

**How To  
Walk In  
The Way  
Of The  
Cross**



**B.R. Hicks**



*How To Walk  
In The  
Way Of The Cross*

*by B. R. Hicks*



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# Introduction

This is the first book in a series of lessons that show us how to be successful in various aspects of our relationship with the LORD Jesus Christ as we endeavour “to be” more like Him and “to do” what pleases Him, just as Jesus Always did His Father’s Will.

The study in this book deals with the subject of “How to Walk in the Way of the Cross.” However, before we can learn how to *walk* with the LORD or to be like Him, we must understand *how* we go about achieving our goal of “being” and “doing.”

For this reason, an introductory booklet, “The Three Requisites for Learning *How* to be Successful,” was written prior to this book and should be read first, before the reader begins the “How To” series of books.

In the booklet, which explains the three great requisites for success (either in the natural realm or the spiritual realm), we covered the steps in the first requisite, which is *learning how*. There are seven steps in the *learning how* process.

1. Learning in *what manner*, which is learning the most effective method, mode, or way of performing or doing something.
2. Learning by *what means*, which is discovering the medium or means or the resources and substances we must use in order to be successful in accomplishing our goal.
3. Learning to *what degree or extent*, which is learning the correct step or the proper degree that comes next as we progress in our learning so that no steps will be left out or by-passed, which would hinder the successful completion of our goal.
4. Learning in *what proportion or quantity*, which is the step that determines the usefulness or the worthlessness of the outcome of what we are trying to achieve.
5. Learning in *what state or condition*, which is learning to look beyond the limits of our finite, weak conditions and to look, instead, to the Moral Condition or the Creative Strength of the LORD Jesus Christ and the Will of the Heavenly Father.
6. Learning by *what Name or Title*, which is to understand that God works only for His Holy Name’s Sake and for no other reason. Our needs and desires do not move God to work in our behalf. He blesses us only for His Name’s Sake.
7. Learning at *what dear price*, which means seeing, as we strive toward our goal, the smallness of our sacrifice and suffering when we compare them to the Sacrifice and Suffering Christ endured so that we might accomplish our goal of “being” and “doing” what pleases our Heavenly Father.

Next, we learn from our booklet that the second requisite for success is *choosing* to allow Christ to implement, in our heart and life, the “how’s” we have learned. If we do not like what we learn about the LORD, and if we do not find satisfaction in what we learn, we will not use, in our daily life, the knowledge we have gained. If we elect to have Christ implement the knowledge we have gained of Him, He will fulfill the deeds of righteousness of the Law in our life, which is to love the LORD God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourself.

By following the steps of *learning* and *choosing*, we are brought to the third requisite for success—to *wait on the LORD Jesus Christ and put His righteous Passive and Active Obedience within our will*. The *Passive Obedience* of Christ brings His *Righteous Active Obedience* to birth in our will, which works through our hands and feet, causing us to do good deeds as an expression of our moral obedience to the LORD God.

From this condensed explanation of the three requisites for learning *how* to be successful in what we want “to be” and “to do,” I am sure you, as a student of God’s Word, will want to get this introductory booklet which explains these Principles in greater detail and gives examples which will help in studying the series of “How To” books. When you have read it, you will be ready to start finding out from this book “How to Walk in the Way of the Cross.”

As Jesus Christ walked in the Way of the Cross, He left His obedient Footsteps for us to follow. His Steps led to Calvary, and so will our steps lead us to crucifixion—crucifixion of our carnal will and way so that we can walk in obedience to God’s Word and Way. However, pain is not all we find in the Way of the Cross. In fact, the LORD, first of all, rewards us with Heavenly Treasures, with a Oneness of Relationship, and with His Humility and Peace. Then, as well as receiving Reward, we come to know the Power of the Cross before we endure the Sufferings of the Cross.

Finally, God crowns our cross with His Glory. We are given *one* chance to walk in the Crucified Steps of our LORD and Saviour, Jesus Christ, which is while we are on this Earth. May we learn how to walk in the Way of the Cross so that we might walk with Him in the New City.

— The Author

# Chapter One

## The Rewards Of The Cross

Technically, man has made more advances during the twentieth century than in any other age. Perhaps the word *change* is most descriptive of our time. Without a doubt, some changes have been good. Improved standards of living for the average family is one advantage of change. The earlier discovery of electricity has resulted in the development of household conveniences and lightened the homemaker's load.

Change has expanded man's travel horizon, which is another plus. The invention of the airplane and the automobile enables people to visit cities and countries only dreamed about by their grandparents. Faster modes of transportation have changed the way the whole world lives. Man has left even the confines of gravity to travel in space, while just a few centuries ago he was afraid he might sail over the edge of the Earth.

