

CHIST Thecross&you

JOSEPH KING

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

THE CROSS AND YOU

The Holy Bible, The King James version of 1789 (also known as the Authorized Version)

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ISBN: 0-9774928-2-6

Published by: Revelation Christ Publishing House www.josephkingbooks.com

Cover design: Andrew Kalanzi

Dedication

I would love to dedicate this book to our Lord Jesus Christ whose work remains and will forever be the greatest of all duties and from who we all derive our grace, peace, righteousness and life. To Him, who has washed us in HIS blood, be all glory, honor and power now and forever more.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Who else can you acknowledge this glorious message pertaining to the greatest sacrifice of all except to the LAMB of GOD?

- Rev 5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.
- Rev 5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?
- Rev 5:3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.
- Rev 5:4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.
- Rev 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.
 - Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
 - Rev 5:7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

 Rev 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.
 - Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;
- Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

 Rev 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

- Rev 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.
- Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.
- Rev 5:14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four *and* twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Yes, we bow, we adore, we glorify YOU our one and only BELOVED KING. This book remains forever YOUR glorious work and to YOUR name be exalted praise forever. AMEN!

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INTRODUCTION

Was there ever a finer subject? Was there ever a braver deed? Was there ever a greater love? Was there ever a greater concern than the cross and its relevance to you?

Search and seek, go high or low, wide or narrow, and you will never find anything of greater worth than the cross. The work done on it by CHRIST constitutes the greatest effort of all eternity. No angel ever could belt out a praise that could redeem man; no cherubim or divine elder in all of heaven had a wiser idea that could redeem man; no prophet ever had a dream or a word that could redeem man; no king or prince ruled which such wise counsel that could ever redeem man; no creature ever occasioned such glorious effort. But CHRIST; HE remains the first and only ONE that ever could and actually did redeem man.

HIS idea? HIS effort? The cross.

This book comes from years of prayer, of study, and indeed of great meditation and profound counsel from the mighty HOLY SPIRIT. Most of what I write here, I did not know a few years ago. Infact, most of what I write here was never taught to me by any man but the blessed counsel of the HOLY SPIRIT.

I will be humble to admit that until I received this counsel over a period of six years, although I preached, and even assumed that I preached the cross, yet I hardly knew what I ought to preach. Like so many of my ilk, I was more conscious of sin than I was of the glorious work of the cross.

But I am glad that the HOLY SPIRIT sat me down and grounded me in a protracted exercise that lasted six years (and I am still learning- the lessons are ongoing on an infinite basis). Today, I can be confident enough to release by faith such a work on the cross, the greatest work of all.

My prayer is that the ONE that died for us and worked this glorious redemption through HIS death for us, will in great measure, and by the power of the SPIRIT, cause you to be enlightened to HIS work; I pray that HE will cause you to see the relevance of the cross to you today and forever.

I believe that prayer will be answered and by faith, I see that work working in you, causing you to abound in every good work. Now let us go to Calvary in a greater sense than history and religion can afford; let us see what that Roman centurion mastering this crucifixion finally saw and what the teachers of the law that stood at the feet failed to see. My friend, let us see the CROSS AND YOU.

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THE CROSS AND YOU

Gal 6:12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

Gal 6:13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

The greatest occasion in history took place 2,000 years ago; that should be without dispute. When CHRIST JESUS took our place of sin and guilt and gave us HIS place of righteousness and glory through HIS death on the cross, the earth and indeed all of creation witnessed the greatest of all occasions on earth and eve in eternity.

This cross was, is, and will always be the grandest gesture that GOD has ever offered to any other being. For at the cross of CHRIST, HE redeemed man by punishing HIS own SON and

making freely available the whole of HIS being and privilege to all who believe in HIM.

Properly understood, the cross is a wonder beyond description in any human language. That I have attempted to put this wonder in writ for all to know is in itself a miracle of sorts. In this exercise, I am conscious that it will take a lot more than the words and letters in here to make the point.

Consequently, I am so grateful that the mighty HOLY SPIRIT is indeed present throughout this work to provide the necessary insight and light of understanding to the presentation I am making here. I seek in HIS power in these words to get you to know the immense glory of the cross, the wonder of its work, the enormous privilege it renders you and indeed all men.

Beloved, at the cross, CHRIST made so much available; HE gave you so much. There is so much FREEDOM for you there, so much LIBERTY. And I am not just talking about liberty from the domain of darkness and torment, or freedom from the devil and the judgment that awaits all those who follow his track of sin, but I a talking freedom into the glories, the lights, and the power of the highest of heaven.

The cross offers so much more than as often been attributed to it. And it is my humble duty to provoke you with so few words of the immensity of privilege that it affords you.

Let me say this, let it be made abundantly clear: there is nothing in the whole of heaven or on earth or indeed in all of creation more relevant to you than the cross. You may ignore a lot of things in life, you can even afford to be ignorant about a lot of things; but you CANNOT afford ignoring or being ignorant about the cross.

The knowledge of the cross is therefore the MOST necessary wisdom you ever could attain; it is the greatest wisdom ever.

Of course there are those pretentious workers of darkness who are offended by this: There is a wisdom that rules this world that is opposed to the highest wisdom there ever was; by that I refer to the contest between the wisdom of this world (functioning in the carnality of the flesh) and the message of the cross (perceivable in the work of the SPIRIT). This diabolic contention seeks to deceive even the very elect from finding glorious relevance in the cross of CHRIST.

To be sure, this wisdom of the world is not passively doing this; any serious discernment would reveal that on the contrary, it is actively and strategically orchestrating a most corrupt effort at bringing the cross and the accomplishments of CHRIST therein to open ridicule. The exercise is demonic.

You can be sure that the devil is behind it and that the whole of his kingdom, the domain of darkness is actively in line with this gross agenda. What is disheartening to witness is how many believers and indeed ministers of the cross have co-opted themselves into this devious design of gross corruption. That many believers and ministers of the gospel hardly refer to the cross for any course of glory but to laws, requirements and ordinances that were indeed nailed on the cross (Colossians 2:14) is indeed a telling indictment to the church.

It has to be most tragic when ministers will levy a charge on the word of GOD, or on prayer, or on healing, or on anything that the cross makes abundantly available to the world. Ministers that do this have lost the glory of the cross and are indeed seeking glory in the vanity of this world. They are to be most pitied.

Speaking about those in his day and era (and they have indeed multiplied in vice and number in our days), the apostle Paul lamented thus:

Php 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Php 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

The gross effect of their sad ministries has been a multiplied interest in vanity among believers more than a revived interest on the cross. Sadly, many in the church today are following

after the patterns of the world rather than leading the world to the cross of CHRIST.

Beloved, the cross is eternally relevant; it wasn't only relevant 2,000 years ago as CHRIST died on it but to this day and forever more, the work of CHRIST is indeed eternally relevant.

Indeed JESUS CHRIST is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). What HE accomplished on the cross has never lost its power; that old rugged cross, will never ever lose its power. What it did for you then, it is still able and will always be able to do for you now and always.

It is most important that you appreciate seriously the validity of the cross and CHRIST's work therein; relevant, indeed most relevant, because contrary to the thinking of many, the death of CHRIST was never a personal work or even a personal death as most understand it. The death of CHRIST on the cross is a communal work; because HE died for us after HIS rite of Holy Communion, it means that when HE died, we died with HIM. HE did not just die a lonesome death; to be sure, you were crucified with HIM.

This death, this work, this communion, then has been recognized by GOD to be the greatest undertaking of man, the greatest achievement of HIS own SON. Together with CHRIST, we have divine approval from the FATHER and have been highly exalted with HIM in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 2:5-11).

What that means is that all our glory, all our privileges, all our riches, are our entitlements because of the work of the cross. Our only claim to glory, indeed to anything the FATHER has offered is the cross. Whether it is riches, favor, health, joy, ministry, whatever whatever whatever, whatever you may desire from the FATHER, the cross is the license by which you gain it. Our glory is in the cross.

That should inform you that the ministry of the cross should be centerfold in our lives. It should be the essence of our lives. Anyone fighting it, introducing any other measure for riches, health, favor, whatsoever, is not just an enemy of the cross, but be assured he/she seeks your utmost failing.

Precious and I have noted that these masqueraders abound among the sheep and in the world; preaching another gospel which is not even a gospel (Galatians 1:6-9). We know how dangerous their work is, we also know that they are not innocent but are rather crafty messengers of darkness seeking to corrupt you from the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6; 2Corinthians 11:13).

For this reason, because we believe in you having found out from the cross that GOD seriously does, we have sent you this book in this EASTER season to set the record straight and provoke you back to the cross. We pray that the words therein will work with the power of the SPIRIT to revive your faith in CHRIST and HIS finished work at the cross. And where you may have backslidden to written ordinances of the law that condemned you or even to any other measure for glory, we pray that this book will help set you right. Only at the cross, can you ever be sure about being right with GOD; any other means is sinking sand.

Permit me to be your usher in the greatest measure ever known in eternity, the greatest wisdom ever revealed, indeed the greatest love ever offered; WELCOME TO THE CROSS. It has so much it offers, infinitely much, just for you.

THE CROSS & YOUR LIFE

THE CROSS AND YOUR LIFE

- Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)
- Rom 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.
- Rom 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
 - Rom 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
 - Rom 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fear death? What for?

The threat of death, the weight of death, indeed, the claims of death, was roundly disputed and seriously overwhelmed some 2,000 years ago; yes, death suffered a severe blow, a massive defeat from which it cannot recover. You do not have to fear

death; thanks be to GOD and HIS amazing grace, at the cross at Calvary, CHRIST rendered it a devastating blow.

This fact is absolute and indeed GOD'z most astonishing feat in all of eternity. You might have read that at everything GOD made in the beginning HE actually rejoiced over it, citing it to be good; then when HE made man, HE acclaimed HIS work as very good; but that was not HIS finest performance. After what CHRIST did at the cross when HE died for the sake of all men, the FATHER saw this as the finest effort of the deity.

Beloved, the death of CHRIST is GOD'z most amazing work. Therein was the most perfect exhibition of HIS love, of HIS brilliance, of HIS determination.

The point of it all is not merely that JESUS died but what HE'z death signified. This death was no ordinary loss; to be sure, it was a lot more than a loss. It was the most extraordinary gain. When JESUS died, HE in so doing gave up HIS life as a privilege for all who HE had died for.

Essentially, HE did not die in vain. HE also did not just die for us. More than that, HE died so that in so doing we could in turn legitimately gain HIS life. The death of JESUS is the legal permit for all men to assume the life of GOD.

Because HE died in our place, we can now live in HIS place. Isn't that wonderful?

Absolutely mind boggling if you delve to the depth of its significance. Beloved, even if HE had just died for us in the sense that we needed a SAVIOR; that would have been awesome all by itself. If HE'd died in our place so that we did not have to die for our sins? HIS death would have meant our salvation and that would have been so wonderful in itself.

But HIS death means a lot more than our salvation in the sense that HE died *for* us; a lot more. HIS death was a communion exercise so that we were indeed dying *with* HIM and not just HIM dying *for* us. Beloved, when HE died, HE didn't just die for us but died with us. This communion of us in HIM makes HIS death a most amazing fascination. This was the point HE sought to make in sharing HIS last supper with HIS disciples; HE sought for us to know that HIS act of death was the point at which we would forever be accounted to be one with HIM.

Nothing in all that GOD ever did or JESUS HIMSELF had done compared to this feat: When HE healed the paraplegic, or the leper, or the withered hand, or when HE raised the dead, or saved HIS disciples from drowning in the sea, or fed the multitudes, HE was often moved with compassion. But when HE died at Calvary, it's a lot more than compassion that compelled HIM to the cross. What moved HIM to die was the significance of HIS death in light of our communion with HIM. JESUS CHRIST was moved by communion to die for us.

In dying at Calvary, HE knew that we would be dying with HIM in an exercise that would forever overpower death among men.

Beloved, HE wasn't just a betrayed loner, dying in the hands of evil and contemptuous men; HE was more than that. Much more business was at stake at the cross: JESUS CHRIST was us dying with HIM; HIS death was our final day with that evil force called death that had terrorized men since Adam.

In other words, when HE died, we died with HIM; when HE suffered, we suffered with HIM. In HIS death was our commune conclusion with death. None of us need to die ever; none needs to be afraid of death. Death has no authority over us because together with CHRIST at the cross we ended its evil mandate.

It is in this sense that the cross signifies to us our life as well. It does so given the fact that in being one with CHRIST and sharing therefore in HIS death, we are then reconciled with the FATHER and have divine life.

Beloved, without the communal death of CHRIST in which we all died with HIM, we cannot have communal life in which we all live with HIM and the FATHER. Our faith in HIS death at the cross as a communal work, qualifies us to be one with HIM and the FATHER. Wonderful! Dying with HIM made us worthy of the divine life which HE communally shares with the FATHER. HIS death on the cross therefore meant more than an

end to our sins; it also meant the end of the legitimacy death has to reign in our life.

This is amazing; many believers have tended to limit this death to merely a death for us and miss quite a lot in appreciating it as a death with us. Faith in the fact that HE died with us strengthens our knowledge of our fellowship with HIM, which in turn strengthens our knowledge of our reconciliation with GOD. At the cross, CHRIST reconciled us with GOD, making it perfectly legit for us to have the life of GOD. You could put it this way: we lost our humanity and gained HIS divinity; we gained eternal life.

This Easter season, do not just celebrate the death of JESUS as though it were some historical fact of some incredible personality. Although that may be true; yet, there is more to HIS death than history and amazing personalities can ever afford. Similarly, do not just limit your celebration of HIS death to some significant religious event in which you are only a devoted spectator; indeed, although your devotions may be sincerely reverend, yet there is a lot more in celebrating HIS death than religion ever affords.

The death of JESUS gave you more than history, religion, or any such vain knowledge could ever grasp. Beloved, this EASTER season, celebrate your life in HIM and with HIM; yes, rejoice in your communion with HIM and your everlasting victory over death.

It doesn't matter what threat death seeks to scare you with; its illegal. You hear me? ILLEGAL! It's so sad to observe that death is illegally working among a people that have not yet grasped a hold of the realities of the cross. At the cross, you died with CHRIST and death lost its legal claims over your life.

So this Easter, think life, speak life, live life; not any life, celebrate more than human life. Faith in CHRIST means that you have the life of CHRIST resident and at work in you. Whatever may be seeking your life, threatening your life, hindering your life, wasting your life, complicating your life, whatever whatever whatever, is ILLEGAL.

So expel it! Don't waste time with it. Death has no business with you. When you died with CHRIST at the cross, death lost all claims over you; meaning that from then on, life is your business. You are in the divine deity, one with the FATHER and the SON, and have already overcome the world. You are reconciled with GOD and have HIS life.

So this Easter, hold on to the communion you have with CHRIST wherein death has no legal business with you. It should not have room in your thoughts, in your body, in your family, in your

marriage, in your business, in your finances, in your dreams; you have no business with death.

On the contrary, you have divine life by virtue of this divine communion with the SON of GOD. Think this life, speak this life; do so in your family, in your business, in your health, your fortunes, your victory, your nation, your generation, your everything. In all you do, in whatever you say, get in the business of divine life.

This Easter, make it a point to see yourself in CHRIST and HIM in you; see HIS divine life in you. Yes, celebrate LIFE!!!! It's all yours!

Truly:

Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Did you see that? They that what? They that RECEIVE; you could say, they that lay a hold of the CROSS, of its communal significance. Once you identify with the cross to the extent that you were one with CHRIST, dying with HIM; then you have all the reason to reign in life.

This EASTER, don't just sit and sulk, complaining and whining about every problem around you and around the globe; a

thousand times NOOOO!!!! You got it better than all that; you are on top of it all if you can only identify with CHRIST in HIS death and therefore with HIS life. As you celebrate this communion, the realities of HIS life will become even more apparent so that all the trappings of divinity will converge in your daily workings to make you spectacular.

Yes, in this life, this divine communion with CHRIST, you will walk in triumph over sickness, poverty, confusion, fear, depression, war, pain, death; yes over death and all its power and evil duties.

I see you in HIM; I see HIS life in you; I see you reigning in life. I see you having a most blessed EASTER my dear friend.

THE CROSS & WAR AND WA

THE CROSS AND YOUR HEALTH

1Pe 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Sickness is illegal too; it has no legal mandate in your life in CHRIST.

The moment CHRIST died, indeed, the moment HE suffered in the flesh in your place, the moment HE bore your infirmities; you were healed. What that means is that sickness lost every legitimate right for being on earth, particularly on any human body.

