

Before you read this, I would like you to take a minute to pray this prayer;
“God, open my eyes to see how this writing applies to me today”.

Star Light

SL/2023-E5 Like stars, shine through the dark night sky

DISCLAIMER:

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my old self died, I now live in Christ!

Paul the apostle in his letter to the Galatian church boldly proclaimed “My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20 NLT). The Saul that was living in sin, harassing and arresting Christians to have them killed was crucified and died in Christ. Nevertheless, there is a new man name Paul living! The one you knew as Saul has died, there is a new man in Paul, he may sound the same, he may have the same vocal acoustics, same DNA profile, he may have same finger prints, the same iris credentials, but this man you see now is 100% new!

This is to be our experience; that our old selves indebted to, tied down by, and dead in sin was crucified with Christ, but since Christ rose from the grave and is commemorated this year on April 9 (2023), we too have risen to newness of life. But this can only be true upon fulfilment of a certain condition. After Jesus resurrected, an angel asked the women who came looking for him in the grave; “... Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here he has been raised...” (Luke 24:5-6 GNB). This condition is that **we cannot and should not be found among the dead in**

the grave!

What are these graves in which if our lives have not resurrected with Christ to a new life we can be found? Galatians 5:19-21 gives us a near exhaustive list. I will just copy and paste these verses from different translations (I wouldn't comment on them in this edition. If God so permits, we would have an exhaustive discussion in another edition).

New Living Translation (NLT):

“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. ...” (Galatians 5:19-21a NLT).

Amplified Bible (AMP):

“Now the practices of the sinful nature are clearly evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions [that promote heresies], envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior, and other things like these. ...” (Galatians 5:19-21a AMP).

The Passion Translation (TPT):

“The behavior of the self-life is obvious: Sexual immorality, lustful thoughts, pornography, chasing after things instead of God, manipulating others, hatred of those who get in your way, senseless arguments, resentment when others are favored, temper tantrums, angry quarrels, only thinking of yourself, being in love with your own opinions, being envious of the blessings of others, murder, uncontrolled addictions, wild parties, and all other similar behavior. ...” (Galatians 5:19-21a TPT).

Good News Bible (Anglicised) (GNBDC):

“What human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy, and indecent actions; in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups; they are envious, get drunk, have orgies, and do other things like these. ...” (Galatians 5:19-21a GNB).

The Message (MSG):

It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat

competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. ...” (Galatians 5:19-21a GNB).

Do any of these mentioned graves in any way describe the condition of your life? Jesus is standing at the entrance of the grave and calling “Lazarus [put your name] come out” (John 11;43 NLT). Like Jairus' little girl, Jesus is saying to you “Little girl [put your name], I say to you, arise” (Mark 5;41 ERV). Will you come out of the grave today and like Apostle Paul declare boldly; “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20 ERV)? If **YES**, please say this prayer:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I believe You died for my sins so I could be forgiven, You rose from the dead that I may have a new life. Forgive me my sins as I turn from them today. I ask you to come into my life today to be my Lord. I ask the Holy Spirit to help me live for you alone. Amen”.