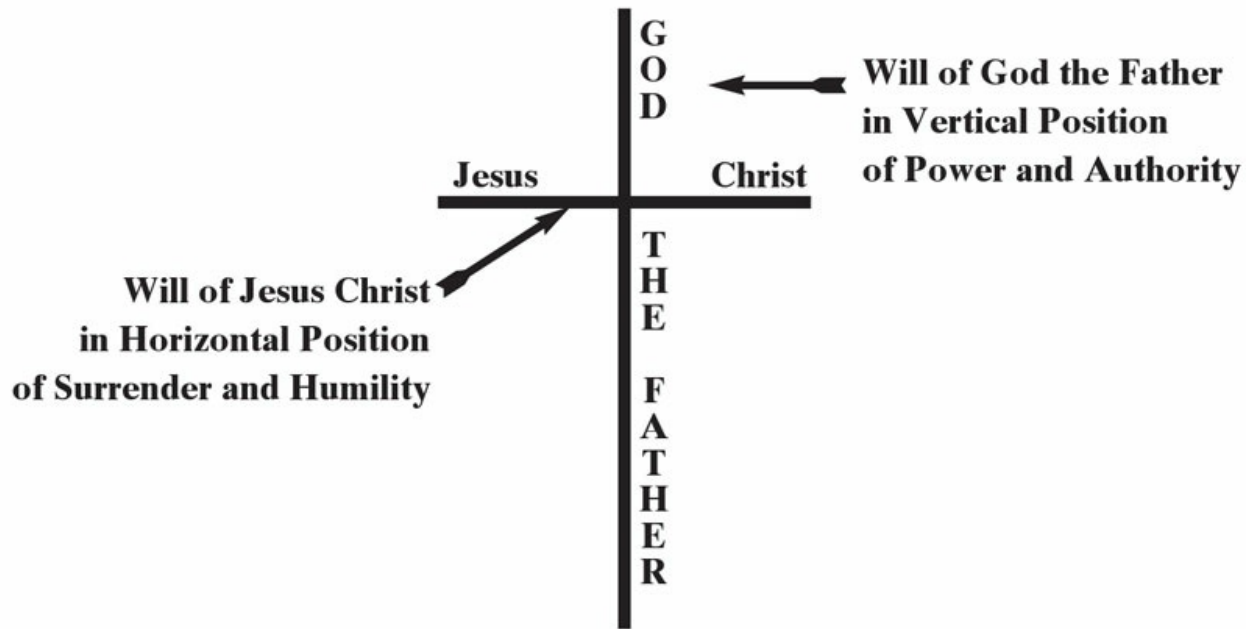
With such growth of natural knowledge and its attendant change, one would expect to see a similar increase in spiritual understanding by the people as a whole. However, this has not been the case. Christianity has *suffered* in the hands of change. Instead of experiencing a spiritual awakening, the modern church seeks to nullify or destroy all the old landmarks of faith. No longer do they want to hear songs about the Blood of Jesus Christ. Using the excuse that the shedding of the Blood of Jesus is much too gruesome a subject to mention to children, men have ripped the old-time favorites out of the church hymnals. Is it not strange that these same fearful fathers allow their children to watch unmentionable atrocities on television? In their own homes, children daily view scenes in which the blood of men is spilled in every possible way. Yet, only the Blood of Jesus Christ makes the hearts of their parents shrink in revulsion.

Some modernistic churches go for weeks without once mentioning the Name of Jesus. It is no longer considered polite to speak of *Jesus*; one must refer, instead, to *Christ*. Supporters of the social gospel direct their latest attack against the Cross, saying, "The Cross might offend someone, so let's stop mentioning the Way of the Cross, the 'Crucified Way.'" Seeking to disguise and hide the Truth of the Cross, they suggest, "Let's talk about the *Abundant Life* or the *Waters of Life*."

What they are saying in their heart is this: "Call it anything but the Cross, the 'Crucified Way.'" Gross ignorance prompts such remarks. Apart from the Cross of Jesus Christ, apart from the message of the Crucified Way, man *has no Abundant Life* and no Living Waters of Truth.

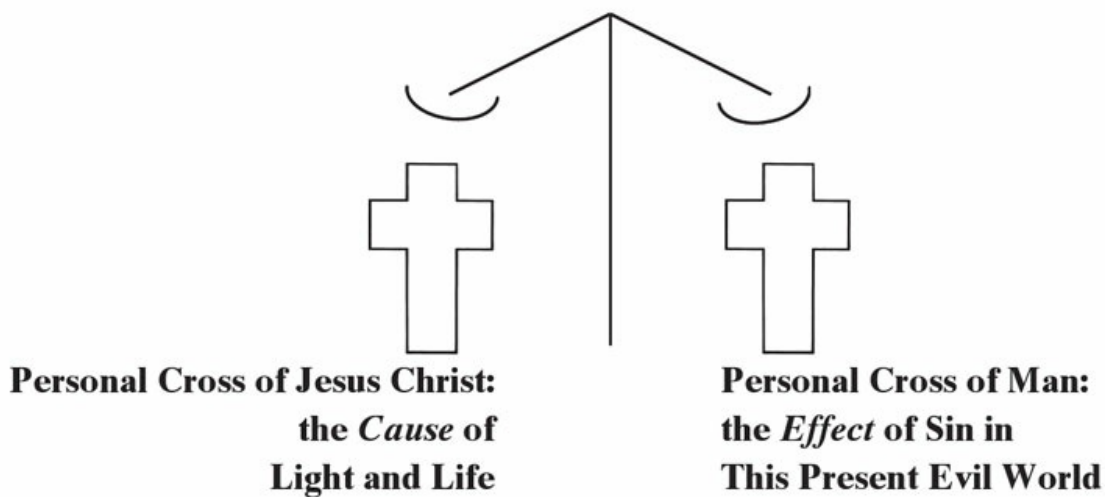
When we speak of *the Cross*, we refer not to the literal, physical Cross upon which Jesus Christ suffered and died. Surely, the same carpenter who made the wooden crosses for the two thieves and the two malefactors, who were crucified with Jesus, also made the Cross for Jesus. Neither the *Shame* nor the *Power* of the Cross of Jesus Christ lies in just the two sticks of wood that were erected on Calvary's Hill.