Beloved, forget about the facts that many believers get sick or that sickness is indeed whipping bodies by the numbers and is indeed an ongoing global concern; all that mess it is performing, even to the death of multitude numbers is illegal. To be sure, people are suffering for lack of knowledge, perishing in the hands of illegal activities. Few actually appreciate the full weight of what the cross has already done; quite a few know the full work CHRIST rendered therein and how that still works today. Many do not realize that sickness was duly dismissed and its legality substantively terminated at the cross. Watch this: **There is not better response to sickness than the cross.**

You see, HIS body during HIS sufferings was a communal vessel enduring on our behalf all the punishments deserving of a sinner. In HIS sufferings, all the sickness and disease of this wicked world were inflicted on HIM in such sufficient measure as to ensure you never have to suffer any of it ever. Essentially HIS sufferings, HIS stripes, concluded the legitimacy that the curse of frailty and infirmity had on the human experience.

This was incredible; it is still incredible. When JESUS went to the cross in obedience to GOD and as the sin of men, HE took with HIM all the infirmities of men. HE became the legitimate body that should endure all infirmity. HE became the legitimate target of every cancer, every heart disease, every viral infection, and every skin damage; name it, think it, whatever disease; whether known today, whether extinct, whether unknown, in every measure, from every source.

HIS body endured every infirmity; not because HE had contacted it, or caused it; HE suffered it all because HE had taken the place of men in becoming the sin they had done and therefore the legitimate body that should suffer its effects.

This is so important because it reveals to us the spirituality of sickness and disease. Many do not realize that sickness is not merely a material reality but a spiritual one. When someone suffers a disease, or is inflicted with an infection, they are not only enduring a material infirmity; their real problem is not material but spiritual.

Beloved, sickness did not come from anything GOD created. Indeed, when GOD created man from the very beginning, HE never planned any day for him or his kind to ever be sick. I often hear people suggesting that the body repairs itself or protects itself from sickness and disease and suggest that this demonstrates the kindness of GOD in preparing man to fend against sickness and disease.

Beloved, that is no truth: GOD never created man with an insurance plan against sickness. Far from all that; to be sure, GOD created man without sickness in mind.

When GOD created man; HE created HIM above any evil consideration. HE created HIM to be as HE is; to be perpetually perfect and consistently whole. The first man could not get sick, did not know disease, he was consistently above that measure. Infact, Adam and Eve never tired, they never weakened, were always abounding in strength; they were like GOD (Genesis 1:26-27).

Unable to fall sick, they were a clean bill of health from the tip of their head to the sole of their feet. Not even soul weakness; they never felt depressed, stressed, mentally challenged, could never be oppressed or even distressed. They were above that frail trapping.

Why? Well, because they were not humans as we know men to be today. GOD is spirit and the extent to which man was synonymous with HIM means that he was spirit too and not a flesh being. The flesh may have been his form but it was not his substance.

Essentially, Adam and Eve were sovereign spirits that dwelled in a humus form. Their mind was spiritual, their ways were spiritual, their identity was spiritual; they walked in the SPIRIT and never fulfilled the lusts of the flesh.

In that measure of life, it was impossible for them to be sick. As sovereign spirits, they reigned in a realm superior to any wicked spirit responsible for imputing sickness.

They were able to eat anything without any harm; they could be in the company of any specie without any danger; there was no means that any affliction could be imputed on them. They had a full-proof health policy without necessarily requiring any curative measure. And this privilege was buttressed by their spirituality. Being spiritual, they were invincible; completely unable to be afflicted.

Let me further elaborate on the glory of man in the Garden of Eden: By virtue of his semblance to omnipotence, by virtue of his essence as a sovereign spirit, he was able to govern the earth in as much glory and wonder that GOD governed the heavens. Meaning that, just as it was impossible for GOD to fall sick or for sickness to have passage into heaven, similarly it was impossible for sickness to gain passage onto the earth in man's sovereign rule on earth.

Not only couldn't he fall sick but in his omnipotent power and authority over the air, the ground, and under the sea, nor could any creature therein, under his perfect jurisdiction fall to sickness. Sickness was impossible before the fall.

So sickness can never be GOD'z plan. HIS plans are not disastrous, nor does HE consider any weakness on your part. Far from all that, GOD seeks that we be like HE is; and in that omnipotent measure, it is impossible to be sick.

So how did sickness become a human experience? How did it come into the world so much that it seems like quite an integral part of the world's experience?

Understanding this would help us understand how it was even possible for JESUS to bear the infirmities of all men and therefore how we can indeed restore our bodies to robust health. And further than that, blast sickness right out of the earth realm. It is important that we realize that sickness did not come in the world or even upon man by some bio-transmissive agent or through any natural measure. That may indeed have been the case in a limited sense; however, more seriously understood, sickness came to the human experience and indeed to all creation, by virtue of the fall of man. When man fell, when he rebelled against GOD, and lost consciousness of his spirituality, his essence; he then became a flesh being vulnerable to all the workings of evil.

Let me explain that: You have to understand how much man fell relative to how much Satan fell to grasp this.

Let us compare the two falls: When Lucifer fell together with the hosts of heaven he had seduced to rebel against the MOST HIGH, their descendance did not substantially change their nature. Where they were previously created as *ministering spirits* (to serve the MOST HIGH), their demotion left them with all their angelic trappings without the glorious privilege of serving GOD. Essentially, they remained spirits, not ministering spirits but *rebellious* ones. Satan and his company are *fallen angels*.

Now man's fall was indeed more severe: When man rebelled against GOD, he indeed fell from grace wherein he was a sovereign spirit akin to GOD. But there's more to it: Man's fall was substantial because he changed from being a *sovereign spirit*

to being a *human being*. Unlike the angels that remained spirits after their rebellion, man lost consciousness of his sovereign spirit worth and became limited in material considerations.

This created a huge problem: Because man's fall from grace was this severe, because man descended to becoming a material being, he in effect became the lowest ranking creature of GOD's creation. The life of man as a material conscious being became significantly inferior to that of all spirits including fallen angels. This precarious development made the man a victim of the devious designs of fallen spirits. And among their furious efforts against the plans of GOD is the evil work of sickness.

Sickness became a possibility among men following the fall only because men had indeed become inferior to fallen angels. Before man's fall, when he reigned on earth as a sovereign spirit being; it was impossible for man to fall sick. As a sovereign spirit, man was superior to every other creature GOD had created including fallen angels and even ministering spirits. In that form and substance, sickness could not find a place on his body; he was substantially insulated from such vulgarity.

This privilege was underpinned by his superiority over and above any spirit that could work such evil.

But that all changed with man's disobedience and subsequent loss of spiritual consciousness. When man lost all sense of his omnipotent worth, then he became vulnerable to any and every maneuver of evil. As a flesh being, limited to material considerations, man became inferior to the manipulative workings of fallen angels who were hard-bent on fighting proxy with GOD here on earth.

In this battle, which was indeed an extension of their failed attempt to run over heaven, sickness is a weapon that Satan metes out to further corrupt man and hold him hostage to material consideration.

Beloveds, sickness is not material; it is a spiritual weapon that the enemy employs to deceive man further into material consideration. The way it works is that once it is imparted into a person's life, that person is weakened as a measure to get him thinking about his apparent frailty. Sickness is used to keep us conscious at a material level; it seeks to deceive us into ignoring our spirit (which is essentially who we are), while seeking to get us more unduly aware of our bodies.

I have seen people get sick, I have been sick and I have seen how it works; when a persons hand is sick, perhaps, it is broken or paralyzed, all they tend to think about is that arm. The arm becomes a kind of central impression of the man's life. All they think about, worry about, spend on, talk about, their whole life revolves around that arm. Essentially, sickness works as a

measure to get the man conscious of himself at a limited level. It seeks to hide your true self while exhibiting your weakest self. When people are sick, they actually do a lot of meditation; most of their thoughts, their prayers, their fears, revolve around their weakness to the point that they are completely unaware of who they really are as spirit beings.

This was the problem the apostle Paul had when he suffered from an infirmity following his heavenly experience:

2Co 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

2Co 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

He prayed and prayed over this thing; and the LORD did not pay attention to it. Many suffering sickness tend to go through the ordeal Paul went through. For those with family members, there respective families will spend considerable time praying about their illness.

It never occurs to them that the particular person is indeed far more than the illness plaguing his or her body. They will worry, fear, be anxious, think and think and think, and pray, pray, pray over this thing as though all the man is, is that frail body they are worried about. But you see, man may be deceived about his actual worth in a material conscious world that is deceived by the evil one; but GOD is not. GOD knows man better than man knows himself. GOD is fully aware that the fall of man is a state of consciousness; man did not just become a material being but more so, he became materially inclined.

That spirit that man truly is remains seriously in him. Although the man rebelled and became materially conscious, man nevertheless is in proper impression more than a body, more than flesh; he is a sovereign spirit being.

It is this dilemma that JESUS sought to resolve in HIS death on the cross. HE did not just die to get us forgiveness for our sins as many have it. HIS death sought a lot more; in HIS vicarious sacrifice, JESUS CHRIST sought to restore man to be conscious of the sovereign spirit being he was actually created to be.

By paying the full penalty of sin with HIS death, HE made it legitimately proper for GOD to restore man to his sovereign worth both in thought and deed. Sin had separated man from GOD by causing man to lose this consciousness of his marked fellowship with GOD as sovereign spirit beings. Now the cross made it legal and right for GOD to restore man to that consciousness. At the cross, JESUS made man as valuable as GOD is; HE revealed man's infinite worth.

That is awesome, so awesome; hitherto fore, man had been unconscious of his real worth. This ignorance had left man comparing himself with material realities to gain a sense of worth. Sometimes they sought their worth from one another, say if a woman was married to a man; she often saw her worth in light of the man. Sometimes money was used; some people found their worth in riches, in material wealth, in properties, others were sold or bought at prices set by other men. In all, before the cross, man had lost a proper sense of worth. No one knew exactly what the worth of man really was.

Now, as long as man sought this sense of worth with a material conscience then he remained vulnerable and perpetually a victim of evil spirits. It did not matter whether one was a king or a pauper; all men had fallen to material conscience and were therefore in that frail and degenerate state inferior to evil powers which impudently wrought evil on them.

In this measure, sickness plagued all men; whether they were kings or paupers, male or female, rich or poor; all were in their material limitation vulnerable to sickness.

This point was clear in the case of Moses' confrontations with the Pharaoh of Egypt. In all the declarations that Moses pronounced, all of Egypt was extremely vulnerable from the greatest (Pharaoh) to the least of all. When he sent boils, even Pharaoh got them; when he sent death, it caught on, even in Pharaoh's palace.

Why? Because like GOD lamented:

Isa 40:6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, and all the goodliness thereof *is* as the flower of the field:

Isa 40:7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people *is* grass.

Isa 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Sin reduced man to being materially conscious and in that vulnerable place; man had lost every sense of glorious worth and succumbed to wicked powers and devious schemes. The picture is really pathetic considering how great GOD had made man to be. GOD continues to lament:

Psa 82:6 I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.

Psa 82:7 But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.

And fall, man did; not only to the woeful damnation of material consciousness but furthermore, into sickness, weakness, disease, and death.

But that is not the whole story; thanks be to GOD who has so loved us and sent HIS SON to pay the ransom for our sins. Yes,

at the cross, JESUS sorted all that mess up. HE removed the partition that separated us from GOD and made us welcome into the fellowship of the deity. Yes, HE made us legally worthy to be considered as sovereign spirits again. Once HE died, once the ransom for our sins were fully paid, HE made it possible for us to be restored to our spiritual consciousness; HIS death legalized our appreciation of our true worth.

From that vantage point, we must know that sickness is beneath our worth. Look, when JESUS became sin, when HE took our place in judgment, then HIS body became rightfully ours and ours HIS. We became one with HIM and in the measure of HIS death, partook all infirmity necessary to punish sin.

In other words, following HIS decision to go to the cross, sin and all its accompanying works had one last legitimate right over the human body. And believe me, they took it. The moment JESUS took upon HIMSELF the burden of communally being our substitute for our sins, all hell was upon HIM with all the fury they could master.

That means all sickness that should ever have come upon rebellious man came upon HIM.

The prophet Isaiah had a vision of this amazing incident and revealed some 700 years before they occurred how it happened:

- Isa 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?
- Isa 53:2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.
- Isa 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
- Isa 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
- Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

 Isa 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Unbelievable but so true; the cross is quite a mystery, quite dumbfounding, quite novel, and yet the most absolute truth ever. Where the prophet marveled and pondered who could believe this report, the LORD has sent me to assure you that it is true. Believe it.

Believe what? Relative to the problem of sickness, believe that HE was wounded for your transgressions, HE was bruised for your iniquities; the chastisement of your peace was upon HIM; and with HIS stripes you were healed.

This spiritual weapon that wicked spirits had wrought with impunity against the bodies of men, this vulgar vagary that had crippled men and rendered them materially conscious to a considerable fault, this wretched work, was defeated at the cross. From then on, its effects are illegal and should have no means whatsoever to be placed upon any man. Strictly speaking, following CHRIST's suffering and death, sickness in every form is an illegal presence that should be expelled with contempt.

No man, no child, no one, need ever bear this tragic work on any part of their body or soul.

That is it. Sickness is illegal; it has no business with you. It was banned some two thousand years ago when man's rebellion was punished in CHRIST. From thence, sickness has no right whatsoever from ever coming upon you. Before CHRIST died, we were slaves to sin and the vagaries it wrought; then, sickness had a legal right to inflict our bodies and even to kill us.

But that is all over. We are no longer slaves to sin; we are bought by the precious blood of the LAMB. We all belong to JESUS who bought us with HIS blood and made us in HIM far above the worth of sin and sickness.

Because HIS death was a communal feat, because in HIS death we actually died with HIM, and in HIS sufferings, we were inflicted with HIM; now sickness is no longer a tenable entity. In HIS vicarious sufferings and death, JESUS endured all that we deserved, providing in HIS body the last legal venue sickness ever had on earth.

From thence, regardless it caliber, whatever its nature, no matter what its cause may seem to be, but sickness is illegal. There is no excuse sickness has to be on any human body in light of what the sufferings and death of CHRIST did.

Wait a minute; you might say, 'Well, Mr. Preacher Man; stop blaming the devil for everything. It is I who drove carelessly and got into an accident that has totally devastated my leg.' That may be so, logically speaking; but whose wisdom are you employing to justify the damage to that leg? You are using the logic that pertains to this material world and not to CHRIST. According to CHRIST, there is no justification for a broken leg, let along an accident. Whatever the occasion, its reality is an illegal one and at the name of JESUS, its occasion can be written off, completely. That means, whatever the occasion, whatever the damage, its reality is a deceptive one and is illegally placed. What is necessary then to correct it is the work of the cross.

Apply the cross to every sickness and you have rendered that sickness null and void. The cross, so to say, is superior to every and any sickness. There is no infirmity that CHRIST did not overcome at the cross. Be it cancer, HIV/AIDS, leukemia, paralysis, mental illness, depression, afflictions of the body, the

skin, the organs, the bones, whatever; HE overcame all afflictions, be it of the mind, the emotion, or even the will; whatever sickness, infirmity, or weakness that plagued the human specie, CHRIST rendered it powerless at the cross.

A lot of believers limit the healing ministry of our LORD to HIS three year ministry. They think that all that JESUS did in relation to healing is limited to that experience. I have seen many healing ministers preach on healing in relation to JESUS' three year ministry. If say, they want to minister to the blind, they will refer to JESUS' healing of the blind in HIS three year ministry; if they want to minister to the mad, they will minister in reference to JESUS healing the mad during HIS three year ministry; or if they are ministering to the paraplegic, they will refer to when JESUS healed the paraplegic during HIS three year ministry.

Then they will declare that JESUS is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8); essentially suggesting that just as HE was able to heal the sick then, HE is still able to sick today.

That may indeed be the case; but the healing ministry of JESUS transcends the miraculous wonders that defined HIS three year ministry. Indeed, the greatest healing works of JESUS were not done in the streets of Capernaum, or Galilee, or Jericho, or even in Jerusalem. The greatest work of healing that CHRIST wrought is when HE took all our infirmities and bore our diseases by HIS own stripes (Isaiah 53:5; 1Peter 2:24). Yes, when JESUS suffered

and HE died, HE performed all the healing any body ever required.

Let me put it this way; the stripes of JESUS healed much more than the touch of JESUS. When HE healed during HIS three year ministry, that healing ministry was restricted to the boundaries of Israel; but when HE suffered our infirmities, HIS healing ministry transcended time, borders, and indeed reached all men. Everyone was healed by the stripes that CHRIST suffered.

So why do people get sick? Why all the suffering, the diseases, the pain and loss? Like I said, the answer lies in ignorance; most people are terribly ignorant about what JESUS accomplished at the cross. And I am not just talking about the world but even believers in CHRIST. Many church-going, even pulpit ministers, are completely ignorant of the amazing work CHRIST rendered in taking ALL our infirmities.

Most believers in CHRIST limit their understanding of CHRIST's sufferings and death t a punishment HE suffered for our sins. Most do not realize that as much as it is that HE took our sins, HE also took on HIMSELF our infirmities.

