

	GOSPEL COMPARISON			
	Synoptic Gospels			John
	Matthew	Mark	Luke	
date written	80+ A.D.	60+ A.D.	62-85 A.D.	70-99 A.D.
author	Possibly Matthew, one of the twelve disciples and a one-time tax collector for Romans	John Mark, who likely heard his content directly from the apostle Peter	Luke, a Gentile Doctor (Luke is part 1 of 2 of Luke-Acts)	John, one of the twelve disciples and therefore Jewish - the "disciple whom Jesus loved"
audience	Better educated Jews who believe in Jesus, but argue over the Law	Mostly Gentiles, fairly new in their faith, and facing persecutions	Wealthier Gentile Christians in an urban setting, becoming complacent	Very mixed: mostly Jews, some Gentiles, Samaritans.
focus & emphases unique emphasis	Concentrates on relationship of Jesus to Jewish faith: Jesus came to fulfill OT but judge the Jews for their unfaithfulness. Jews are called to see Jesus as the promised Messiah, the Son of David. Includes most forcible denunciation of Pharisees' hypocrisy	Emphasizes action over teaching. Stresses how "son of man" must suffer and be rejected. The Jews expected a Messiah who would be a political leader and figure of glory. Therefore, they found it hard to recognize Jesus as the messiah because he chose the path of humble service and suffering (his full glory will not appear in glory until his second coming).	Stresses blessings of salvation brought by Jesus. He writes from a historical basis, naming kings, emperors and officials. Emphasizes the signs of the coming Messiah, prophesied in OT and seen in Jesus' healing of the sick and preaching to poor and needy. Highlights grace of God being bestowed through Jesus on those who seemed least worthy of it (e.g. prostitutes and tax-collectors).	Jesus as the One sent by God the Father into the world to be its savior. As God's Son, Jesus has Father's authority, living in close communion with him.
phrase patterning	Only book to use "kingdom of heaven"			Translates 'kingdom of God' into 'eternal life'
Gospel begins with...	Jesus' Jewish Genealogy	"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."	Introduction of Gospel to "Theophilus"	Cosmic prologue: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Spiritual Principle & Practice to help us live the life God intends for us...

Principle #2a:	God created us to receive our sense of value & identity from Him and to hold him responsible for our needs, rather than from other people.	Jesus modeled looking to God for this glory: Jesus said, "I do not receive glory from people." - John 5:41	
Practice #2a:	Look to God, rather than other people, for my sense of value and identity.		
Life without it:	<p>Forced to look to other humans for my sense of worth & identity and for my needs to be met. Leading to a life consumed with impressing and being enslaved to other people.</p> <p>I am unable to truly love anyone because of the conflict of interest (I need them to meet my needs).</p>	<p>On looking in the wrong place: Jesus said to (the woman), "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, that I will give him will never be thirsty again." -John 4:13-14</p>	<p>Jesus knew better: But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people. -John 2:24</p>
Principle #2b:	In Christ, I am a beloved child of God.	<p>We are loved: ... God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. -Romans 5:8</p>	<p>We are children of God: Yet to all who received him, to those believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - John 1:12</p>
Practice #2b:	Receive and live in the truth that I am a beloved child of God, who wants to cares for my needs.	<p>A reminder of how loved we are: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! - 1 John 3:1-2</p>	<p>Challenge to receive and live in that love: But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <u>keep yourselves in God's love</u> as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. - Jude 20-21</p> <p>God cares for us: God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:19</p>
Life with it:	<p>Instead of taking from others I see others as opportunities to bless.</p> <p>My primary question shifts from "What will that person do for me?" to "God, how can I show your love to them?"</p>	<p>The command to love: Jesus: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." - John 15:12</p> <p>Jesus empowers us to love others with his love: Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. -Romans 15:7</p>	<p>You have to receive before you can give: We love because he first loved us. -1 John 4:19</p> <p>Jesus: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." -John 13:34</p>