Upon that literal Cross hung a Man called Jesus Christ, Who walked all the days of His life with His Human Will nailed in a horizontal position of subjection to the vertical, Divine Will of God His Father.



The LORD Jesus Christ is the “Living Cross.” Apart from Him, we have no life because He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). To despise the Cross is to despise life itself. Yet, this is exactly what man does when he wants to stop calling this Way of Life, the Way of the Cross, the “Crucified Way.” Jesus said: “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words, in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38).

God’s Word differentiates between the Personal Cross of Jesus Christ and our personal cross which we bear.



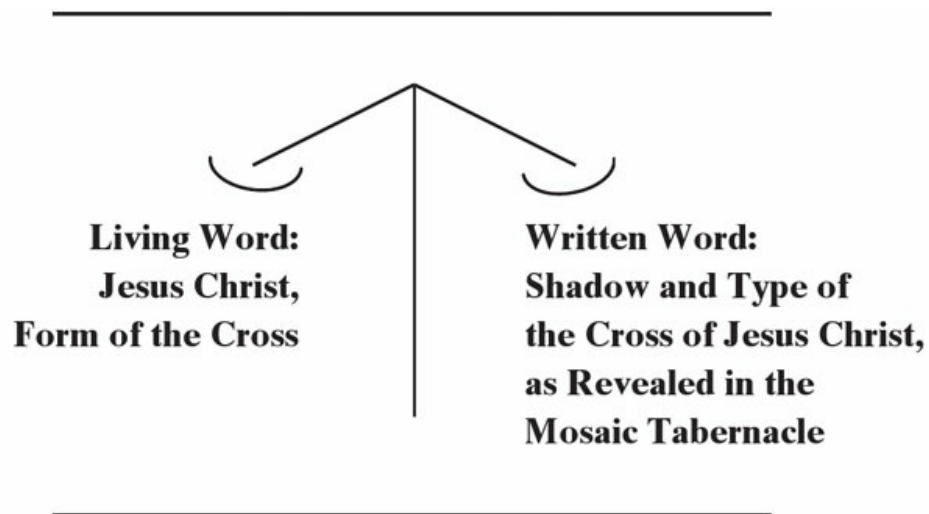
Before hanging on Calvary’s Cross, Jesus said, “...Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take

up *his cross*, and follow me” (Mark 8:334). *His Cross*, in this case, refers to each man’s personal cross. For some people, their personal cross may take the shape of an unsaved husband or wife or a retarded child or some personal affliction. For others, financial hardships may be a cross. The cross speaks of humiliation, suffering, surrender, obedience, and crucifixion that each person must bear. Suffering comes to saint and sinner alike; no one escapes pain in this life. Therefore, we are called to pick up our personal cross, daily, and bear it as we walk in the Way of *the Cross*, the “Crucified Way.”

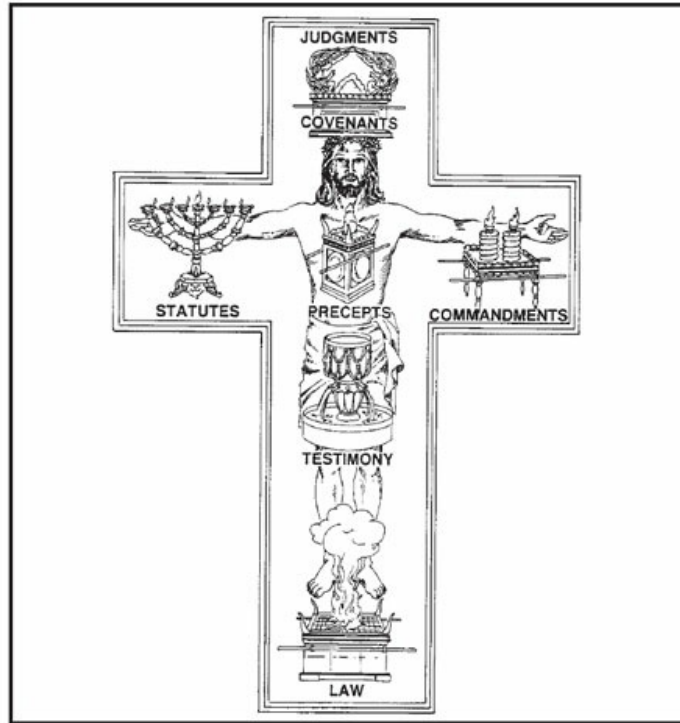
The Apostle Paul admonished believers to grow up into the fullness of the Stature of Christ or the Cross of Light and Life in Christ.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **Till we all come** in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:** (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Since the Living Stature of the Word of God, Jesus Christ, exists in the form of a Cross, it is not surprising to see God’s Written Word following the same pattern.



The Cross of Light and Truth is evidenced both by the Living Word and the Written Word. Nowhere in the Word of God do we find a more minutely detailed picture of the full Stature of Christ than is revealed in the Tabernacle in the wilderness.