This is very serious business; we must take back our glorious privilege of divine and total healing. The key to this restoration is knowledge, the knowledge of the cross and what CRIST therein did for us. This is the answer to sickness; the answer to all

infirmities, all pains, all sufferings; beloved, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE SICK A SNGLE MOMENT.

Sickness is illegal; it was vanquished, and you have every right, regardless the sickness or indeed its cause; you have every right to be fully whole.

At the cross, JESUS took ALL sickness so that, today and forever, you do not have to take any sickness. HE took your infirmity so that you would in turn take HIS perfection. You have a legal right before GOD to take on HIS perfection.

Look, its not something you have to cry to GOD about like the way King Hezekiah cried, pleading with GOD that his good deeds are remembered (Isaiah 38:1-3); a thousand times NOOOO!!!! Your right to healing is reckoned in heaven by virtue of your faith in CHRIST. My dear, do not beg for your right to what GOD has already given freely in CHRIST; just believe and assume it.

Sickness is a spiritual weapon that answers to a stronger weapon called faith. You may be relying on some strong medicine; good. But I am telling you about something that is able to handle this vagary right at the root of it. Faith in CHRIST does you a greater medicine than any scientific innovation man has come up with. So, when sickness shows up; recognize its illegitimacy. Do not justify its presence or let some wise doctor tell you that it has a right to be on your body for some medical reason or the other;

oh NO, heaven NO!!!! That reasoning is what is keeping the world in bondage when CHRIST rendered them free.

When sickness calls (and by the way, it uses the back door, i.e., it plays on ignorance to take advantage), do not call the doctor before you arrest it. Speak against it, reason against it; apply the wisdom of the cross. You have to stand firm on it and recognize that you are engaged in a spiritual battle where your knowledge of the cross is being put to the test.

Your mind may tell you, you got HIV which causes AIDS from your sick husband; I counsel you to listen to a better voice, the voice of the SPIRIT and the word of GOD. Those two great witnesses will declare to you what is CHRIST's (John 16:14). The word will assure you that by HIS stripes you were healed; the SPIRIT will assure you that CHRIST HIMSELF bore your infirmities.

Then you lay a hold of their testimony and begin to declare in agreement with them, that "I AM HEALED!"

When? Well, some good two thousand years ago. Do not wait to get healed in the afternoon, or in two or three days; NO NO NOOOOO!!! Heaven NO! Do not wait for it; just take your healing that was performed on the cross.

Take that healing that JESUS gave you; take it by force. Do not think for one moment that when you are dealing with sickness, you are merely dealing with a material reality or a biological fault. Far from all that; when sickness strikes, you are on a war zone against spiritual weapons in heavenly places. Those wicked spirits seek to demote you from your sovereign reign with CHRIST as a son of GOD and conform you to a frail and ridiculous entity that they presume must succumb to their whims.

Meet them at their turf; engage spirit to spirit; sovereign spirit against rebellious spirit. Show them that you know who you are in CHRIST, wherein you are placed above all principality and powers (Ephesians 1:19-23).

Boy, you have the advantage; whip that sickness out in the name of JESUS!!! Don't negotiate with it, don't suffer it for even a splitting moment, don't even waste time treating it; KICK IT OUT!!!!!

What you need is this knowledge; the knowledge of the cross. Previously, you may have suffered for lack of knowledge but that era is gone now. You have learnt, you have believed, you know; sickness is spiritual and it was banned two thousand years ago at the cross.

From thence on, I am glad to declare you healed in the name of JESUS; by HIS stripes you were healed. Not going to; not at all, HEALED!!!! You beloved were HEALED!!! Stand on the word of your testimony by which you have overcome the evil one (Revelation 12:11). HEALED!!!!!

THE CROSS & WEALTH

THE CROSS AND YOUR WEALTH

Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

I must early on get to his very very serious matter; what the cross says about your wealth. So much abuse has run amok throughout the body of CHRIST regarding the prosperity of believers so much that so much false manipulation of the word has seen messengers of darkness incorrectly divide the word of truth. This grand corruption has gone on for so long with several extremes so much that hardly any knowledge is perceived among believers pertaining to the amazing wealth that the cross renders all who believe in CHRIST.

Does the cross have anything to say about the wealth of the believer? So much more than any other means of prosperity. Infact, the richest and most assuring way to wealth is not your money but the cross of CHRIST. Faith in CHRIST's amazing work therein works a prosperity that transcends any other measure for prosperity in this world or even mentioned in the Holy Scriptures.

First of all, let me make something categorically clear so that we avoid any misunderstandings; I believe in prosperity. I believe in it because GOD is indeed a most prosperous GOD. GOD believes in prosperity; if HE did not, then HE would have a hard tie believing in HIMSELF. Anyone that can claim legal ownership of all the earth and the riches therein; the silver and all the gold in it; and even the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10); cannot be poor, nor can HE be appropriately thought of as believing in poverty.

One trip to heaven should rebuke any thought of GOD has endeared to poverty. The roads of the place are made of gold (not just covered but made of) (Revelation 21:21); HIS throne room is bigger than a sea (Ezekiel 1:22-28); and that precious commodity energy? Well, in the new earth, there will be no need for the sun or moon; energy will just ooze out of HIM (Revelation 22:5).

GOD is rich rich, absolutely, amazingly, and incredibly rich indeed. I mean HE is rich beyond currencies of this world can be able to afford; HE is able to supply things such as money cannot buy; HE is able to do things that cannot be computed in any currency.

Think about it; how much would it cost just to rise the sun for a single day? If HE were to charge, what would HE charge for allowing us the air we breathe? What about the water we drink? The privilege of fauna

and flora? How much could we pay for the gift of life? What about the assurance of an after life? If GOD were to charge, were HE to levy a price for HIS boundless gifts, we would never ever be able to pay in any measure we have.

And so, HE gives; lavishly, enormously, generously, FREELY; HE is GOD. Part of HIS omnipotent worth is HIS incredible prosperity; GOD is absolutely rich. HIS wealth is beyond question; HIS propensity to extravagance can outshine the vainest of all. Being LORD of all; that means, owner of ALL; HE is indeed entitled by sovereign right and duty to do with ALL as HE pleases. Indeed, when HIS marvelous omnipotence was questioned by a self-righteous and impudent Job, HE clearly humbled the query thus:

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Job 38:2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Job 38:3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

- Job 38:4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
- Job 38:5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?
- Job 38:6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;
 - Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

- Job 38:8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?
- Job 38:9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,
- Job 38:10 And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors,
- Job 38:11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?
- Job 38:12 Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place;
 - Job 38:13 That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?
 - Job 38:14 It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment.
- Job 38:15 And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken.
- Job 38:16 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?
- Job 38:17 Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?
 - Job 38:18 Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.
- Job 38:19 Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof,
 - Job 38:20 That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths *to* the house thereof?
 - Job 38:21 Knowest thou *it,* because thou wast then born? or *because* the number of thy days *is* great?
- Job 38:22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,
- Job 38:23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

- Job 38:24 By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?
- Job 38:25 Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder;
- Job 38:26 To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man;
- Job 38:27 To satisfy the desolate and waste *ground;* and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?
- Job 38:28 Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?
- Job 38:29 Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?
 - Job 38:30 The waters are hid as *with* a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.
 - Job 38:31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?
 - Job 38:32 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?
 - Job 38:33 Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?
- Job 38:34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee?
 - Job 38:35 Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?

And that is just a sample of HIS omnipotent propensity; when GOD talks wealth, when HE decides to exhibit HIS untold wealth, HE can speak of things that men and angels have never even thought of. Elsewhere, HE assures us thus:

Isa 45:3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call *thee* by thy name, *am* the God of Israel.

Infact, GOD is so rich that when HE gives, HE doesn't need to consult with no one. When HE gave to Abraham the land of Canaan, HE did not consult with the Canaanites that actually lived in it. Observe HIS pompous audacity:

Gen 13:14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

Gen 13:15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

Gen 13:16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

Gen 13:17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

And when HE sought to give the children the riches of Egypt? HE cared nothing about what the Egyptians thought about it. He just caused them to hand over their best to HIS best:

Exo 12:35 And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:

Exo 12:36 And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them *such things as they required*. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

So, the prosperity of GOD and indeed whether HE believes in our prosperity is indeed out of the question. It must be taken for granted. Those that suggest against prosperity and include GOD in those suggestions are using HIS name in vain; they are deceptive and commit a blaspheme.

GOD is absolutely rich and HE seeks that all HIS creation lives in the affluent abundance of HIS incredible wealth.

Furthermore, that man is indeed the crowning of all HIS creation (Genesis 26-31; Psalm 8:3-8) suggests that man is indeed the most assured of HIS prosperity. I mean, if there is anything that GOD has determined to prosper then it is man. GOD seeks your prosperity.

Now no one ever knew that more than JESUS who was, is, and will always be the SON of GOD, HIS first born, and HIS most celebrated associate. JESUS knew the wealth of GOD because HE was, is, and will always be GOD. So HE didn't know that wealth second hand but first hand; no one had to counsel HIM about prosperity or teach IM about it. Whatever the FATHER has was HIS all along; it was as much the FATHER's as much as it was indeed HIS. There is nothing that the FATHER owned that HE did not own as well. All of creation was made for HIS benefit. Watch this, speaking of HIM:

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

I am in, JESUS believed in prosperity because HE was and is the author and finisher of it all. Without HIM, there is no prosperity; there would be nothing were it not for HIM. JESUS CHRIST is the emblem, the epicenter of wealth; all prosperity is subject to HIM.

Faith in HIM is therefore a faith in prosperity beyond carnal wisdom. You just cannot believe in CHRIST and then with the same heart believe in poverty. That would be an abuse of faith. If you believe in CHRIST, you are duly bound in all spiritual wisdom to believe in prosperity. As such, Christianity is a prosperous faith.

That said, permit me to get into the crux of the matter here; having established the obvious, let us now resolve the extent to which the cross of CHRIST is indeed the key to infinite prosperity.

This matter is so awesome, so critical; and indeed, to the great loss of many believers, this subject has been largely ignored. Clarifying on it is guaranteed to cause such revival of prosperity in the believer and indeed the church than has been known hitherto fore.

The cross and your wealth: *Just how rich does the cross make the believer? Does it even have anything to do with wealth for the believer?* Many do not think so, when they look at the cross they see a wounded and beaten SAVIOR dying for their sins; some contemptuously mocked HIM, erroneously thinking HIM to be dying for HIS own sins of blaspheme.

Point is that the cross has often been grossly misunderstood, with even many believers not seeing in CHRIST's vicarious death as much as they ought to.

Indeed, many believers are more likely to believe that heaven could make them rich than they would believe that the cross did indeed make them rich; many are even more likely to believe that the seed they sow in faith believing has a greater chance at enriching them than the cross of CHRIST. More are more certain that hard work and smart thinking is able to enrich them than they have faith in the cross of CHRIST doing so. Most people are more prone to trust in their own flesh more than the cross of CHRIST in matters pertaining to prosperity.

And yet, I beg a different story. The greatest key to prosperity ever unleashed in the human experience is not heaven, or the seed in your hands, nor the work of your hands and the brightness of your intellect; it is the cross of CHRIST.

I am not surprised at this lack of knowledge in the prosperous working ability of the cross. To be sure, many are not fully aware of the glorious wisdom of the cross and indeed how it is indeed GOD'z wisest work (1Corinthians 1:18-31). The apostle Paul, who is greatly reputed for revealing to the saints, by the power of the SPIRIT, the amazing wisdom of the cross pondered on this controversy between the cross and the wisdom of the world and indeed that of the Jews:

- 1Co 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
 - 1Co 1:19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.
- **1Co 1:20** Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
- 1Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.
 - 1Co 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:
 - 1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;
- 1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Boy, that cross is the power of GOD; not just the power to save from judgment and destruction but also the power to deliver from poverty. It is indeed the greatest power for salvation, the greatest power for prosperity, the greatest power of all.

Now, the enemy, who is the god of the material age, the god of futile thinking, hates for you to discover this. He will deceive you to believe in your abilities, the abilities of others, even is own dubious and questionable abilities to prosper at the expense of the most amazing opportunity of prosperity. He fights the cross; seeks to hide its wisdom and power from you so that you may not attain to the grad riches it renders you.

That is why you have even believers deceived into believing for prosperity trough other means and measures that are far inferior to the cross.

Beloved, it's high time you are quickened by the SPIRIT to recognize your prosperity from the cross. CHRIST did not die for nothing; neither did HE die only for your sins and sicknesses. HIS sacrifice had a greater benefit for you than anything else could ever assure you. Boy, you stand to gain from the cross more than any other means could ever guarantee.

This is why the apostle Paul got mad at the Gentiles when they went about seeking to be prospered by observing the law. He just couldn't stand them being hoodwinked to think of any lesser means to prosperity. To the Galatians, he counseled against

observing the requirements of the law in light of the guarantees the cross assures them. Watch this:

- Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.
 - Gal 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.
- Gal 3:12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.
- Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:
- Gal 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Did you see that? I mean, do you see what I see? Beloved, you do not need to engage in the requirements of the law or any measure to be assured of prosperity. Paul was a Jew and he knew better once he'd come to CHRIST. He understood the merits of the cross in light of the immense prosperity it brought relative to any measure including the law.

But like the persistent liar the devil is, since the days of CHRIST when he sought to mock the cross, s has he continued to hood wink believers from seeing its full merit. In the days of Paul, and even today many believing Jews went about teaching requirements of the law as necessary for prosperity. The result of

that misguided teaching has been a exercise of faith in seeds, offerings, and acts of charity as a means of tapping into prosperity.

Those who do so, major on minors and in their gross error, insult the merits of the cross.

Paul knew so and was elaborately stern in his counsel against such folly. He knew that the cross of CHRIST rendered to the Gentile and Jew, an exceedingly far greater prosperity than the law guaranteed. Infact, Paul knew that the blessing of Abraham by which the believer is indeed a blessing to the nations was never possible by any measure counseled by the law but indeed by faith in the finished work of the cross.

Let me make it abundantly clear to you my dear; the cross, faith in its prosperous work for you, has done a lot more, immeasurably more, to prosper you than any tithe you could ever sow, than any sacrificial seed you could ever sow, than any offering (be it first fruit or otherwise) you could ever sow; than all the requirements of the law could ever guarantee you.

You could obey all the commandments like the rich young ruler did, from your youth, and yet outside of faith in the cross, you will never come close to the abundant wealth it offers.

Infact that rich young ruler may have gone away sad because of his apparent prosperity that had indeed been the result of his obedience to the law; and yet, he had turned away from the one who guarantees a far richer prosperity than the law ever could. That day was a sad one; the LORD lamented the young man's limitation. Kindly read this account with prayerful attention and you will see an access to a prosperity beyond human wisdom:

Mar 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Mar 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

Mar 10:19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

Mar 10:20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Mar 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

Mar 10:22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Mar 10:23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

Mar 10:24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

Mar 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Mar 10:26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

Mar 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men *it is* impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Mar 10:28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

Mar 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

Mar 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Mar 10:31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.

That episode is loaded with revelation; in asking the young man to sell all his possessions and give to the poor, the LORD sought to prepare him to give up all and receive HIS all through the cross.

Awesome, absolutely awesome; in that measure CHRIST alludes to the fact that the whole law, together with the Ten Commandments, is unable to give entrance into the kingdom of heaven and into the privilege of eternal life. It did not matter who you were or how faithfully devoted to the law you might have been, and yet it was completely unable to give these two priceless possessions.

And here is where the rubber meets the road: What the LORD had sought the young man to know is what you have to get a hold of and never let go; what JESUS sought the young ruler to grasp is the fact that HE is indeed the ALL in ALL. And more than that, HE was, is and will always be willing to share with us HIS ALL in ALL. Right there, right then, as is the case with you right now, CHRIST seeks that you possess all things together with HIM.

This measure is described in two references; the gift of eternal life and the kingdom of GOD. The one that possesses the two, own ALL things together with CHRIST. That is prosperity beyond tithing can handle, beyond any first fruit can deliver, beyond any amount of hard work or smart thinking can deliver; prosperity that is exceedingly, abundantly, above that which you are able to ask, think or even imagine. The one that has eternal life, has the kingdom; the one that has kingdom, has ALL THINGS!!!!!

This is complete and absolute prosperity; this is the true 'nothing missing, nothing broken' wealth that some talk of.

That is why JESUS was against any believer seeking for prosperity in their prayers, or in any other measure. HE knew better for us, HE sought better for us, HE had come to guarantee so much better for us. In HIS own words:

- Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
- Mat 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?
- Mat 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?
- Mat 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

 Mat 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:
- Mat 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
- Mat 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith?
- Mat 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?
- Mat 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
- Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

If you ever wondered whether GOD has a plan for your prosperity, there it is; GOD'z desire for your prosperity is certain and infinite. What HE created you for and seeks that you should have is beyond carnal thinking. It is outrageously incredible.

