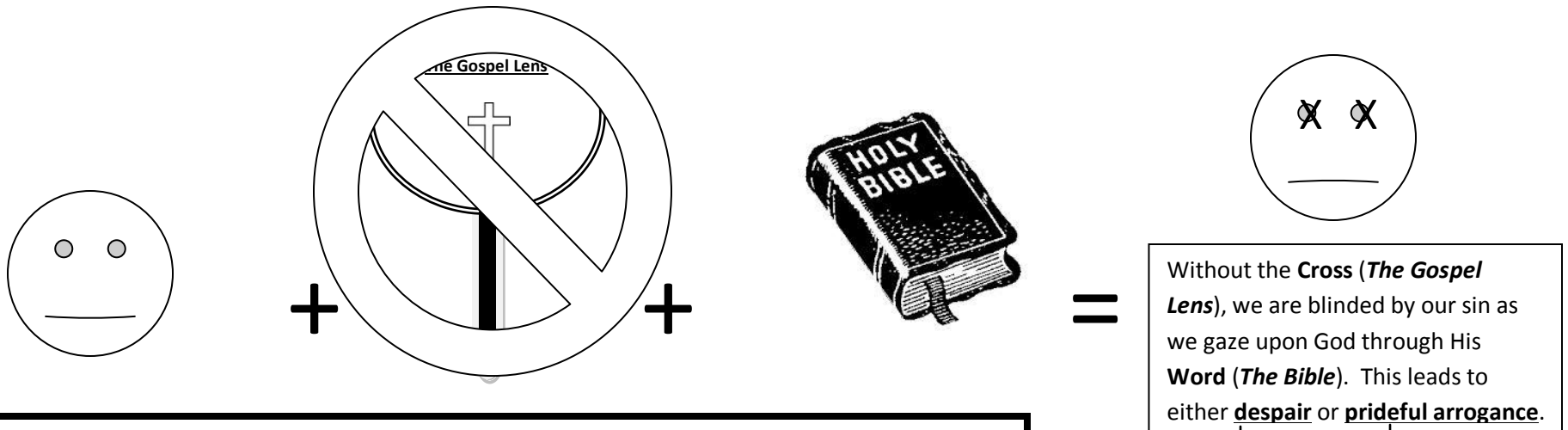
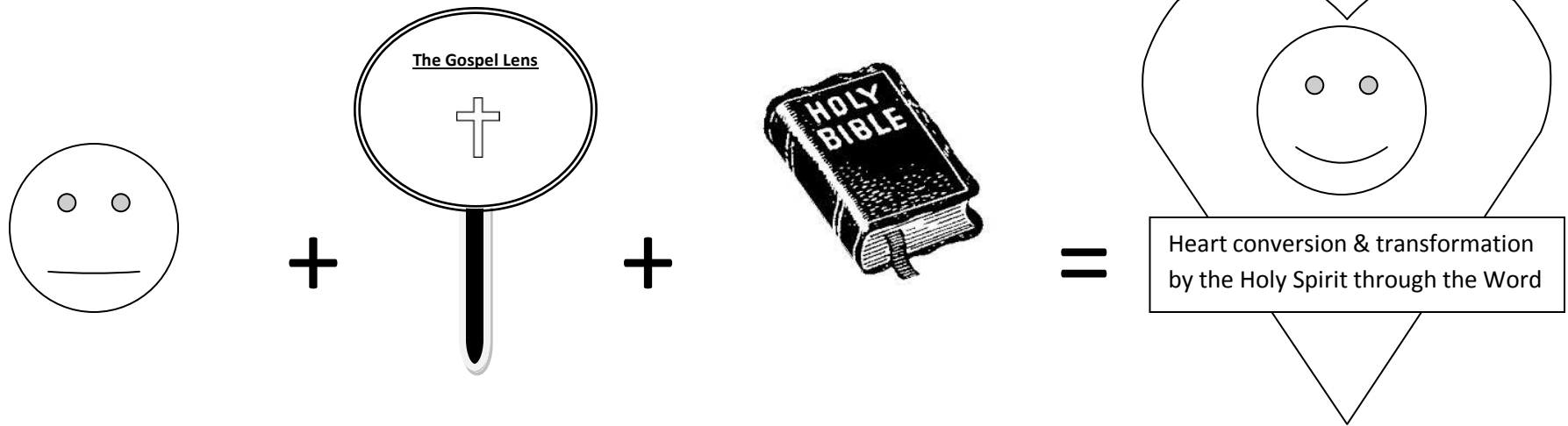


Reading the Bible through the Gospel-centered Lens (*Luke 24: 27, 44-45*)



Without the Gospel-centered lens, directly gazing upon God's Word through our own fallen wisdom will result in either despair and hopelessness or prideful arrogance and legalism in the form of religion. Neither of these result in thankful reception of the Good News. We must trust in the merit of Christ's perfect and sinless obedience for us and His penal substitution for the punishment we deserve (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). Using **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a** as a somewhat superficial illustration of this principle: Replace the word 'love' with your name and recognize your personal lacking of these characteristics described by Paul. Without the Person and work of Christ, we are either led to despair at our lack of such characteristics, or we determine that we must work to possess these characteristics through our own effort. Now, replace the word 'love' with the Name of 'Jesus' and recognize that Jesus, alone, possesses these characteristics FOR us that such love may grow IN us by the Holy Spirit.