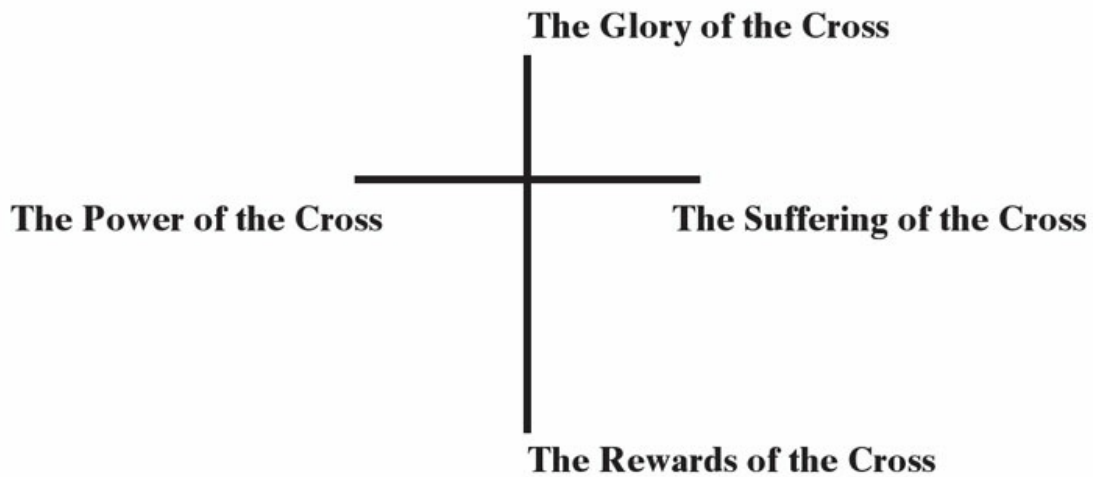
God arranged the seven pieces of furniture in Moses' Tabernacle in the form of a Cross in order to portray the Stature or Body of His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, Who lived with His Human Will joined to His Father's Divine Will.

Many men despise the Cross of Jesus Christ and want to call it by another name. Many refuse to walk in the "Crucified Way" because it is the Way Jesus walked.

Carnal eyes look at the Cross and see only suffering. People who know little about the Bible are deceived easily by the Devil's lies. "You don't want to go the 'Crucified Way,'" he tells them. "You'll never know anything except misery, suffering, and death." Those who accept the Devil's lies turn back and walk no more in the Way of the Cross, the way of crucifixion that brings death to the human carnal will. These people miss the Glory and Beauty of the Cross because they fail to realize that suffering represents only a small part of the Stature of the Cross.

Unfortunately, many people never really see the spiritual beauty of the Love and Surrender of the Cross of Jesus Christ. No one should decide to forsake the Way of the Cross until he first considers all that is involved in the Stature of the Cross. If we want our decision to be based upon Truth, we must understand that suffering is only one part of the Cross. The other three parts are *Reward*, *Power*, and *Glory*. Surely, then, the suffering is not worthy to be compared with the Glory which shall be revealed to those who walk in the Way of the Cross.

In His Word, God reveals the Stature of Truth about the *Cross*, which falls into four major points: the Rewards of the Cross, the Power of the Cross, the Suffering of the Cross, and the Glory of the Cross. The Rewards of the Cross of Christ, the first point of Truth, include Christ's Heavenly Treasures, His Oneness, His Humility, and His Peace. Before the LORD introduces us to the real Sufferings of Christ, found in the Way of the Cross, He gives us a prophetic foretaste of the Rewards of the Cross and the Power of the Cross, both theoretically and experientially; then, He crowns our cross with Glory.



Beginning, in this chapter, with the first point on the Stature of Truth about the Cross, we shall study “The Rewards of the Cross.”

The whole world system is built upon rewards because fallen Lucifer, the prince of this present world, learned the Principles of Reward from God in Heaven.

Reward is that which is given in return for good or evil done or received. Reward means to requite, to recompense, and to repay, whether for good or evil.

The great **God** that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and **rewardeth transgressors** (Proverbs 26:10).

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to **God** must believe that he is, and that **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him** (Hebrews 11:6).



God always is faithful to give rewards of blessing to those who willingly have done well and, conversely, rewards of punishment to those who willingly have done ill. God faithfully gives to man according to the fruits of his works, labours, and conduct, whether they be good or evil.

When one willingly and submissively yields to the Will of Christ, every duty performed brings its reward of peculiar delight, both now and in the New City. Every act of self-denial which is done for Christ's Sake brings its reward of unique satisfaction, both now and in the New City. Every thought of loving gratitude to Christ Jesus

brings its own recompense of pleasurable peace, both now and in the New City.

*Pay* always goes with *performance*, just as *effect* goes with *cause*. It is impossible to divorce these Principles from one another.

God does not run His business on uncertain credit. He pays us sufficiently now for serving Him, indeed more than we deserve. But, better still, he will pay us a “high rate of interest” throughout Eternity.

If we are willing to sow, with tears, the precious Seed of Truth, we will come again with our reward—the sheaves and Christ’s indescribable Joy.

**He that** goeth forth and **weepeth**, bearing precious seed, **shall** doubtless **come again with rejoicing**, bringing his sheaves with him (Psalm 126:6).