Beloved, GOD'z desire to prosper you is not a modest gesture but an infinite commitment. It is not limited to your needs or even your dreams; it exceeds that measure. GOD'z plan for your prosperity is greater than al HE has created, greater than heaven and earth combined together. It is beyond carnal measure, greater than any earthly king ever wished for.

HE plans to give you the kingdom; HE delights in making you one with HIM owning all that HE has. Let that devil never fool you that GOD seeks you to be poor in any sense. Far from that foolishness; your prosperity is HIS glorious delight. If you do not believe it from me, at least believe it from the mouth of the ONE in whom there is no lie, the ONE who the FATHER sanctified and sent into the world (John). Hear HIM:

Luk 12:29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

Luk 12:30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

Luk 12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Now this is serious staff; very serious staff. Beloved, GOD loves us so much that HE does not want us seeking our own prosperity. HE doesn't like us even praying for it. Far from that; GOD would have you know that your prosperity is HIS delight and that HE has indeed sought it for you. Infact, HE has worked out a prosperity for you beyond the wildest imaginations you may ponder.

That prosperity is the kingdom; and the one that as it has ALL THINGS.

What does this have to do with the cross? Everything; without the cross your possession of the kingdom of GOD and indeed of eternal life is impossible. When Peter pondered on this reality being impossible, JESUS rebuked his mortal concern and assured him that it was possible with GOD.

Beloved at the cross, possessing eternal life and indeed the kingdom of GOD became a possible reality. Indeed, it is the only means through which this immense prosperity is possible. Faith in the cross of CHRIST is the only means through which you are able to lay hold of eternal life and the kingdom of GOD. The one that has this faith has then overcome the world; HE has ALL things:

1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1Jn 5:6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

1Jn 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

- 1Jn 5:8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.
- 1Jn 5:9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.
- 1Jn 5:10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.
 - 1Jn 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

This is the victory over ALL things, including poverty. In CHRIST, at the cross, faith in HIS finished worked thereof, is the greatest assurance against the vice of poverty and the greatest effort for your prosperity.

As I conclude on this chapter, I seek to guide you by the grace of the LORD to desist from having faith in any other measure for your prosperity. The early church perceived this and exercised their faith in appreciating the wisdom of GOD wrought at Calvary.

They knew that GOD had indeed impoverished CHRIST in a communal work that concluded our position in poverty. As HE died, we died with HIM; poverty lost its right to any hold of our lives. CHRIST then became our prosperity; our legal ground for unfathomable prosperity.

It is at the cross, in our communal death with HIM, that we are indeed made one with HIM and are therefore considered by the FATHER to be joint heirs with HIM. Yes, because when HE died, we died with HIM; so we are then assured that when HE arose, we arose with HIM. Our communion with HIM is the glorious dispensation called grace, wherein we are lavished with all spiritual blessings pertaining to life and godliness in heavenly places.

When this privilege caught the eye of Paul he couldn't help letting us know. Watch this:

- Eph 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
- Eph 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
- Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
- Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
- Eph 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
- **Eph 2:7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Did you see that? You are not slow; stop thinking like that if you are in CHRIST. Prosperity has not by passed you nor has it ever left you behind. If you are in HIM, you are prosperity itself; brother, sister, you are right in the till. GOD has indeed quickened you to the riches of HIS mercies and the wonders of HIS glory.

All you need is to get a hold of it. Get a hold of what CHRIST has laid hold for you (Philippians 3:12-14).

This is why the devil still fights the cross; this is why he would rather you are slaving or dreaming up in some carnal prospect rather than reading a book like this one. He will even drum up false doctrine and legal requirements and promise you an outdated measure of prosperity so that you miss out on what the cross offers.

DO NOT SETTLE FOR LESS THAN THE CROSS HAS SETTLED FOR YOU!!!! Do not settle for carnal measures of prosperity that can afford a limited and temporal measure of increase.

Go to the cross; get the wisdom that it requires, believe in CHRIST and HIS communal sacrifice for and with you, and then seize the omnipotent privilege of being joint heirs with HIM.

Yes, you have got to be radical about this; so much is at stake. The good news about all this privilege is what Paul and the other apostles called the GOSPEL. This is what GOD seeks for you,

what HE has planned for you, what HE has dreamed for you, OH yes, what HE has worked for you; at the cross, HE has made eternal life and the kingdom of righteousness available for you; and with that, ALL THINGS too.

This EASTER holiday, rejoice your prosperity in CHRIST; be thankful forever grateful for HIS sacrifice. Don't just enjoy the ceremony of it all but get into the substance of it all. Look at the cross, look at your prosperity, look at your joint inheritance with CHRIST. Beloved, the cross has indeed made you a very rich person. If at that communal function CHRIST became your King, ten know that HE is King of kings; and when HE became your LORD, know then that HE is LORD of lords.

Yes, you have eternal life, you have the kingdom of GOD, you have ALL THINGS!!! You are a king and a lord, a royal owner of all things with HIM who bought you with HIS blood.

Am I glad to know you; you bet I am. And I am so glad to let you know that you my dear are rich; very very very rich. Now, believe it, receive it, and from thenceforth, confess it and live it. Walk in this faith and there will not be enough store rooms to hold your abundance. The cross; your prosperity!

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THE CROSS AND YOUR JUSTICE

- Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.
- Rom 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
- Rom 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
 - Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- Rom 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- Rom 3:26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

That text must be read as prayerfully as possible; it begs utmost attention. If the justification of the cross is missed, if the believer fails in seizing the justifying work of the cross, he/she has missed out on quite a chunk. Infact, I would even dare say that such a person risks their salvation. For how else can they be saved unless they believe in the redemptive work of the cross.

This work is so glorious; it is the point that awakens us to the light of GOD over and above any faults we have committed or could ever commit. Yes, at the cross, CHRIST rendered our faults null and completely void.

This is so important to catch; and I mean, lay a radical hold of. This is not some intellectually stimulated preponderance; it is not something that you merely reason wit your mind until you have intellectually comprehended its logic. It is that, yes; but again, a lot more than that. The justifying work of the cross is something to be believed more than merely reasoned; it should be fathomed at the spirit level more than it should figured at the mental level.

To be sure, it doesn't quite make convincing sense at a mental level. That by the obedience of one man, all men are credited worthy to be considered righteous merely by believing that one man's sacrificial duty? Sounds too good; yet it's true. Yes, it is too good and true.

Yes, it is true. What is more is that as far as GOD is concerned, there is no other way to be justified before HIM. That is, there is no work or service man can ever render or ever rendered b which they are justified before GOD. Since the fall of man, all men stood guilty before GOD until the sacrificial and judicial work of the cross.

This includes all those who sought to obey the law and the commandments, and indeed fully complied with all written

requirements. None of them in their utmost faithfulness stood justified before the holy GOD.

Now this matter is very serious because the devil has sought to make nuisance of the justice of GOD. Remember, he is offended at GOD'z measure of justice and stands opposed to it from the very beginning. No wonder that HE is opposed to the cross of CHRIST and in his devious and sinuous undertakings, seeks to corrupt the perception of justice that the cross renders.

In so doing, this corrupt and wicked being has worked hard and mean through dubious messengers of darkness in a most evil plot to cause multiple numbers to believe in JESUS in some token gesture but while doing so to discount further faith in the justice HE rendered us by HIS death.

That is why many believers are indeed not quite furnished with the revelation of their justification.

How do I know this? Well, from the very fact that Christians are indeed the guiltiest people I have met and the most condemning people I know. Most believers in CHRIST believe in HIM in a very limited sense; most are not aware of the enormous depth of knowledge wrought in the wisdom of HIS death on the cross. Although they believe and do confess HIM, they are nevertheless quite ignorant of the infinite benefits that come with faith in CHRIST's work on the cross.

Part of the problem has been the wrong teachings that have been carefully orchestrated by the enemy in light of this ignorance. Most that have preached on the cross have preached on it from the limited version of the price for our sins that HE paid. And even then, they have ministered on this in the sense that the price catered for sins one may have committed in the past, before their faith in CHRIST and not those after.

The consequence has been a faith in CHRIST that is exceptionally conscious of sin and guilt. As believers deal with the fact that their sins are still quite an issue with GOD inspite of the cross, they have tended to be extremely concerned about their ways, their doings, and are indeed some of the guiltiest, most obnoxious, and hypocritic people you can ever meet.

Essentially, you have a Christianity, a faith in CHRIST that is mostly a 'do-right' devotional following. Preachers encourage this, teachers seek this, churches and fellowships work around this to build a faith that is so judgmental, condescending and completely out of touch with the realities of the cross; at least insofar as the justice that was demonstrated there.

In this course, faith in CHRIST has been given further erroneous assistance with the law. To be sure, what we have being taught is a faith in CHRIST that is actually founded on the law; remove the law from most believers in CHRIST and they would never know how to walk in faith. For the most part, Christianity has

indeed been an extension of the law with CHRIST being the conduit for Gentiles being required to fulfill its several requirements.

Having received the LORD, discipleship has quickly metamorphed to a thorough grounding in the law. CHRIST having been reduced to a mere door for the Gentile to learn the ways given to Moses for the children of Israel.

Consequently, most believers in CHRIST have measured their salvation in light of their obedience to the law. In that erroneous exercise, they are convinced that they are doing well when they seem to be fulfilling the requirements of the law and often judge themselves harshly on the same basis; any failure in adhering to the law requirements has meant a backsliding of sorts.

Essentially, most believers having believed CHRIST as their personal SAVIOR have proceeded to seek justification from the law. The law has overtime become the critical decider of their position with GOD.

To all who have taken this path, the apostle Paul clearly makes sure they understand:

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Elsewhere, to the Gentiles in Galatia, he elaborately emphasizes:

Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Beloved, this has to be seized upon and radically assumed. You CANNOT be justified by the works of the law; none of those commandments were ever able to justify anyone before GOD. Before HIS HOLY VISION and in the consideration of HIS HOLY MIND, all men, including ALL that were obedient to the full were guilty:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

None was exempt; all were guilty. Infact, that is how it was then and that is how it is now. To this day, the validity of the law to making anyone justified before GOD is a most erroneous impression.

Those who seek to live this way, those who seek to be obedient to the law and perceive that in so doing they are obeying GOD and are justified before HIM, deceive themselves and insult the justice in GOD wrought in CHRIST.

It is in this sense that I have cautioned those evangelists that go about preaching against sin, citing the faults of people that they preach against the cross in counting trespasses and exhibit marked ignorance to the justifying work of the cross.

Beloveds, GOD sought justice and found it in imputing upon CHRIST the sins of the whole world. This is the true gospel, the full demonstration of the love of GOD:

- Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 - Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
 - Rom 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
 - Rom 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Did you see that? GOD showed us HIS awesome love in justifying us in the death of HIS SON and in imputing HIS righteousness upon us. At the cross, and only at the cross, did GOD find justice for the failing of man; justice was at the cross; not in your behavior, not in your doings, none of that. The only justice GOD sees and approves of is the one that comes with faith in the finished work of the cross.

If one fails to grasp the enormity of this work of CHRIST, they have no business preaching the gospel; indeed many that claim they do, in preaching against sin, in preaching, even demonstrating against sins and sinners, show a gross incompetence in preaching the gospel.

They speak about what they do not of (and that is most evangelists you can think of).

Beloved, the gospel is the good news pronouncement of this justice. We have been sent not to condemn the world but to highlight the justice of CHRIST in bearing the sins of the world upon HIMSELF. The preaching of the gospel is not a litany of all ills that people are doing and the judgment that awaits them but rather the doings of CHRIST in what HE accomplished for them in their place and the free gift of righteousness that awaits them. The apostle Paul called it a ministry of reconciliation, explaining its glorious mandate:

2Co 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
2Co 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the world of reconciliation.

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.
2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

That means, GOD is not counting the sins in Los Angeles when HE sends you to preach there; HE is not counting the sins in Sincity when HE sends you to preach there; nor is HE counting the sins of your spouse, your children, or family when HE sends you to minister to them. Beloved, HE is not counting the sins of the world when HE sent us to preach the gospel.

All the sins of your generation are imputed on CHRIST who became sin and suffered judgment on the cross.

Think about it; GOD is not in the business of imputing trespasses; HE is not writing a long book full of the sins of the world as many would assume; that is not happening. Indeed, the gospel word is not 'deal with your sins before GOD deals with you' but rather 'deal with CHRIST through whom GOD has chosen to deal with you'.

The gospel is the exhibition of this amazing justice, where our faults are not the issue. What is at stake is our faith in the cross and the justice there done. What GOD seeks we do is believe the cross and thereby qualify for HIS righteousness.

Whatever book of your iniquities and sins that may have been written, together with the law that accuses you, GOD nailed it on the cross and did away with that parameter:

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Col 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Speaking again to the believers in Ephesus, Paul was moved to clarify to them the good news:

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

He knew then what we should embrace and know more certainly now; Paul knew that GOD was not far from people after CHRIST. HE loved the world with all its sinners and had indeed reconciled them to HIMSELF through CHRIST.

As such, the good news surely cannot be that 'sinners, repent because GOD is far from you because of your sins'. Those who preach this way do not understand the justice of the cross and have completely underestimated the love of CHRIST.

GOD is not far from the world of sinners; in CHRIST, HE identified with them when HE made HIS SON to become sin as a payment for their sins. That act of kindness and mercy, that

incredible justice brought GOD closer to men than anything ever had; indeed, more than anything ever could.

The good news is announcing this pardon for sins, pronouncing this redemptive act; we are to tell every man not about their sins but about GODz redemptive love. This is the message with power; not some pulpit bashing, sin crusading enthusiast full of hypocrisy and blood thirsty hatred for people, vainly pronouncing judgment and death.

That said, the believer in CHRIST must then come to terms with how enormously close they are to GOD having believed in the justifying works of CHRIST. To this end, Paul asks and rhetorically answers:

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Rom 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

The point he makes is quite self-explanatory; essentially, HE argues the case that if GOD is not far from the world which HE has reconciled to HIMSELF through the justifying work of CHRIST's death, then it is self-evident that HE cannot be

separate from the one that has indeed believed and indeed therein received the free gift of righteousness.

Having received CRIST, we are made completely one with GOD. HIS offer of a righteousness that we did not deserve comes with the amazing privilege of being made one with HIM. In CHRIST, we are one with GOD; sons of GOD and indeed joint heirs with CHRIST (Romans 8:7).

Awesome, absolutely awesome; think about it; in CHRIST, we have passed judgment; we have become accepted to GOD and are indeed the beloved. GOD is indeed well pleased with us. Believers in our LORD have no business with the fear of judgment they have no condemnation:

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Wonderful, no condemnation; we have full pardon with GOD and are fully acceptable before HIM. It takes a revelation of love (not the law) to get a hold of this wonder. This is incredible love that GOD has demonstrated here and we need to receive it. This is not a justice by law but by love; a loving FATHER has rendered amazing justice so that we can afford an audacity before HIS throne hitherto fore unknown in heaven or ever in eternity (Hebrews 4:16).

That means we can indeed be bold before HIM, totally unfazed by any accuser or any accusation. Look:

1Jn 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

1Jn 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

1Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

1Jn 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Are you a believer and you are struggling with guilt? You are believing the wrong way brother. You have no business with guilt. If there is a struggle that you feel you ought to have, then it is the good fight of faith:

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

What you need is to lay hold of that which RIST has laid hold for you. Get a hold of your righteousness that HE has rendered you by your faith in HIS justified sacrifice at the cross.

This is the struggle, the only legitimate struggle of the believer; your faith fighting against the accusations of the accuser. And in this fight, you cannot listen and take validly the report of everybody. For one, many are caught up in the patterns of

accusation that Satan has crafted and condemned men with over the years, from generation to generation. Refuse their false testimony, turn away from their inaccurate prepositions.

You might argue that 'well, the whole world thinks that way'; and I will insist, turn away from what they say or think; I don't even care whether they are a preacher, turn away from them.

They may be many; who cares about the numbers:

Rom 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Rom 3:4 God forbid: yea, <u>let God be true</u>, <u>but every man a liar</u>; <u>as it is</u> <u>written</u>, <u>That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings</u>, <u>and mightest overcome when thou art judged</u>.

That means that ever time you look at the cross, see what GOD is seeing not just what men see. On the cross, see your justification; past, present, and future. Refuse to see your justification in anything your presume to be able to do or have not done; that is a trap. Your justification is at Calvary, on that old rugged cross where CHRIST became sin as a full payment for your sins.

Yes, this EASTER, be happy and bold without a fear of judgment or a concern for the enemies' accusation. I don't care even if an angel shows up and tells you down on your sins; look him right in the eye and boldly refer him to the cross.

Beloved, believe more in the strength of the finished work of the cross to present you holy before GOD than you can believe in any sin can separate you and have you condemned before GOD.

Yes, stand on that finished work and hold onto the justice that was so costly purchased for you; is yours this EASTER and indeed forever more.

