnant, from out of the sinful world, and set His covenant love upon them, and gave them to His Son as an inheritance and as His bride.
“even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” – Ephesians 1:4-6
“All who go to hell go because of their own free will. All who go to heaven go because of God’s sovereign will.” – Steven Lawson
“And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.”

– Acts 13:48
“You don’t want fairness. Everyone in heaven is there by mercy. Everyone in hell is there by fairness.” – Steven Lawson
The whole issue of election is not about God keeping people out, but about God graciously bringing people in who didn’t deserve to be there in the first place. It’s not about God unfairly keeping people from salvation but about God graciously and mercifully choosing to save some who didn’t deserve to be saved in the first place, so that the whole world wouldn’t perish.
Everyone who wants to come to Christ, can come to Christ and does come to Christ. But that only happens because God first does a prior work in their hearts which gives them the holy desire to want to. Because only then are they truly free to exercise their will without the bondage of a sinful nature.
3. What it doesn’t mean
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• That evangelism isn’t needed
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- That God doesn’t genuinely offer salvation to all
- That God morally wants anyone to perish
- That we don’t exercise our will
- That evangelism isn’t needed
- That we need to worry whether we are elect
4. What it means for us
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- Salvation is very personal
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- Salvation is very **personal**
- We are **kept** by Him to the end
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- Salvation is very **personal**
- We are **kept** by Him to the end
- It leads to deep **humility** and **gratitude**
4. What it means for us

- Salvation is very personal
- We are kept by Him to the end
- It leads to deep humility and gratitude
- There is hope for the worst of sinners
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