God has reserved great rewards and great recompense for Christ’s Work on the Cross. When we come to the Cross of Christ and walk in the Way of His Cross, we are privileged to share in the Rewards of the Cross.

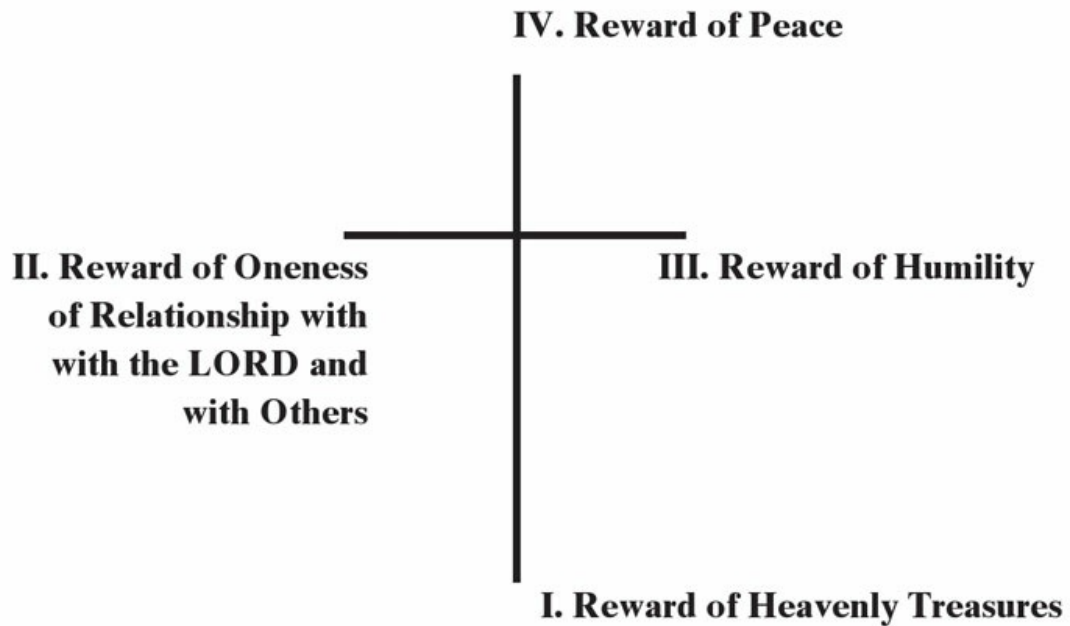
Great rewards or great recompenses are given to those who walk in the Way of the Cross, both now and in the Eternal New City. The LORD Jesus Christ is faithful to recompense us with His Eternal Blessings of Truth for each pain we suffer as we walk in the Way of the Cross. He is steadfast in His determination to see that we are recompensed for each lonely mile that we walk with Him under the weight of the wood of His Cross, so He joins us to the Eternal Presence of the Bridegroom and the Bride.

The temporal pains and sufferings of humiliation which we encounter in the Way of the Cross are not worthy to be compared with the Eternal Reward or remuneration of the humility Love and Joy of the Bridegroom and Bride in the New City. The ultimate of all rewards is the great peace which the Bridegroom and Bride will enjoy eternally in the New City.

The Cross is a *way of life*; it is the Way Jesus walked all the days of His earthly journey. In order to be true followers of Christ, we willingly must walk in the Way of the Cross, the Way of Humility, Surrender, and Obedience to the Divine Will of God and His Love.

God knows how the fearful human heart shrinks from pain and suffering. Therefore, He never asks us to fellowship the suffering of the Cross until after He has unveiled some of the Rewards of the Cross. He lifts us up in the Spirit and gives us a vision of what it is like to go all the way with the Living Cross, Jesus Christ. After we have experienced a foretaste of the Glory and Beauty of the Cross, God brings us down out of the Heavenlies and introduces us to the suffering. Everyone is interested in the Rewards of the Cross because everyone wants Power and Glory. However, comparatively few want all of the Cross because *all* includes pain. God uses suffering to rule out those who are insincere, proud, and haughty.

For walking in the Way of the Cross, God rewards us with Heavenly Treasures; with a Oneness of Relationship with God; with Christ’s Humility that enables us to fellowship His lowly Nature and to bear our personal cross with joy; and with the true Peace of Christ so that we can enjoy blessed quietness in the midst of life’s turmoils.



### **I. Reward of Heavenly Treasures**

To those who do learn to walk the Way of the Cross, God gives Heavenly Treasures, the first of which is the Heavenly Treasure of all spiritual blessings. This includes Christ's recompense to those who spend time alone with Him in prayer, new union with His Spirit, and the gift of abundant affection, which blesses Christ's Holy Name.