Have a guiltless EASTER. For whom the SON has set free, is irrevocably, immutably, and irredeemably FREE indeed!!!! You are FREE; free from sin and its bondage, free from condemnation, free fro prejudice, free from fear and torment, you are FREE FREE FREE. You are FREE to venture far into the light of the righteousness CHRIST has graciously given you. You beloved, have a FREE laden and joyous EASTER.

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THE CROSS AND YOUR PEACE

- Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
- Eph 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;
- Eph 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;
- Eph 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:
- Eph 2:17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.
- Eph 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
- Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;
 - Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;
 - Eph 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:
 - Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Now I must deal with this most crucial and bothering matter of peace. As a minister of the word, an apostle of CHRIST, and indeed a pastor, I have come across so many believers lacking peace. Many are rather disturbed about peace with GOD and further from that lack peace with men, with their spouses, their families; indeed, many lack even peace with themselves.

I will never forget an instance when I went out to pray in a prayer mountain where other believers also go to pray. As I prayed in love and completeness to my dearest FATHER in heaven, fully confident of HIS love for me as demonstrated in HS offer of CHRIST; my rather peaceful occasion was interrupted by a couple of ladies; their prayers rather. Standing nearby, these ladies where howling and gnashing about their sins and asking that GOD whips them for all their wrong doings.

They repeatedly asked GOD to punish them, whip their backs, and sentence them so severely for all they had done to deserve the poverty they suffered.

Beloved, that had to be one of the saddest moments I ever have in a prayer sojourn. I wondered who their pastor or teacher was; where did they get such erroneous conviction? Who condemned the LORDz elect? (Romans); How comes they thought this way?

And then it occurred to me that a multitude of believers think this way. This was no isolate event; no isolate prayer. Most believers, across the plethora of Christian denominations believe this way. Most are so bothered by their faults and failings and attribute their sufferings to an angry GOD, convinced that HE is out there somewhere meting out wrath and judgment against them. Indeed, many teachers of the word teach things that way.

It is indeed common to find believers feeling estranged from GOD; many are even convinced that GOD has given up on them. Many that have been trapped and held by some habit or other have concluded that GOD has no business with them except to whip them, punish them, seek justice. Sadly, they miss out on their peace.

You can be sure to find entire congregations (and this is across the Christian divide- from Pentecostals to Roman Catholics) seeking to make amends with GOD. They will call prayer vigils where they repent their sins an exercise of 'making peace with GOD'.

And they are of course led by teachers who teach them these things; many even claiming to have gotten the concern from GOD HIMSELF. They will speak of 'burden' or even deep convictions, sometimes of visions and dreams, even divine visitations of angelic beings delivering GOD'z concerns of the wickedness of the people and HIS decision to bring forth judgment.

In their solemn ministries, they workout a testimony of condemnation and offense that is quite out of tune wit the cross of CHRIST.

These ministries of condemnation may be in line with Old Testament legal requirements and indeed the testimony of Old Testament prophets but that is where there divinity stops. Their ministries are outside the scope of the cross and the New Testament.

To be sure, that ministry of the Old Testament that so often pointed to the LORDz anger and judgment in light of the people's sins was done away by the cross of CHRIST. As messengers of the New Testament, we are no longer obliged to consider the peoples sins but to get the people to consider CHRIST's sacrifice in which GOD offered all men peace.

Some would like to discount that and suggest that GOD only made peace with those who believe in CHRIST. But that is not what the gospel says. The gospel says that at the cross GOD reconciled the world to HIMSELF, HE made peace with men. How? By removing the offenses that HE had against them which were known by the testimony of the law that condemned men. I have shared this in the previous chapter, but look at it quite prayerfully and catch the universal extent of GOD'z peace and the glorious accomplishment of the cross:

2Co 5:18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

2Co 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Did you see that? If you call yourself a minister of the gospel, you must realize that you are not a minister of condemnation. The gospel is the word of GOD'z peace with men not HIS war with them; we are ambassadors of peace not of war. GOD has in CHRIST resolved the problem that provoked HIS wrath against ALL men and now has sent us as HIS envoys to proclaim peace and goodwill to all men:

Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written,

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and

bring glad tidings of good things!

Our message seeks for all men to receive GOD'z offer of peace and not to promise men GOD'z judgment.

It is profoundly unfortunate that many that read the scriptures and teach it are not themselves able to correctly divide the word of truth. Not surprisingly, many do not distinguish quite appropriately the two different ministries; that of the Old Testament ad that of the New Testament. They just pick and ride along with anything that is in the scripture without understanding that it requires proper counsel of the SPIRIT to appreciate the relevance of every letter.

That is why many preach wrath, ministering condemnation, all the while not realizing that in so doing, they bring the work of the cross to ill-repute.

More serious than that, is that in ministering the Old Testament ministry that condemns and alienates people further from GOD, many do no realize that they are actually pouring new wine into all old wineskins and thereby wasting the wine (Mark 2:22).

I know that many who do dearly love the LORD and the cross; but when they mix the two, requirements of the Old Testament and the message of the cross, they waste the message of the cross. Indeed, they also waste the Old Testament requirement that they seek to adhere in tandem with the grace of GOD.

In the end, this hybrid faith of the Old Testament and the New Testament, this hybrid ministry, is not a ministry of CHRIST; HE des not know it because it is not preaching peace but confusion.

And let me just underscore this because there is in recent times a rising move to return to the law and indeed the ministry of the Old Testament prophets. That ministry was done away with, both the law and the prophets. They were ministries of condemnation that were necessary until the cross. To be sure,

they were necessary to prepare Israel to receive the cross because in highlighting the sins of the people, they prepared them to receive a SAVIOR.

That is why salvation was for the Jews. They were the ones to whom the law was given and to whom the prophets were sent, and so were peculiarly the only people who knew their sins and who genuinely should have known the need for a SAVIOR.

The law and the prophets were therefore, in proper light, emissaries to prepare Israel for the CHRIST. After CHRIST had paid the fill ransom of ALL men's sins, thereby on the cross making peace between men and GOD, their ministry became obsolete; the covenant they ministered from also became irrelevant.

A new covenant had come; at the cross a New Testament was enshrined and became the means trough which GOD ministers to the world. The HOLY SPIRIT, HIMSELF, ministers from that new covenant. JESUS said HE will not speak of HIS own will but will declare what CHRIST has said and done (John 16:13).

What that means is that the HOLY SPIRIT will not use you to speak the message HE gave the prophets; HIS ministry in and through you, flows directly from the testimony of CHRIST which is the New Testament. The old one has been done away and the new has come. Prayerfully read this profound truth:

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Heb 7:18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.

Heb 7:19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Heb 7:20 And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:

Heb 7:21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

Heb 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

Clearly portrayed here is the fact that the Old Testament was inadequate insofar as drawing men to GOD is concerned and therefore it was done away with in light of the New Testament. What that means is that preaching condemnation to men and moving them in acts of repentance does not necessarily endear them to GOD but indeed estranges them even more from HIM. What brings men close to OD is the message of peace that CRIST has sent us to ministers as HIS servants.

Our ministry of peace is therefore a more qualified ministry than the ministry of condemnation that many preach in the name of JESUS. Those who preach condemnation, bothered about the sins of people, assuring them of impending judgment are actually ministering an obsolete ministry and, further than that, an inferior one to the ministry of reconciliation. The apostle Paul clarified on this:

- 2Co 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God;
- 2Co 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.
- 2Co 3:7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:
- 2Co 3:8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?
 2Co 3:9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

Did that ministry have a glory? No one should dispute over that? I am not saying they were irrelevant ministries in their time. They were; but in light of the new ministry (and there is a new ministry, a different one from theirs), that glory is like no glory.

This new ministry is a ministry of reconciliation, of peace; we are sent of CHRIST to declare the peace HE wrought on the cross. And this message is the greatest message GOD has ever sanctioned. It has an incomparable glory to any other message that has ever been sent.

We must hold on to the message and refuse to corrupt it with any other message. If we are going to see the incomparable glory of the ministry of reconciliation, we must then be unflinching and uncompromising about the message of peace.

Instead of proclaiming judgment, we must declare peace; instead of preaching wrath, we must preach love; this is the ministry that

the HOLY SPIRIT backs up, the one that HE is mandated of CHRIST to sponsor.

Those who suggest that the HOLY SPIRIT has sent them as Elijah was sent, or as Jeremiah was sent, those latter day Amos', Hosea's, and such kind of condemning ministries, are under a familiar spirit pretending to be the HOLY SPIRIT. Anyone telling you that they are burdened with the sins of people cities, nations, families, whatever whatever whatever, is ministering under a familiar spirit and does not know the HOLY SPIRIT.

By the way HE knows HIS mandate very well; before you claim t speak for HIM, first ascertain HIS mission:

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Joh 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Joh 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Joh 16:10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

Joh 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Joh 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Joh 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

Joh 16:15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Did you see what I saw right there? This is JESUS speaking; not some prophet or some man, this is GOD HIMSELF and HIS witness is absolute truth. HE does not say that the HOLY SPIRIT will convict the world of their sins but of sin; nor does HE say that the HOLY SPIRIT will convict them of sin because they have sinned but rather of sin because they have not believed in HIM.

The conviction of sin is in light of the fact that HE became sin and they ought to believe in HIM to be gifted with HIS righteousness.

Similarly, HE did not say that the HOLY SPIRIT will convict the world of righteousness *because they are not walking righteously*; a thousand times NOOOO!!! Rather HE says that HE will convict them of righteousness *because HE has gone to the FATHER*.

Essentially, meaning that the HOLY SPIRIT will convict the world to believe in the righteousness of CHRIST wherein they too can in so doing have the righteousness of GOD offered freely by grace.

The conviction is not a condemning on but a saving one. The HOLY SPIRIT seeks you to believe in the righteousness of CHRIST which HE offers freely to all men.

And then, *judgment?* Oh that one; many have played wrong games with this one. But the LORD did not say that the HOLY SPIRIT will convict you of judgment for your sins; not at all. Rather HE says that HE will convict you of judgment because the prince of this world has already been judged.

Meaning, that HE will awaken you to the realities of the fact that the accuser who has always spoken against you has indeed been judged HIMSELF. It's not your judgment that the HOLY SPIRIT has been sent to testify about but the judgment of the devil. Beloved, the devil has been judged and there is now no one that should ever bother you with guilt. The supplier of guilt has been judged, guilt has been banned!!!!!

If you understand this mandate of the SPIRIT then you understand our peace. We have peace with GOD through the victorious work of CHRIST on the cross. HE is our peace; no more condemnation, o more wrath, no more judgment, no more valid accusation; FREE FREE FREE!!!! Absolute peace with GOD.

And then to top it all, CHRIST assures us that HE will declare to us what is HIS; wow!!! That is awesome!!! Absolutely incredible; you know what that means? That the HOLY SPIRIT will declare to us what is HIS? You get it and you will have a praise party all your life dear.

This is what I know it to mean, and I know it by the SPIRIT who has given me counsel and verified it by the testimony of the apostles. Essentially, the LORD was referring to the fact that the HOLY SPIRIT will bear on us the testimony of CHRIST. In other words, whatever CHRIST is, the HOLY SPIRIT will assume us to be in light of our communion with HIM. HE will not see us according to the flesh, the way other people see s but HE is mandated to see us the way HE sees JESUS and attribute to us all that is JESUS'.

In other words, if JESUS is holy, the HOLY SPIRIT will declare you to be holy; if JESUS is almighty, the HOLY SPIRIT will declare to you that you are almighty; say if JESUS is loving, the HOLY SPIRIT will declare to you that you are loving; and if JESUS is wise, the HOLY SPIRIT will declare to you that you are wise.

Whatever JESUS is, the HOLY SPIRIT sees and speaks and works you to be. That is HIS mandate; to work in you and establish you to be conformed into the image and likeness of GOD'z firstborn JESUS CHRIST (Romans 8:29).

Beloved, the HOLY SPIRIT believes in your peace with GOD because HE knows that CHRIST has peace with GOD. HE knows that GOD loves you as much as HE loves JESUS because the FATHER reckons that you and CHRIST are one.

The reason that HE indwells the believer is because of this Holy Communion. When you believe in the death of CHRIST in your place, you have been eternally integrated into CHRIST and have become HIS body.

The realities of this communion are what Paul celebrates in the epilogue text of this chapter; CHRIST has removed the enmity through HIS death ad made peace between us and GOD.

So stop crying and trying to make peace with GOD. Rather believe in the only one who ever could achieve that immortal feat. My dear, no fasting, no prayers, no tears, no effort on your part could ever achieve peace between you and GOD. The only way to do that is through faith in the work of the cross.

As you look at the cross, see your sins in HIM, and then also see your peace with GOD. Faith in this peace with GOD, will work wonders for you. To be sure, this is the peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7). Once you have this peace, you will speak and live peace. JESUS was able to calm the raging storms of the sea because HE had peace with GOD (Mark 4:39). HE spoke peace to men, to prostitutes, adulterers, fraudsters, brought peace to those who were most reviled and prejudiced against because HE is the PRINCE OF PEACE.

Believe this peace; it is superior to the peace of the world, it is a peace more than this world can ever afford. When you get a hold

of it; you will command peace in the air, the land, and the sea; yes, the one that wields this peace, can command it in broken marriages broken lives, broken families, broken nations; HE is an ambassador of peace.

Make up your mind, to reach out and seize this peace by faith in the death of CHRIST. And once you have got it; make sure to be an emissary of peace. Wherever you go, declare, "PEACE!"

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THE CROSS AND YOUR FAVOR

- Luk 1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,
- Luk 1:47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- Luk 1:48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
- Luk 1:49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.
 - Luk 1:50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.
- Luk 1:51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- Luk 1:52 He hath put down the mighty from *their* seats, and exalted them of low degree.
- Luk 1:53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- Luk 1:54 He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;
- Luk 1:55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.
- Luk 1:56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

If you have gone on in this book to this point, I commend you for being really serious about what CHRIST did for you. And if indeed you have believed the true witness of the cross, allow me to assure you that you are highly favored. You are counted among the noble numbers; you are highly favored.

Not every Tom, Dick, and Harry will ever get to this privilege, not to mention to know it as you are doing right now. The knowledge you are imbibing right now is a great favor. Distinguished men and women, indeed none less than ancient prophets, even kings, desired to be privy to it and they didn't. It wasn't their time. But it's yours, blessed are your eyes to read what you are reading:

Mat 13:16 But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Mat 13:17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.

The writer of Hebrews cited a list of really esteemed giants in the faith and more who he reveals desired to receive what you have received in Christ but did not. They believed in Christ without seeing HIM. They sensed HIS coming and knew deep inside that HE would come to establish a divine and majestic dominion that would surpass the kingdoms of this world. They knew it.

And they hoped to partake of it. They believed and prayed. Some like father Abraham refused to live in permanent habitation but dwelled in tents, moving from place to place, desiring this thing, this glorious reign that he perceived to be a city whose maker and founder is God. And yet, he died without obtaining the privilege (Hebrews 11:8-16).

There were others like Moses who forsook great privileges in Pharaoh's palace because he sensed this gig was greater. He preferred to identify with the shame and bondage of his people because he sensed that they would indeed be the recipients of something greater than Egypt could ever offer him. In that measure he risked his life, discovered God, walked with HIM, delivered Israel, gave them laws but never saw in his great life time the privilege Christ brought (Hebrews 11:24).

There were many who believed motivated by something greater than their eyes saw; they knew that there was a royal divine privilege that would ensure men would bask in God's glory and reign with HM over every nation, tribe and tongue in a kingdom of wonder that would never cease. Isaiah saw it and boisterously announced:

Isa 7:13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

He saw beyond his time; he always did. Again with great urgency he announced:

- Isa 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
- Isa 9:3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.
 - Isa 9:4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

He saw the light from a long distance but never really reached its time. Still he continued to see beyond his time. It became a constant theme in his ministry. He continued to dwell on this blessed subject of an approaching Messianic kingdom in which he knew a particular people would be greatly favored to reign with God over all men. He was fascinated with this vision and ministered so well on it.

When he refers to a light he referred to Christ.

Isaiah spoke of the same light that John beheld as Jesus and spoke of saying:

Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Joh 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Joh 1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

Joh 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

Joh 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Both saw HIM; from different times yet they beheld the Light of God. Isaiah saw HIM from a distant past (about seven hundred years to be exact) but in the realm of the spirit. John saw the Light both in his time and also in the realm of the spirit.

Both saw HIM: The difference though is that Isaiah could only see HIM and believe but John was able to see, believe, and point physical witness to HIM (John 1:29).

And yet, inspite of not living in HIS time Isaiah really believed. He continued to prophesy more and more about this impending wonder. He continued to see this kingdom rise among a people and reign in imperial and glorious grandeur. He saw, believed and continued to announce, urgently:

- Isa 60:1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.
 - Isa 60:2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
- Isa 60:3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.
 - Isa 60:4 Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at *thy* side.

