

Appendix B

Unified Gospel Response Summary

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The unified gospel response is not a checklist of separate requirements. It is a single movement of the whole person toward God, expressed in sequence and bound by necessity:

**(Trusting Belief ⇒ Repentance ⇒ Confession ⇒ Baptism) =
Salvation**

Each arrow represents the analytic connection. Trusting belief does not merely precede repentance—it necessarily produces it. Repentance does not merely precede confession—it announces itself in it. And confession reaches its completion in baptism: the verbal appeal taking embodied form, where grace meets the response at the place God appointed for it. The sequence describes not four separate responses but one faith completing itself through four sequential acts. No one element saves alone, and nothing outside of them is missing.

The following chart combines elements from the Four Levels of Belief (Chapter 3) with the Four Gospel Commands (Chapters 1, 3–6). It presumes a person’s initial state as one of Unbelief or Intellectual Belief. It serves to explain how a person moves from Trusting Belief to Saving Belief, the point where faith completes itself and salvation is conferred. This corresponds to what Paul calls “the obedience of faith” (Romans 1:5; 16:26). When passages emphasize different elements, they’re highlighting various aspects of this unified response, not presenting competing requirements.

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Gospel Command	Mode Engaged	Described by Paul	Core Meaning / Action	Represents in "Four Levels of Belief"	Cumulative Result
Believe	Mind→ Heart	<i>"With the heart one believes"</i> (Rom 10:17→ 10:10)	Heart entrustment to Christ. Confidence in His character and promises, reliance on Him to act accordingly, allegiance to His authority.	The shift from Intellectual Belief (Level 2) to Trusting Belief (Level 3) as the heart yields to Christ	Reflects a heart opened to God through the gospel; Trusting Belief begins the unified response and will immediately usher in repentance
Repent	Will	<i>"God commands all men everywhere to repent"</i> (Acts 17:30)	Turns from sin toward Christ in surrender	Trusting Belief (Level 3) expressing itself in a decisive change of direction	Turns Trusting Belief into a real change of life; moves faith toward its open confession
Confess	Mouth / Public Witness	<i>"Confession is made unto salvation"</i> (Rom 10:10)	Declares Jesus as Lord; Verbal appeal for rescue	Trusting Belief (Level 3) voiced in public allegiance; the final spoken act before completion	Brings Trusting Belief into public allegiance; carries the believer to the threshold of baptism, where Saving Belief will be completed
Be Baptized	Body / Whole Person	<i>"Buried with Him through baptism ... raised to walk in newness of life"</i> (Rom 6:4)	Embodied appeal for rescue, granted by grace through faith at baptism	Saving Belief (Level 4): Trusting Belief carried through repentance and confession to its God-appointed completion in baptism	Completes Saving Belief; unites the believer with Christ; God grants forgiveness, cleansing, and new life by His promise
Cumulative Meaning	Mind, Heart, Will, Mouth, Body	<i>"Obedience of Faith"</i> (Rom 1:5; 16:26)	One unified response in which faith hears, surrenders, speaks, and enters the water	The movement from Unbelief (Level 1) and Intellectual Belief (Level 2) to Trusting Belief (Level 3), and finally to Saving Belief (Level 4)	Each command expresses faith through a different mode; together they form the one gospel response Scripture calls "obedience of faith" (Romans 1:5: 16:26)

This appendix is reproduced from *Eternal Stakes: The Response Grace Demands* by Joe Tenga.
For the full argument, including Chapters 3-7, see the book.

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