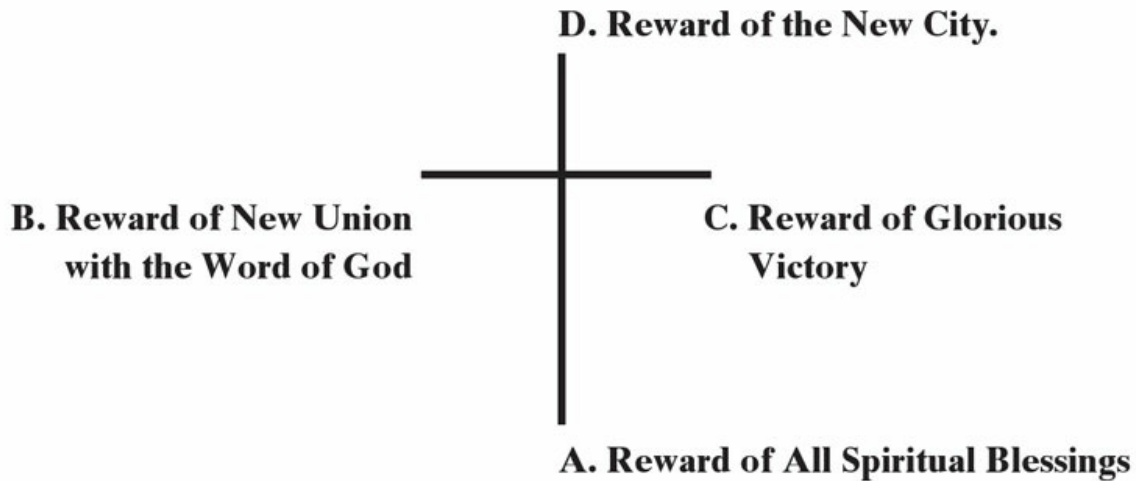
The second Heavenly Treasure that God gives to those who walk in the Way of the Cross is the Reward of Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge of His Word.

The third Heavenly Treasure that God gives to those who walk in the Way of the Cross is the Reward of His Glorious Victory over all of fallen Lucifer's principalities and powers of darkness.

The fourth Heavenly Treasure that God gives to those who walk in the Way of the Cross is the Eternal Reward of the Heavenly Treasure of the New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ.

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## Heavenly Treasures



### **A. God's First Reward of Heavenly Treasure—All Spiritual Blessings**

The first Heavenly Treasure that God gives to those who walk in the Crucified Way, the Way of the Cross, is a reward or the recompense of all spiritual blessing, which is the overflowing of His Holy Spirit. It is the overflowing of His Holy Spirit that helps us to lift up His Holy Name in praise and adoration and to give thanks to His High and Holy Name!

God graciously rewards us for walking with our LORD Jesus Christ in the Word and in prayer and for acknowledging Him as our Master and Owner in all our circumstances of life in the following way: He lifts us into the Heavenlies with Him. By being lifted into the Heavenlies with Him, we can receive the spiritual blessings of a new, fresh union with the glorious Holy Ghost, and we can serve the LORD by ministering to His Holy Name.

One of the greatest spiritual blessings is to have the affection of one's soul influenced, inspired, and controlled by the Pure, Sacred, Divine Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit blesses with spiritual blessings, by enlightening our intellect, by increasing our intellectual capacity, and by illuminating the mind and giving it the higher endowments of Heavenly Understanding of God's Word. Another great Heavenly Blessing or Heavenly Treasure is the Union of God's Holy Spirit with man's spirit, which produces Holy, joyful moral feelings as a reward for sincere obedience unto the LORD. Then, the soul of man, because of the great Power of God's Holy Spirit, is able to minister to the Divine Name of the LORD God and His Holy Son, the LORD Jesus Christ.

This is a foretaste of the love relationship between the Bridegroom and the Bride that we will know in the New City, where we will have the Eternal Privilege of ministering to His Holy Name.