Isa 60:5 Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

This guy began to party in this thing seven hundred years before the Chief Guest showed up. He rejoiced because he believed in it regardless of the fact that he hadn't received it. He partied over this favor that was coming with Christ and HIS finished work at Calvary on the cross; a favor clothed in such amazing glory that would cause his people to rise and shine.

Seeing through a glass darkly, across time, believing but not yet receiving, Isaiah urged you to look up. Stop looking down! He urgently beckons you to acknowledge the incredible favor available in Christ. He sought for you to rejoice in God's favor. What he saw in the realm of the Spirit, he never saw in his life time but he rejoiced with you anyways. He delighted in the imperial splendor that adorns those who believe Christ. In that vision, he saw wealth transfers, whole nation salvations, restorations, all wrought in Christ's glorious dominion; he saw this brilliant light, this awesome FAVOR from GOD to you.

It is just amazing that Isaiah, and they were others I have mentioned, and still even more I haven't mentioned, saw this privilege. He believed what he saw in the spirit. And when he did, he rejoiced.

- Notable among others I haven't mentioned was David. Also believing ahead of time, he joyously rejoiced over this favor, celebrating both Christ and HIS bride, the Church. Slowly and with reverend profundity read this praise. Watch this:
- Psa 45:1 To the chief Musician upon Shoshannim, for the sons of Korah, Maschil, A Song of loves. My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.
- Psa 45:2 Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.
- Psa 45:3 Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty.
 - Psa 45:4 And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things.
- Psa 45:5 Thine arrows *are* sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under thee.
- Psa 45:6 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.
- Psa 45:7 Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.
- Psa 45:8 All thy garments *smell* of myrrh, and aloes, *and* cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.
- Psa 45:9 Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.
- Psa 45:10 Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;
- Psa 45:11 So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he *is* thy Lord; and worship thou him.

Psa 45:12 And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour.

Psa 45:13 The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.

Psa 45:14 She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.

Psa 45:15 With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace.

Psa 45:16 Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth.

Psa 45:17 I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.

After you complete this chapter, I would suggest that you come back to this powerful presentation and meditate on it. There is great wealth in it.

Herein David praises a King greater than he was; I mean he was a king and yet he lavished praise upon another King. He marveled at what had been revealed to him by the Spirit. Looking into a future way over a thousand years after his own reign, David saw and excitedly noted the greatest King that would grace the human experience. He envisioned Christ, the King of kings.

What he saw moved him to celebrate, to rejoice. He noted that this King was not just human like all other kings, including himself. He knew that this King, this great sovereign royal authority transcended human existence; David noted that this was God HIMSELF reigning among men. And HIS dominion was not like any other that had traversed the earth. It was a divine and imperial government that outclassed every other experience of authority.

He correctly perceived that the King of this universal and unparalleled dominion was profoundly different from every other king that had graced the human experience. Unlike them, HE was humble, prosperous, righteous; and hated wickedness. HE governed and reigned justly in an imperial splendor of unparalleled glory. Infact, he noted that all other kings submitted to HIS authority so that HE reigned over the whole earth spreading HIS wonder.

David saw it all and rejoiced. *What is more?* He beheld the King's queen. In that vision, she may have been a particular beauty of human disposition, but properly understood, she is indeed the Church who is the Bride of Christ (Matthew 25:1-5; Revelation 19:7, 21:2-9).

David was amazed at the favor she was blessed with to be bride to such a King. *Married to God, to reign with HIM?* David was awed. He wished for her to know her esteemed privilege. He sought that she would forget her past, her former home, her people, and grasp the enormity that she was privileged with as queen to such a King. He sensed your honor, your favor as believer and bride to Christ. Several thousands of years ago, this great king knew that you faired better than he did as king over Israel. He envied your privilege; he wondered at your prestigious honor.

David knew this King; at least he knew God and sensed that this King was one with HIM. He knew how incredible God was, is, and will always be. He was a worshipper and knew that it was better to be in the favor of God, even as a mere doorkeeper in HIS palace than to be a king (Psalm 84:10). He cherished God, longed for HIM, and wondered at HIS glory. David feared God in amazing reverence.

And now, he wondered at the privilege this woman (the Church) had to be betrothed to God. Mind you, at the time the doctrine of a triune God was not revealed. And so, it wasn't clear in HIS mind that this was God the Son, distinct, and yet equal to God. He knew this King to be God Almighty, the one he worshipped. And the thought that any mortal could be betrothed to HIM was staggering.

He sought to educate the honored bride to forget her past. For the one that is joined to immortality should never again consider her mortal past. He wished for her to appreciate the weight of such privilege.

He wished he could have had her place. He saw their offspring, God's and the queens, reigning as princes over the earth. He knew that this was the obvious result of immortality consuming mortality. That blessed union ended the case of mortality and could only father imperial immortals. These children are what David sought that this queen would know and not her fathers. He didn't want the Church to continue in the flesh, pondering her past before Christ.

No, a thousand times NO! The Church has it better; better than Abraham, better than Isaac and Jacob, better than Moses and Aaron, better than David, a thousand times better, better than the prophets. He wanted the Church to know their favor transcended any privileges their fathers might have had.

None of them had this immortal opportunity. They loved God but were estranged from HIM as mere mortals. They worshipped HIM but in tents and buildings and several rituals, never in spirit and in truth, they worshipped in places, in Jerusalem and Samaria, revering what they knew not.

But the Church is one with HIM; she worships from close quarters, seated together in Christ at the right hand of the Father (Ephesians 2:6); her own body is a temple of God (1Corinthians 6:19). This queen was reconciled to God, one with HIM, at peace with HIM (Ephesians 2:14-18). She doesn't need to keep on making sacrifices, keep on seeking forgiveness and atonement. They belong to a better covenant, a superior priesthood, a chosen generation (2Corinthians 3:7-18; Hebrews 5:5-10; 1Peter 2:9).

No, David knew that these people, this bride was highly favored and deeply loved. Her sins were never held against her. At another point, he saw and exclaimed at this favor. It was awesome to consider:

Psa 32:1 A Psalm of David, Maschil. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psa 32:2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

He had a glorious vision of redemption, the remission of sin by the sacrifice God HIMSELF had offered. Seeing through a glass darkly, watching but not fully perceiving, yet he saw you in better light. He knew that unlike the father's of the faith who all had to offer sacrifices for the atonement of their sins, you do not. God settled your case by HIS own perfect sacrifice and sees you in HIS light.

Now that is favor. Beloved, David saw princes arising out of this favor and reigning over the earth. He saw favored offspring's that would walk in divine power and authority over the nations of the world. He saw champions, immortal royal-priests establishing the kingdom of God all over the earth.

He did not see a religious following of men and women wishing they one day get to heaven and be favored by God. NO! He didn't see weaklings seeking permission from the governments of men to minister a religion of Jesus. NO! Neither did he see weak and puny compromised religious freaks paying homage to respective governments and constitutions of men for enshrining the freedom of worship. A thousand times NO!

I tell you what he saw: He saw a people rising out of God to reign over the earth; a people that are God's offspring, HIS type and kind. David beheld a new creation, a people that have overcome the world by their faith (1 John 5:4). These select and imperial citizens of heaven are God's ambassadors here on earth (2Corinthians 5:20; 1Peter 2:9). They hail from above where they possess with Christ everything seen and unseen.

They are an exalted people; a forgiven people; a sovereign people. Their mandate is to disciple the nations of the world, bring down every stronghold of darkness, and reign with Christ in a continual dominion that will last forever.

This is favor beyond mortal ponder. None of the prophets, kings, none of the patriarchs of this faith received this privilege while they were here. They were even others not as famous and yet not any less worthy, who also sensed it. They suffered losses for the sake of this privilege, believing it but never receiving it. Many died believing, were killed but they did not receive the privilege:

Heb 11:35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

Heb 11:36 And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

Heb 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

Heb 11:38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.

Regardless their faith, regardless their amazing zeal even unto death, yet they were not able to receive this promise, this immortal privilege that you have gained in Christ. God reserved the benefit of their faith for our time. Their accomplishments only make sense to God when we believe and receive the promise.

If this is not favor, then I don't know what is. I mean, people believed with great faith, with strong faith, faith enough to bring down walls of cities, giants in battle, to stop the sun for a day, faith enough to interpret secret dreams of kings, to refuse fire to burn their bodies, and yet regardless their faith, they still did not receive the promise.

This is scandalous when you think of how many have actually shunned the privilege or believed it to only moderate levels. It is outrightly scandalous to miss this party.

Beloved, you were so favored to be born in this dispensation when you can believe and indeed receive the privileges of being one with God. It is probable that if you had been born before Christ, you might not have believed in Christ. And yet, even if you had believed like David did, like Abraham did, like Daniel did, like Isaiah did, yet you would not have received the promise. Like them, you would only peek from heaven to behold another people, the most favored ones, born after Christ, believe and receive.

But you are here. You were born after Christ, born after HIS sacrifice, and HIS ascension and coronation. And you have been graced to believe (for salvation is by grace through faith); do you realize then that you have also been favored to receive?

To receive what, you may ponder? To receive privileges that are way beyond the concept of the flesh.

Now you might wonder at what I have said here and thought how I could have the nerve to even suggest that in Christ we are better off than David or Abraham or even Moses. Mark you, I sincerely mean in Christ, not as a Christian.

Point is, I do not know what kind of Christianity you may be acquainted with: Are you acquainted with the religion of Jesus or the revelation of Christ?

You see, the religion of Jesus are really varied and are not the believers that I see in this light. Among that sorry number are many that even worship the fathers of our faith. They esteem Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Elijah, and the prophets, and even the nation of Israel to be way above them. They have made a religion that reverently idolizes these giants of faith not realizing that in Christ they rank so much higher than them all (Matthew 11:11). To be sure, they are way out of context; and have never really perceived the Jesus they claim to love. And if they do, it must be a different Jesus than I am acquainted with.

You see, if you truly love my Jesus, I mean the Christ, Son of the living God, you will get more than what the Jewish patriarchs and prophets got. This kind of Christianity is not a religion but a revelation of Christ, a manifestation of God; this is the faith I am celebrating here.

The one that walks in it has understood the mission of Christ and is in Christ wherein their flesh is passed away and their spirit is quickened (2Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 2:13). These are the ones that I shared about in the previous chapter who worship in spirit and in truth. They have been born of the Spirit and are conscious of the spiritual realm. They are kingdom minded, heavenly minded, Christ minded; they think like God (Romans 12:2; 1Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 4:8).

Yes these are the ones I am talking about. These have been greatly favored. They have been esteemed by God HIMSELF and HIS Christ over and above the father's of the faith.

Speaking of the genuine believer in Christ, Jesus compared him to be superior to the prophets, citing:

Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:11

In HIS revered opinion, which is synonymous with absolute truth, John the Baptist was the greatest of that lot. He was the last prophet of that dispensation, the greatest of them all. I mean greater than David, Moses, Daniel, Elijah, I mean all the father's. And yet, he was less than the least of all believers in Christ. Not even John the Baptist who prepared the way, believed the LORD, witnessed to HIS sacrifice, and anticipated HIS reign, received the privilege of the promise.

This privilege was hugely enormous. His own testimony revealed its enormity when he said:

- Joh 1:19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?
- Joh 1:20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.
- Joh 1:21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No
- Joh 1:25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

Joh 1:26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

Joh 1:27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

John spoke for all the father's of the faith when he said this. He knew his worth was way below that of Christ. And yet, the least in the kingdom of heaven is worthy not only to untie the straps of HIS sandals but also to kiss HIS feet and wash them with tears.

The least in Christ constitutes an essential and indispensable part of the body of Christ. He is as one with God as all the other parts of Christ.

Yes, the least of them is worthy of stretching their feet and have HIM wash them (John 13:3-5). The least of them seat together with HIM in heavenly places at the right hand of God. They are royal and divine, glorious and imperial in majestic wonder.

Now that is favor; scandalous and strange but profoundly true.

To be sure, most men have never had inkling; I mean without revelation from God they are clueless of the enormous generosity that is available in Christ. In HIM, you have the privilege that kings could never gain even if they reigned over the whole world.

And yet, God intended the privilege to be known, the favor to be grasped and celebrated. Again it is Paul, that amazing apostle of revelation, who was most clear of its enormity. He gave us a clue as to how we all can be privy to the weight of honor available in Christ:

- 1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:
- 1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it,* they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- 1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
- 1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

When he says that eyes have not seen and ears have not heard and the heart of men have not perceived, he is not discounting what the father's saw and believed. Not at all; their faith is honored and factored in that wisdom by which God's favor has been revealed to the saints. What enabled David, Abraham, Moses, and indeed several of the fathers to see this glorious prospect of a peculiar and indeed most highly favored people bearing divine communion with God is indeed the consequence of being privy to the hidden wisdom that Paul is referring to, the one that has been given to all the saints.

However, it is vital you realize that he seeks to emphasize the extent to which this favor is not perceptible outside the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This favor is beyond the scope of mortal ponder; mere mortals cannot begin even to appreciate its enormity. For that to occur, they would need the wisdom of God, the counsel of HIS Spirit.

That is why in the days of Daniel, although Nebuchadnezzar was shown the vision of the oncoming Messianic kingdom in a dream, he could hardly make sense of it. He did not have the Holy Spirit and was devoid of God's counsel (Daniel 2:26-45).

He needed help from someone spiritual; someone that was privy to divine wisdom to search out from that dimension the meaning of the dream. Not even other spiritualists in his court were able to perceive the dream or its meaning. But Daniel, who was a prophet, was able to get the dream and interpret its meaning for him. Daniel revealed the meaning; observe the climax of its rich content, the essence of it:

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Nebuchadnezzar was clueless to his own dream, regardless of the fact that it signaled the fate of his vast empire and prospected the fortune of an even greater kingdom. His court spiritualists were similarly clueless of the dream and its interpretation, regardless of the threat to their lives (for he had threatened to kill them all if they did not interpret the dream). But Daniel, who was privy to the counsel of the Spirit, was able to get the dream from the spiritual realm with its interpretation.

He had the wisdom of God (Daniel 2:20-23).

Without that wisdom, it does not matter that you have been born after Christ's coming; or even that you have been born again, you believe in HIM; it really doesn't matter, you will not partake, receive of the grandeur of favor that is available for all who are in Christ.

The reason why many miss out on this privilege is simply because of lacking spiritual knowledge.

The favor is incredibly glorious and certainly not for fools. It is reserved for the wise; not the wisdom of this world but that of God.

That is why Paul urged the church in Rome to rise above the wisdom of this world into the one from above. He wanted them to access this privilege:

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Without this wisdom, access to this favor cannot be attained. But once you gain it, then you are in the privileged place to gain in this world the highest favor God has reserved from the foundation of the world for those who belong to HIM; the favor of being one with HIM.

Now I am aware that many believers in our loving LORD desire favor; they pray for it or are prayed for and in some many cases they obtain favor at their workplace, with their friends, even enemies, or wherever they hope to get favor.

That is not in the least what I am talking about here. That kind of favor is received even by heathens, by men who curse God. They too get favors in their workplace, among friends, even with their enemies.

The favor I am talking of here is beyond the reach of those who do not know Christ; infact, it is estranged from all those who are not known by Christ and have not even known HIS wisdom.

The favor I am talking about is beyond their level of perception; they cannot comprehend it because it surpasses the arena of human ponder and impression. It outclasses that specie. Not even spiritually clueless Christians partake of it. I mean, this favor ranks you with God and locates you at the level of royal divinity so that when men see you they know without a shadow of a doubt that God is with you (John 3:2; Acts 10:38).

This is the kind of favor that Jesus had so that HE grew having favor both with God and men (Luke 2:52): With that favor, winds and seas obeyed HIM (Mathew 8:23-27); crowds followed HIM, even in the wilderness (Mark 6:30-34); dead men heard HIS voice and returned to life (John 11:1-44); HE had so much favor that when HE prayed, ancient prophets showed up and prayed with HIM, and God joined them to acclaim HIM as HIS beloved Son (Matthew 17:1-5).

I mean, the guy had so much favor that HIS close associates knew that whatever HE asked God would be granted to HIM.

Now that is favor at another level; the God level. That is the favor I am talking about. And it is possible. It is by this favor that Jesus did what HE did. HE had favor at the highest level. When the Jews sought to compare HIM with Abraham, a man of exceptional standing with God (for God called him a friend), Jesus set the record straight:

Joh 8:53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

Joh 8:54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

Joh 8:55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

Joh 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad.

Come on, come on, are you getting the drift? This guy knew who HE was; HE was not going to let a bunch of carnal-minded religious zealot's dwarf HIS noble impressions of who HE knew HIMSELF to be. HE had divine wisdom, the qualified counsel of the Holy Spirit and was sure of HIS impeccable standing among men born of women; HE was above the greatest of them all.

HE knew that HE was favored from the highest place favor can be obtained and that HE was synonymous, one with that privilege. HE knew that HIS Father didn't just approve HIM before men but also above angels (Hebrews 1:5-14). HE saw HIMSELF in that light. HE also knew that all who were privy to the Spirit were privy to this knowledge. HE knew that Abraham had been privy to this knowledge that bore witness to HIS enormous favor; indeed, Abraham had greatly anticipated HIS coming esteeming Christ to be exceedingly greater than his person.

The ancient patriarch knew this by virtue of the Spirit of God. He was counseled as much.

Here is the gist: In Christ, we too have this favor. We too have been gloriously esteemed with HIM. We are one with HIM. We abide in HIM and HE abides in us (John 15:5). We are HIS body and our bodies are HIS members (1 Corinthians 12:27). Seated together with HIM at the right hand of God, we have favor

beyond words; we are HIS bride, the glorious Queen prophetic King David beheld and adored.

Beloved, we are not a religious body, we are a royal-priestly body; we are not a denominational body, we are a divine body; we are not an earthly body, we are a heavenly body; we are not a corrupt body, we are an incorruptible body. We are greatly favored in heaven above and must be, and will be, and are indeed, greatly favored here on earth.

Mark this: We did not ask God to do this. HE desired it. HE planned to favor us; HE esteemed us above every other being:

Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Jas 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

In Christ, we are above reproach, good and perfect. That is how God sees it and how we should see it. We are a special type of being, a select specie of incredible detail given by God from above.

But not many Christians appreciate this fact. Many are as ignorant as Nebuchadnezzar was; they have received the message but can hardly decipher it to their advantage. Some that think they do, ponder on gaining this favor after time. They have

postponed these privileges to a later date after history has completed its course. They believe in an immaculate favor, akin to that of the angels, to be seized in some land up yonder out of the earth realm.

To be sure, like the Sadducees who hounded our loving LORD with their foolish questions, they err because they do not know the scriptures nor do they perceive the power of God. In their perverted faith, they meander in a wilderness of religious observation all the time unaware that they recklessly squander what the fathers believed so hard for. They insult God's generosity and the amazing faith of the prophets. They lack knowledge and suffer for it (Hosea 4:6).

I am talking of people that say they are born again and yet are grossly blind to the presently accessible privileges of Christ's favor.

Alas, they remain trapped in a religious round table, unequally yoked with the world and are no different from mere men born of women; many of whom are similarly encouraged in their erroneous faiths to prospect on the same angelic opportunities up yonder.

To this end, they have reduced this great faith with its great privileges to another religion among those in the world. And in this compromise, they have sentenced themselves to a foolish prison wherein they are comparable with men. This is tragic; the mother of all tragedies. The apostle Paul saw this corrupt tendency tempt the early church and he advised against it:

- Gal 4:1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;
- Gal 4:2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.
- Gal 4:3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:
- Gal 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

Paul knew what all who believe Christ ought to know; he knew that we were sons of God and therefore heirs of all that God has. He perceived that we were lords, masters over all. He knew that we had been greatly positioned in Christ to be superior to all and free from any hindrance. He rightly perceived the immensity of the favor that clothes the believer in Christ.

But he also knew that without appropriate knowledge in this regard, we were no different from other men and could indeed, like they are, be limited, hindered, and even enslaved in bondage.

Sad to say, and observe, but this is the fate of many believers; many are ignorant of the glorious favor that is placed upon them when they believe Christ. Most are more concerned about what they need to do to ensure that they go to heaven. In their very limited opinion, heaven is the greatest favor God has given the believer. They will sing songs, dance to songs, and await in mortal ponder when they will be favored with a mansion in heaven.

They settle for so much less than God has given; and they do, for lack of knowledge.

There are some who have awakened to privileges they presume to be the favor that God has granted in Christ. They are excited about some privileges among men that they can access by faith. Examining a lot of their teachings, one finds a constant reference to principles from the Old Covenant. They will say, "If you want favor, sow favor"; "If you want riches, sow money"; "If you want health, sow money'; they talk of sowing and reaping in order to access favor.

These too, err; they revert to principles of this earthen realm and can never by that effort access the favor I am talking about here.

My dear, this favor is not an earthly business in the sense that any earthly principle or human will could ever bestow it. You couldn't arrive at it by any wisdom of this age. You cannot sow enough to reap it. It is way beyond that league.

And those who forsake walking in it in this world are also gravely mistaken. They do not realize that it is actually intended

for the critical purpose of establishing the kingdom of heaven here on this earth.

Beloved, we are not to be as anxious about going to heaven as we ought to be about establishing heaven on earth. This favor is quintessential to enabling us make sure the Father's will is effected on earth as it is in heaven.

And so, we must access this favor. I am infact duly convinced that these wrong impressions on when we are entitled to this favor or what means we must employ to function in it are altogether seductive doctrines commissioned from hell. It must be because Satan more than any other loathes the prospect of a heaven on earth that he has worked hard and mean to deceive the elect regarding this glorious favor.

And this should not be surprising to those familiar with spiritual things: In his evil ambition to destroy men, he desires the earth to be as damned as hell is. He also loathes the prospect of men living on earth with the highest favor in all eternity. He knows that such a prospect would hinder his work on the earth and confine him in eternal damnation in hell.

And so he has commissioned crafty religious demons to sponsor false teachings that will elude the bride of Christ from knowing her favor. He is seeking to spoil the party.

Unfortunately for him, and his evil kingdom, the word of God endures forever (Psalm 117). God has sent HIS word and it shall not come back to HIM void until it has accomplished its mission (Isaiah 55:10-11). That word must come to pass at any expense. Beloved, God is also not a son of man that HE should change HIS mind. HE is God, relentless and determined that on this earth and among men, a distinguished and peculiar people will believe HIS cherished dream of a divine kingdom headed by HIS Son; they shall walk in the greatest favor HE has ever reserved (Revelation 22).

You ponder, how can this be that I should access this favor when many before me have died in the vain deception of false doctrines? That is part of the favor I am talking about. God has insisted that you should know it and access it. HE is consistent even when man is not. Look:

Rom 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Rom 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

God remains consistent about crowning men with glory and honor; HE has been determined to do this from before the foundation of the world when HE pondered on the possibility of blessing Jesus with brethren (Romans 8:29).

This noble objective has been fought by hell, abused by men, and moderated by many who prefer religious principles and rituals other than pure truth. But God refuses to relent. HE will not compromise HIS purpose even when men fail to perceive it.

And I am glad that HE remains that way. I am glad that we serve a God that is heaven-bent to grant us the highest favor HIS omnipotent deity can master. I am glad and will not waste the privilege. I urge you not to.

In Christ, this legendary honor is possible. What is necessary is to employ the essential wisdom for it; if we can gain the appropriate knowledge to this end, we can indeed walk in this favor.

Peter knew this; HE did and communicated the incredible need to gain this knowledge by which he knew we would attain great privileges. He knew that once we gained the necessary knowledge, we would attain at multiple levels of privilege more benefits than any other means could provide. Urging all who believe in Christ in this sense, he wrote:

2Pe 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2Pe 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

This party is indeed great; merely having the honor to be invited speaks of the favor I am talking about. The LORD regarded that privilege greater than possessing the power to cast out devils and healing the sick (Luke 10:17-20). *And why not?*

In Christ, we have been favored beyond measure, above mortal understanding. If we gain the knowledge of Christ, we would activate this thing; from that vantage point, we have incredible access to all things pertaining to life. Our favor would be obvious to all as we would then be able to function beyond the corruption that is characteristic of this world. We would manifest our invincibility and be akin to God Almighty.

Essentially, what must be grasped is that we have been favored to play God; to be HIS revelation among men. Reconciled to HIM so that we are now one, we are mandated to be HIS emissaries. We are ambassadors of God, not just of heaven but of its highest throne; as living epistles, we are born of the word of God and are the combined rhema and logos that is the word of God. We are HIS story to creation and have been raised to demonstrate all that HE is to a world lost for who HE is.

Angels that dwell in heaven above where HIS throne is, even the very cherubim's and seraphim's that lift HIS throne, and the very arch-angels that forever stand in HIS presence, peek down at us

to learn the God they could never learn without our testimony. We are amazing; and HIGHLY FAVORED.

Now if anyone doubts this, then he doesn't know what Christ accomplished. I mean, think of the fact that we are seated with Christ at the right hand of Majesty on high, and that we are honored as brides, as sons, as joint-heirs, completely one with God, and you can spell F.A.V.O.R!- in caps.

Do you realize the enormity of the privilege? Not even the angels, the mightiest of them, have ever sat in God's presence. They stand. Gabriel, the arch-angel responsible for delivering God's messages introduced himself as the angel that stands in the presence of God (Luke 1:19). And when Ezekiel, Isaiah, and John beheld the throne room of God, they beheld mighty creatures, cherubim's and seraphim's, stand and lift the throne of God (Ezekiel 1; Isaiah 6:1-3; Revelation 4).

No being sits in God's presence. They either stand or bow, or as in most cases, fall prostrate, but they dare not sit. But in Christ, you can come boldly before the presence of God and sit together with HIM and in HIM (Hebrews 4:16; Ephesians 2:6; Revelation 3:21).

And not just sit, you can obtain whatever you so desire. Not only that; but you sit there as God's beloved. HE loves you just as much as HE loves Jesus (John 17:23). *And what is more?* HE has

set a time when you will help HIM judge men and the angels (1 Corinthians 6:2-3)

All that is favor beyond words. In Christ, this privilege has been given and you can function at God's level if you get to adopt the wisdom of God.

Seen this way, the wisdom of God is so essential in the life of the believer; quintessential infact. If we are going to accomplish what God has indeed mandated that we do, we must of necessity function in HIS wisdom. We cannot continue to meander in a wilderness of carnal mentality as though we are ordinary mortals.

We are not ordinary; and neither are we mortals. We are divine. We have partaken of that nature and have become a type of firstfruits of all creation. It's high time we act like it. We should cease maneuvering through this earthly life as though we belong here. We don't. We are from above and have been deposited here to convert this place into a heavenly experience.

And so, unlike religious men, we must of necessity ponder on the knowledge of God. A book like this one is one such wisdom. The words therein are not merely dictions and philosophies of human aspiration, they are spirit and truth; they are filled with the breath and counsel of the Spirit.

As I wrote, I communicated truths befitting Christ's bride.

Let me make something clear: I do not write for a religious group. Neither do I seek to further a human agenda. This is not one of those pro-this or anti-that materials. I am not even an activist trying to front a cause for a better society. A thousand times NO!

I write to a highly favored people; to people who are coming to terms with the fact that they are not human but divine. To a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, vessels carrying God's honor.

As such, I have not relied on anyone's ideologies but God. The ideas guiding this work have come directly from the Holy Spirit. As HE spoke, I wrote. Critical references have not relied on the wisdom of men but the Holy Scriptures.

The principles hail from the Father of lights. They will work anywhere and everywhere. This wisdom is above any hindrance. It will work in any circumstance regardless who is using them. The wisdom of God will work for an African as well as it will work for an American, Australian, or Asian. God shows no partiality (Galatians 2:6).

As you read, I urge you to meditate, study, and prove this wisdom. Let the letters and words translate into spirit and life as they wash away false impressions and establish you in your divine heritage as a son of God. From thence, favor will cease to be something that you postpone to an after death encounter.

Neither will you be seen praying for it, or lining up to be prayed for to gain it. And you will certainly quit paying for it; sowing seed to gain a harvest of favor.

Once the wisdom of God begins to permeate ones senses, they cannot go back to that vomit. They are free indeed.

In this regard, I certainly agree with our LORD's validation of the effect of truth:

Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Not just free from demonic oppression: Knowing it, the truth, will set you free into the enormous glories of God. Free to enjoy the LORD's party of favor; free to reign with HIM among men and angels; free to reign on earth and in heaven; free to possess earth and heaven; free to overcome this world and to prevail against the gates of hell. Yes, you are free in Christ and can exercise this privilege once you get to know the truth.

That is why I am glad that the Spirit of God is saturating your mind even as you read on. Your party is surely booming and your dance strokes are changing for the better.

As you gain more and more of this wisdom, I envisage a new, better, and omnipotent you reigning with God. Your fortune is changing even as you are being transformed by the renewing of your mind. And everyone can see it. People around you know

that God is up to something. They can see it; they can sense it, because favor is beaming right through you to them.

What I have transmitted in many words, you are sharing in action. The favor of God is causing you to be the favored parent, the favored child, the favored employer, the favored employee, the favored spouse, the favored uncle, aunty, neighbor, minister. You have favor all over. You are growing in wisdom and as you do, are gaining stature and increasing in favor with both God and men.

It is becoming apparent that you are favored in heaven: Your prayers are being answered in amazing fashion. Whatever you ask for, God quickly answers. Your words too, are coming to pass. Whatever you say, is quickly coming to pass.

And your enemies are getting wind of this new predisposition: They cannot afford not to be on your side any more. It is so difficult for them when you love them so much; and your love is contagious. It has favor all over it; they cannot resist your overtures.

You have favored them and pray for those who revile you; you bless those who curse you; you are an enigma to a world full of hatred. Your favor is communicating to your enemies a different story, a blessed compassion.

Favor has also meant that those who bless you are blessed. Even those who work for you get to observe God working for them. And people are taking note; so more people want to do you favors.

You are in a party of favors. It cannot stop. Even the devil has decided to do himself a favor and leave you alone because by this favor you are casting down imaginations and pulling down strongholds. The more he bothers with you, the more he is losing in full view of everybody. Your prestige and incredible privilege before God is making a nuisance of every attack he masters against you.

In hell, all the demons he assigned to you are damned, perplexed, and terrifyingly report the legendary account of your favor.

And when he has sought to come full force; he has lost even more. He is a perpetual loser once you enact this favor. When he comes like a flood, the Spirit of God raises the standard (Isaiah 59:19).

What this means is that activating divine favor has secured your protection. You have blessed assurance which is enormously better than any insurance. When terror strikes, you cannot fear:

Psa 91:3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

Psa 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

Psa 91:5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Psa 91:6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

Psa 91:7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

Crucified with CHRIST means you are a winner. You are a winner; anytime, anywhere. Favor is making a winner out of you everywhere you go, whatever you do. You are a winner. Failure is cancelled out of your routine. Defeat is impossible with you. From henceforth, you are a demonstration of what it takes to excel in life. You are a beacon of excellence as God favors you way over and above your peers.

In this glorious faith, faith in CHRIST's finished work on the cross, you are favoring many. Many that are downtrodden, downcast, oppressed, depressed, messed up, and worn out are finding relief in your care. Yes, you are passing on the party; not so that you gain favor but because you have favor. You have more than enough favor that you are gladly passing on to others. Your cup of favor is filled and it overflows (Psalm 23:5).

Where miracles are necessary, where signs are needed, so that your favor is received and celebrated, the wonder is done. You are healing the sick, casting out devils, and even raising the dead. Great is the light upon you. Many can see it, and so can I. A people in darkness have indeed seen a great light.

Like Mary in the epilogue of this chapter, your impression of who you are has greatly changed so that you now see yourself in light of God's favor. Forget the past, forget what others think you are; you are past that level. Your view of who you are is now based on who God says you are. And through the eyes of divine favor, you can behold the word of God as though you were looking into a mirror and are being transformed from glory to glory.

Surely, from now on, all generations shall call you blessed. God has been good to you and you know it. Gone are the woeful days of low self-images; here are the new days of God-images. You are made in HIS image, renewed in that image and awakening to this highest of favors enables you to see yourself as a son of God; so many others see you in this light; they behold you one with God almighty, identical and synonymous with HIM.

Keep on in this favor; we all need it. The kingdom of God is better for it. *And men?* They cannot do without it. They look up to you like sons to a father and like daughters to a mother. When they need a favor, you are the answer. All of creation has groaningly awaited your moment of favor (Romans 8:22). And from this vantage privilege, you are winning the lost, discipling the nations, and ultimately, setting free creation even as you translate the earth into a heavenly experience.

What a joy, what a life; keep on in this glorious favor.

Alas, if I have had anything to do with this new you, kindly remember; I was just passing on the favor. IT'S ALL YOURS!

THE CROSS & WAR WAR AND THE CROSS AND THE C

THE CROSS AND YOUR VICTORY

- Rom 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?
- Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?
- Rom 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.
- Rom 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.
- Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
- Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Wonderful, super, splendid; this wisdom of the cross must be grasped. This knowledge is glorious wonder, amazing truth, incredible encouragement, a must-know for everyone. This is the knowledge that is indeed the power of GOD for the salvation of ALL men, the knowledge that GOD has ordained from the beginning of the world that should be the premise upon which ALL men are guaranteed the greatest privilege:

- 1Co 2:6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:
 - 1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory

The message of the cross is not just a sentimental one; it's not just a religious account soliciting some sort of reverend interest; it is more than passion or religion could ever afford. The effort of the cross is indeed GODz greatest effort ever and its message the wisest ever:

- **1Co 1:20** Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
- 1Co 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.
 - 1Co 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:
 - 1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;
- 1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
 - 1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

That said, it is important that we realize why the enemy has fought it more than he ever fought anything else. The devil hates the cross; he knows that it seals his fate, condemns him, and betterstill, it reminds him of his serious defeat.