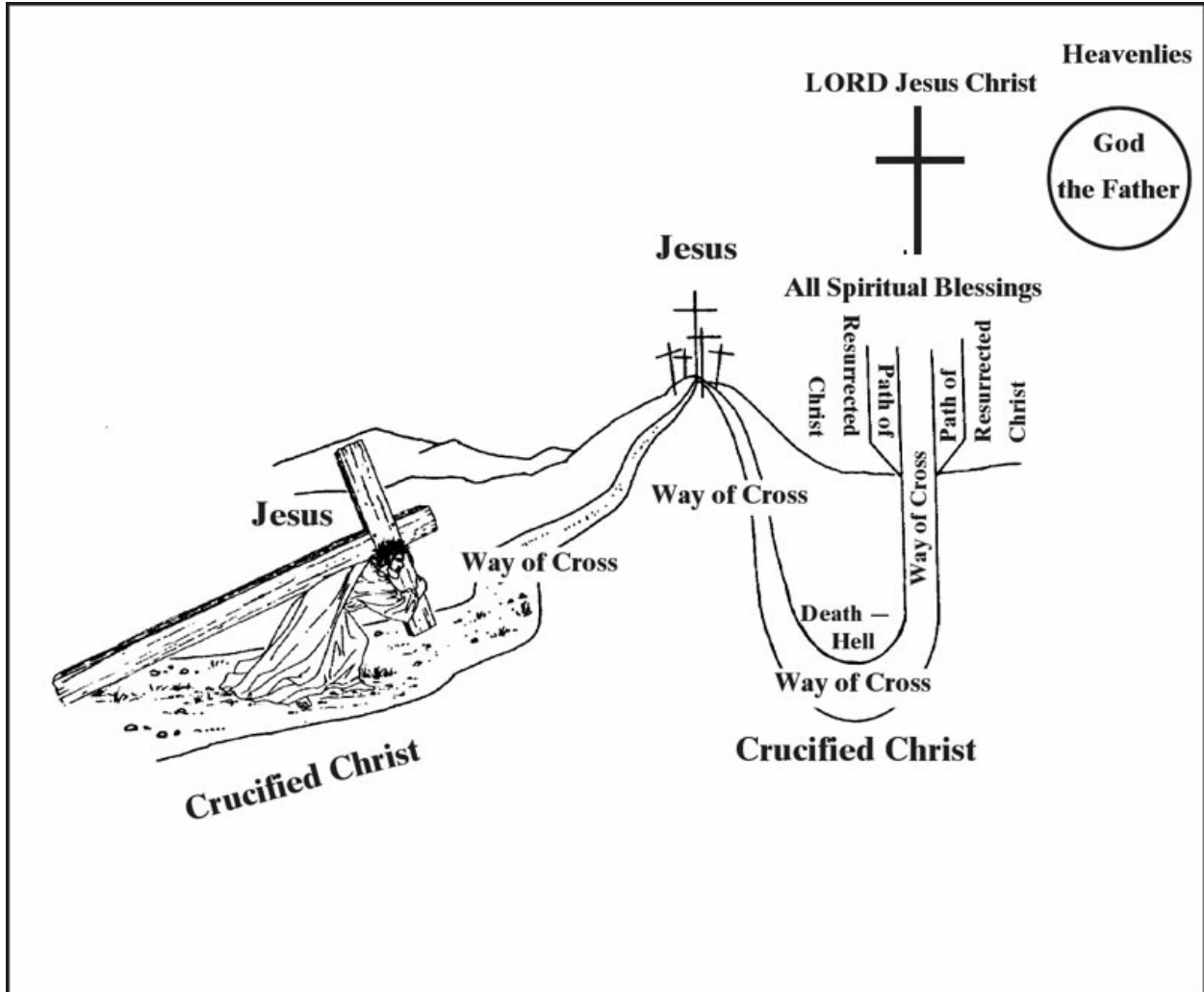
**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:** (Ephesians 1:3).

The LORD God has reserved great and precious benefits and abundant affections for us to enjoy in Christ Jesus, both now and in Eternity. The best blessing we can receive is the abundant affection to *bless* His Holy Name by praising, thanking, and magnifying His Name in everything.

The Greek word for *blessing* means to kneel in praise and adoration. God the Father already has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly Places. These blessings already have been reserved for us in the Heavenlies. However, we must ascend into the Heavenlies in order to obtain them, receiving the Father's abundant Affection

that empowers us to bless and thank His Holy Name in everything.

The LORD Jesus Christ, our Owner and Master, is the only One Who can carry us there. The Path to the Heavens with the Resurrected Christ is the extension of the Way of the Crucified Christ. We cannot find the Path of resurrected exaltation into the Heavens if we reject or ignore the Way of the Cross with its humility and crucifixion.



The Way of the Cross, with its humility and crucifixion, always leads to the resurrected Paths of exaltation in the Heavens, where *all* the blessings of the Heavenly Father are waiting in Christ, both in the Crucified Christ and in the Resurrected Christ. Without the humility “Way” of the Cross of the Crucified Christ and the exalted “Paths” of the Resurrected Christ, one never could enter the Father’s House of “All Spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Places” in Christ.

When we enter into God’s House of worship feeling spiritually dead and when it seems that God is a million miles away, we have little or no praise and worship to offer unto our LORD. It is not necessary for us to carry our spiritually dead feelings throughout the entire service, thereby robbing the LORD of the praises due His Holy Name and preventing ourselves from ascending into the Heavens, afresh and anew in Christ Jesus. If we allow the Holy Ghost to check our life, He will reveal to us and convict us of the times we disobediently have refused to bear the Cross of Humility and Surrender of the Crucified Christ. When we see our unChristlike attitudes and dispositions, which reveal our rebellion against our Master and Owner, we must confess and repent of our sinful headship with its “unjust cause” and its ungodly “effect” of wounded, resentful feelings. Then, the Blood of Jesus will cleanse and forgive us. The Holy Spirit of God will receive our spirit and soul and fill us with His fresh Life. Thus, our spiritually dead feelings will be healed, and we can ascend into the Heavens in Christ Jesus and spend the rest of

the time in God's House lifting up the Holy Name of the LORD in gratitude, giving forth living praise unto His Holy Name.

As soon as we once more begin to walk in the humility Way of the Cross of the Crucified Christ and to walk in the exalted Paths of the Resurrected Christ, He lifts us into Heavenly Places where His Father has reserved all spiritual blessings, which produce in the heart true worship, praise, and gratitude unto the LORD God. Immediately, the waters of praise and adoration will flood our soul, and loving tears of gratitude will stream down our face when He rewards us in Heavenly Places for taking up the Cross. We experience the height of spiritual ecstasy and spiritual delight when we kneel in Holy Surrender at the Feet of the Living Cross, Jesus Christ, and pour out our soul in praise, adoration, love, and gratitude unto Him. The Heavenly Treasure of all spiritual blessings in Christ is one of God's greatest blessings to us.

### **B. God's Second Reward of Heavenly Treasure—New Union with the Word of God**

The second Heavenly Treasure, with which God rewards us for walking in the "Crucified Way" with Jesus Christ, is a new union with the Word of God, as we sit together with Christ in Heavenly Places.