Beloved, the cross tells of your victory; being one with HIM on the cross, together with HIM, you defeated the devil and all his principalities.

To be sure, Satan was defeated in heaven from where he was cast down like lightning when he sought to overthrow the GODhead (Isaiah 14:12; Luke 10:18). But that blow was not his most serious loss. That feat belongs to another day; it occurred at the cross when CHRIST became sin and was punished with death. Through that loss, yet CHRIST inflicted enormous damage on the kingdom of darkness:

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Col 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Col 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

From HIS own testimony which is true, listen and be sure:

Joh 16:31 Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

Joh 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: <u>but be of good cheer; I have</u> overcome the world.

HE has overcome; HE is not going to overcome, HE has!!!!! HE did it at the cross where HE spoiled principalities and powers and made a pubic spectacle of their failure and defeat.

The cross is your victory because you were in HIM overcoming the world. That victory therefore is not only personal to CHRIST but communal to al who believe in HIM and HIS sacrificial death on the cross. Meaning, when HE overcame, you overcame with HIM.

That is why HE encourages us to be of good cheer; HIS victory is as much HIS as it is indeed our victory.

The early church believed this inspite of severe tests; they believed on account of the MASTER's verdict that inspite trials and tribulations, yet these were inferior to the victory HE had wrought for them.

The apostle John, taking note of this hilariously acclaimed:

1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Watch this now; the believer in CHRIST cannot be defeated. That is impossible. He may thin he is because he does not know better; others may think he is because they do not know better; he whole world may conclude on their failure because the world does not know better. But the truth of the matter is that the believer is living in victory. He doesn't need victory; he has victory!!!

Like John, this is what motivated the apostle Paul to also pompously declare his own victory together with that of all saints as I quoted him in the epilogue text of this chapter. That maverick apostle that had been tried in all manner of ways, had learnt the faith of CHRIST well enough to conclude for his eternal benefit and that of all saints that in the midst of all things, regardless of all things, evil or good, yet we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS in HIM.

It doesn't matter the opposition, or the challenge, whatever the adversary; do not consider defeat even in the slightest sense. Defeat is not your portion whether in court, or in sickness, or in a political contest, or in a business dealing, in whatever that pertains to your life; refuse defeat. That is not your testimony and nor is it your destiny.

You are a winner all the way; whether in high water or burning fire; get that mindset. Put on the mind of CHRIST and think according to HIS victorious work on the cross.

That is how I see you. I see you wining everywhere and in everything because I see you in CHRIST. I refuse to see you according to the circumstances of life. Not at all; I don't see you in circumstances but in CHRIST. The vision I have of you in CHRIST is richer than the one I have of you in your circumstances. Matter of fact, when I see you through the cross of CHRIST, I am blinded to your circumstances regardless their weight.

So you may tell me that you have cancer and that cancer has defeated s many people; then I will ell you that you have the cross and it defeated cancer too. You may be a business man and you may ell me that you are in this strong competition with your rival who has beaten everyone in that business; and I will tell you that I see you on the cross and I know that therein you have victory over every adversary. I refuse the evidence of temporary trials and choose to focus my eyes on the things that are sure and eternal (2Corinthians 4:18).

That cross of CHRIST, its victory, is more sure than the defeat you may be incurring today in any dimension. It is greater than all sickness, all dangers, all trials, greater than anything you could ever face.

And just in case you are launching your business; let me give you serious info. Before you put it on the street, put it on the cross. If you are a brother and you are proposing for marriage; before you take your proposal to the sister and then to the pastor, first take it to the cross. May be you are a politician and you are seeking electoral office; before you take your claim to the people, first take it to the cross.

Your victory is on the cross. Your marriage is not well because your spouse said 'I do'. That is a limited victory. You want a great marriage; first identify it with CHRIST's 'IT IS FNISHED'. That confession beats any 'I do'. I have seen 'I do's' changing to something else but I know for a certain that 'IT S FINISHED' is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It can never fail.

So what are you fighting now? Whatever it is take it to 'IT IS FINISHED'; sort it there. Yes, there where the victory is at. Before the doctor report causes any panic, take that sickness to 'IT IS FINISHED' and begin to rejoice.

Matter of fact, I feel like a victory shout right now; shout with me, 'IT IS FINISHED!!!!!!' It is OVER, DONE WITH, completely and also defeated. And you are the victor. Yes, in this world you have the victory, even forever more.

THE FUTURE OF THE CROSS & YOU

THE FUTURE OF THE CROSS AND YOU

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Heb 13:9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Heb 13:10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

Heb 13:11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.

Heb 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Heb 13:13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

Heb 13:14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God

continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

This is EASTER season; at least in the sense of when most people celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of our LORD, most will celebrate it without the necessary knowledge that this occasion deserves. Indeed most that lack this knowledge and celebrate EASTER will cease to rejoice over it soon after Monday.

Sadly to say, even so many that celebrate and rejoice over EASTER, celebrate other things other than the cross of CHRIST. I am told of a rejoicing over a bunny and such strange doctrines that have permeated this wonderful celebration.

These ominous developments have caused a lot of well meaning saints that love the LORD to be alarmed at the future of EASTER; many worry that EASTER is ebbing away and will soon be forgotten.

Then there are those that carry on celebrating EASTER in form but hardly grasping its profound validity. Many will be seen carrying the cross in actual procession, marching with the saints and even genuinely bothered by the LORD's sacrifice but hardly growing in the knowledge of the cross. To them, celebrating EASTER, rejoicing the cross is only a ceremonial occasion, hardly worth more than their reverend devotion as believers in a sect. These really concern me; I am bothered that they love the LORD but hardly understand HIM or even what HE did for them.

The rest of the world? Many, most infact, will not celebrate EASTER at all if you consider the numbers of non-Christian peoples in the world. This season will pass and go like many have passed and gone without a bother; always wondering wherever they see believers celebrate at what the whole thing is about celebrating death. They are unable to fathom the wisdom of our salvation, the glory of the cross.

Particularly concerning as well, is that the number of this group has been the great majority ever since Calvary. The number of those who do not believe JESUS or in the glory of the cross has always been way over and above the number of those who believe. How is it that most of the world has failed to grasp the privilege of the cross?

These developments must change; those who know the cross and fully appreciate its mandate and accomplishments are obliged to share its message with the whole world. In light of what has to be gained and the gross penalty that stands to be suffered for believing CHRIST or not believing HIM, we that have known the wisdom of the cross must reach out.

Can we appreciate the need? Like Paul, I am moved to acclaim:

1Co 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

1Co 9:17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

Precious and I have learnt this need; we refuse to sit idly by or passively by, about our own interests when there is a whole world out there either ignorant or confused about the cross. That is why we refuse to charge for our books, we refuse to charge for the preaching of the gospel; like Paul, we refuse to peddle this urgent and glorious message for any gain whatsoever. Woe are we if we do not preach the gospel.

You may be wondering what the future of the cross and you is and I will suggest to you; it is simple, PREACH THE GOSPEL!!!!

You have read a book like this one that has spoken life, peace, justice, favor, wealth and health from the cross to you. It hasn't cost you nothing except your attention. Now, pass it on.

The immortal work of CHRIST on the cross calls for our utmost thanks and profound gratitude. HE did for us that which no man ever could, no other created being ever could; on the cross GOD demonstrated a love that was completely overboard, beyond measure, rich and glorious. HE did it beyond what we ever thought we deserved; and yet HE did it and has never regretted doing it.

In that love, with that measure, we have been saved, eternally pardoned, clothed with HIS righteousness, seated at HIS right hand, exalted to the heavens, included in the deity, made sons of GOD and joint heirs with CHRIST; we have been exceptionally FAVORED.

Thankful we are and thankful we ought to be. Not only on EASTER season; matter of fact, once you grasp this message, then you have a perpetual, eternal EASTER of celebration and rejoicing the good work of CHRIST.

Now that calls for a drink, a dance, quite a lot of shouting, singing, praise, moving worship, church celebration with the saints; for a lot of things that express our profound gratitude. But if you ask me, none other measure of gratitude beats passing this message on to someone else that doesn't know.

You have read a book like this; and you have been revived, renewed, and you rejoice, but the book did not get to you until you told someone else about it. When you preach the gospel, when you share the cross, yes, you are truly thankful.

As far as Precious and I are concerned, this is the future of the cross that is most connected to your future. We hear some people claim that the New Covenant will end and be replaced by a revival of the Old Covenant; they talk of the restitution of temple worship, of the sacrifice of animals, of burnt offerings all over again with JESUS as the High Priest of that worship.

We just wonder; but again, we know that the problem is because not enough is being done by those who know better. If we shared with everyone, even those who believe in CHRIST about the eternal worth of the cross and the New Covenant, then there will be light on these things to the glory of CHRIST. Beloved, the cross is eternal; that work was not just a material effort wrought in time but a profound spiritual work set in eternity. Truly, CHRIST is indeed the LAMB of GOD that was slain before the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8). HIS work was not for a limited season but for eternity; we shall be indebted to HIM forever.

The future of the cross therefore is forever; the celebration of EASTER is forever; but only forever for those who will believe HIS testimony.

But how will they believe if we do not preach the gospel (Romans 10:14, 15). They couldn't and many haven't because of this critical reason; the gospel has to be preached.

You might say that you have; that you have been busy at it, preaching whenever opportunity has presented itself or perhaps you have even ventured out and preached. And you even call what you preach the gospel.

To that extent, I ask you to examine your ministry. Have you truly been preaching the gospel, the good news? Would you truly categorize your ministry as a ministry of reconciliation? Or you have been actively preaching a litany of judgment, wrath, and condemnation?

My prayer is that where you may never have ventured out to preach the glorious gospel, this awesome message of peace; please rise up and shine out. GO FORTH AND PREACH THE GOSPEL. And where you have preached wrath and torment in a prejudiced ministry full of judgment and vindication against sin and against sinners, I counsel you to PREACH THE GOSPEL. Cease to extend the ministry of condemnation which CHRIST rendered obsolete on the cross.

GO FORTH everyone, GO FORTH AND PREACH THE GOSPEL; this is the future of the cross and yours. Until this message has reached the whole world, forget the future (Mark 13:10). The whole world is hanging on the preaching of the cross; the only reason the world has a chance with the future is because of the gospel.

This EASTER, I have ministered to you this marvel of the cross just to get one thing across; PREACH THE GOSPEL!!!!

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

PREACH THE GOSPEL!

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

As I conclude on this enormously rich subject, I seek to emphasize the incredible relevance of the cross to you beyond what history or religion affords. I seek to bring to you the profound need for you to grasp a hold of the communion you share with CHRIST through HIS death on the cross and the incredible privilege it gives you.

Beloved, refuse to be distanced from the cross; refuse to be estranged to it; refuse to be clueless about what it really means to you. If there is anything you ever identified that belongs to you, then this is it.

The cross belongs to you more than your hand does; more than your head does; more than your very life. That cross is your privilege, the greatest gesture GOD ever gave you.

My dear, you can afford to lose all else but not the cross. You can lose your money, your house, even your family, your

children, or whatever; but PLEASE, never ever consider the loss of missing the cross.

Believe me, it is worth a lot more than a piece of historic event; a lot more than a religious rite or account of some long gone SAVIOR. The cross is a living, eternal, and most vital reality. It is more real than everything, more valuable than all the earth put together with heaven tucked in. The cross of CHRIST is the only means through which redemption is possible; through which sanctification is possible; through which you can be accounted righteous by GOD; through which you can be justified by GOD. Look, without the cross, you cannot be a son of GOD; let alone a joint heir with CHRIST.

The cross is the great access to all these infinite privileges. That is why I assure you that the cross is more vital to you than any aspect of your body, your soul, than anything you own. Infact, without the cross, all you own is worth dung; it amounts to a whole lot of nothing.

At one time, King Solomon experimented with all the riches a man can have only to conclude it was worth nothing; all of it, including his kingdom, power, and all his seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines, nothing but chasing the wind (Ecclesiastes 2).

This is the grand point that the MASTER sought to get the rich young man to catch when HE asked him to sell all his possessions and give the proceeds to the poor and follow HIM (Mark 10:21). HE sought to assure him how without HIM, all those things were worth a lot of nothing.

Beloved, the cross is everything; it worth a lot more than any treasures the world can ever offer. Satan sought to steal that cross from CHRIST, tempting HIM with all the kingdoms of the world in all their glory, but CHRIST rejected the grand offer with all contempt (Mathew 4:8-10). HE knew so well what was at stake.

And being obedient to endure the cross, HE has obtained a most excellent name:

- Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
- Php 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
- Php 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
- Php 2:11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

HE got exalted because of the cross. What that old rugged tree offered HIM was far richer than what Satan tempted HIM with.

Beloved, that cross and its power, and the privileges therein, were not personal to CHRIST. They were communal, including all men that will have faith in CHRIST. If you shall believe that CHRIST is LORD, then all that HE gained as a result of HIS obedience will become yours too.

You might wonder how so but that is the mysterious working of that tree; by HIS obedience, righteousness has come to many (Romans 5:18).

What that means is that, attach yourself to the cross inasmuch as JESUS did; make it as much your cross as it is HIS cross. Acknowledge by faith that when HE died on the cross, you died there with HIM; when HE suffered on the cross, you suffered there with HIM. Refuse to let the historic facts of that day beguile you. HIS death was not just a historical moment in time but an eternal work of glory. And in that glorious measure, it wasn't just that HE was sacrificed with two thieves on HIS side; but more seriously, HE was crucified with the world in HIM.

That is why Paul acknowledged that HE reconciled the world with GOD in HIS body on the cross (Ephesians 1:10).

What that means is that you were crucified with CHRIST; HIS death was your death. Now, just like HE died and arose a new creation; the first begotten of the FATHER; you too, having faith in HIM access the new life of the new creation.

Without this faith, without you seeing your presence on that tree, then you will have a limited access to the glory that it renders you. On the other hand, when you believe your presence on the cross with CHRIST, when you see your self dying with HIM; then the SPIRIT has quickened you into the glory that HE reigns in now as King of kings. Indeed, you will become awakened to your royal priestly position and privilege.

Beloved, this is why the gospel must be preached with clarity, zeal, and all love; this is so incredible and we mustn't waste any further time with this matter other than sharing it with all men.

Preach the cross, preach the crucifixion; get the world to know that they need not bother with guilt and sickness, defeat and poverty; they have better at the cross.

This is the time, the day of the cross, the day of our communal privilege with the SON of GOD. Yes, through HS obedience, through HIS sacrifice, we died with HIM and were reconciled with GOD. Meaning we have attained omnipotent worth; we are more than flesh and blood beings; we are sons of GOD.

And in that privilege, we can walk in the same glory of the SON of GOD; the one HE had with the FATHER from the very beginning. Yes, HE has made us worthy; worthy to bear GOD'z name; worthy to be accounted a joint heir with beloved SON; worthy to be considered above the angels above all created

beings, indeed the first fruit of al creation. At the cross, CHRIST JESUS rendered us an omnipotent worthiness.

This EASTER, do not settle for a human occasion but rejoice in greater measure. This is not a matter merely for food and wine; far from all that, it deserves more; you deserve more. The kingdom of GOD is not food and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the HOLY SPIRIT (Romans 14:17).

Yes, I salute you son of GOD; I see you crucified with CHRIST; a new creation. Yes, I no longer value you at the material plane of understanding after the cross. When I think of you, I am thinking of one whose life is ONE with GOD. You are absolutely awesome, above defeat, above trial, above all the power of the enemy. I see you reign in an eternal communion with CHRIST. I se your kingdom and rejoice with you. Thank GOD, YOU ARE CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST!

And if you have never believed in CHRIST or believed yourself to be crucified with HIM, I would love to pray this prayer with you; is that alright?

> Dear LORD Jesus, LORD of all, King of all, I humble myself before you and surrender my frail humanity so as to receive your

awesome divinity. I believe you are the Christ, Son of the Living God, eternal Light that shines in the hearts of all men. I believe you died for me as an act of eternal redemption by which you purchased me with your blood. I am forever yours. I am eternally pardoned. I also believe that you were raised from the dead and are seated at the right hand of the Father, forever my King and Lord. I believe that you have crowned me king and lord over all your possessions. I am no longer merely human. I am above that. I am born again, born of your eternal word and glorious Spirit. I am forever divine, a royal priest, a revelation of, Christ, a manifestation of glory. What an honor. I will never be less. I will always be blessed. Thanks for changing me forever and for glory. Thanks for including me in Your kingdom and in the God-family. I remain forever grateful. Amen!

From henceforth, you are in the kingdom of God from whence you can activate your divine program and boldly walk into a life of glory, wonder, peace, and amazing joy:

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Walk in it! Pick up your cross and go!