And hath raised us up together, **and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:** (Ephesians 2:6).

When God raised up Jesus Christ from the dead and made Him to sit at His own Right Hand in Heavenly Places, He also *theoretically* raised us up with Him. Now, His Heavenly Father is waiting for us to enter *experientially* into the High and Holy Calling in the Heavens. Jesus Christ has saved us from wallowing, as sinners, in the dust and mire of sin and has lifted us up to sit, as sanctified saints, in Heavenly Places in Him. God's Grace and Mercy have taken us from the "lowest" to the "highest."

The Greek word for *sit* can be traced back to a root word that means to brood, to cover over, to repose on a seat, to incubate, and to keep warm. The word *sit* also means to occupy a seat or place in an official capacity, to stay or remain in a place, to rest or remain in any position, condition, or situation, to attend for the purpose of being examined.

The LORD God leads us into the Heavens by His Spirit so that we can *sit* with Him, just as a mother hen sits or hovers over her nest of eggs. While sitting on the eggs, the mother hen speaks to the little unborn chicks by clucking and brooding over them until they come to birth. The mother hen's clucking and brooding are prophetic calls and prophetic assurances to the chicks that they soon will be born into a new dispensation of their existence.

Likewise, in the spiritual realm, Jesus Christ, our Heavenly Parent, broods over us with His prophetic Words of Truth and His prophetic Assurances of Truth until we are brought to birth in new realms of Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge of Him.

The LORD Jesus Christ lifts us into Heavenly Places so that we can brood together with Him over the precious Living Seeds or Eggs of Truth in the Word of God, by means of prophetic praises and prophetic thanksgivings, until new understanding of God's Word is born in our heart. New illumination of the Truth of God's Word must be brought to birth in our heart if we are to experience deeper depths and higher heights of Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge of Him. God quickens the Eggs of Truth, as it were, by bringing forth new living images of His Truth as we sit in the Heavens with Him.

While we sit in the Heavens and brood over the Word of God, the LORD also teaches us to remain in positions, conditions, and situations, in the natural realm, until He is ready to change them. The LORD also examines the thoughts, intents, and motives of our heart while we are sitting in the Heavens, brooding over the precious Word of God. There, He reveals our many thoughts, intents, and motives which are unlike Him.

New, Living Statures of Truth are born in us in the Heavenly Places each time we walk in the humility Way of the Cross and allow Jesus to nail the old life of our carnal will to His Cross; this is true also each time we ascend in the exalted Paths of the Resurrected Christ. The Cross of Christ, with its powerful Blood, receives our pride and stubbornness and changes them into His Humility and Surrender. Then, we can take up the Cross of Christ and reflect His loving Obedience, Humility, and Surrender.

The Way of the Cross of the Crucified Christ is the ticket to the exalted Paths of the Resurrected Christ, which lead into the Heavens. There we can brood with Christ over God's Holy Word until our soul is filled with illumination of it and is joined to the Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge of it.

How pitifully sad to see many who are like the rich young ruler. They miss the Heavenly Treasures because they refuse to carry the humility Cross which will lead the soul to the place where it can be blessed with all spiritual blessings of the Heavenly Father. What a privilege Christ has purchased for the soul—to sit together in Heavenly Places with Him and be joined to Him as He broods over the Eggs of God’s Word of Truth. These revealed Treasures of Living Truth in Heavenly Places have Power to produce a new increase of the Living Stature of Christ in the hearts of those who carry His “Humility Cross.”

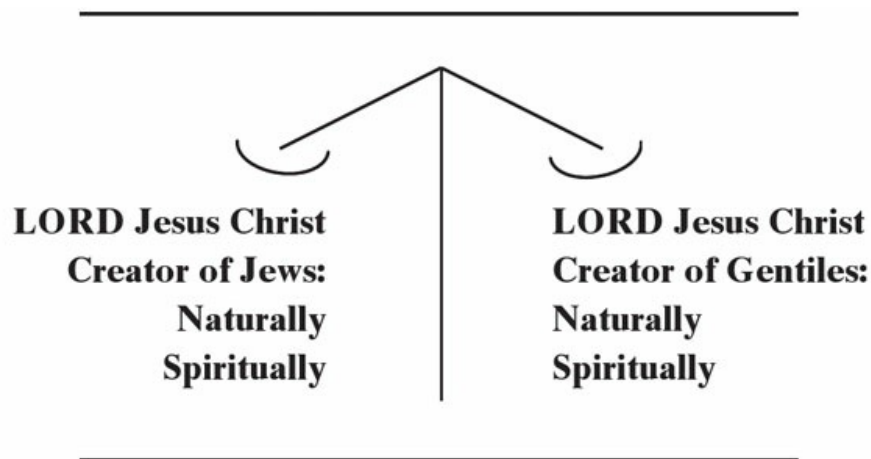
### C. God’s Third Reward of Heavenly Treasure—Glorious Victory

The third Heavenly Treasure that God gives as a reward to those who walk in the Crucified Way of the Cross with Jesus Christ is the glorious victory over the principalities and powers of fallen Lucifer, who is now known as Satan, Devil, Serpent, and Dragon. Christ’s glorious victory over Lucifer is achieved through the breath of the Spirit of Faith.

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: *To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,* (Ephesians 3:8-10).

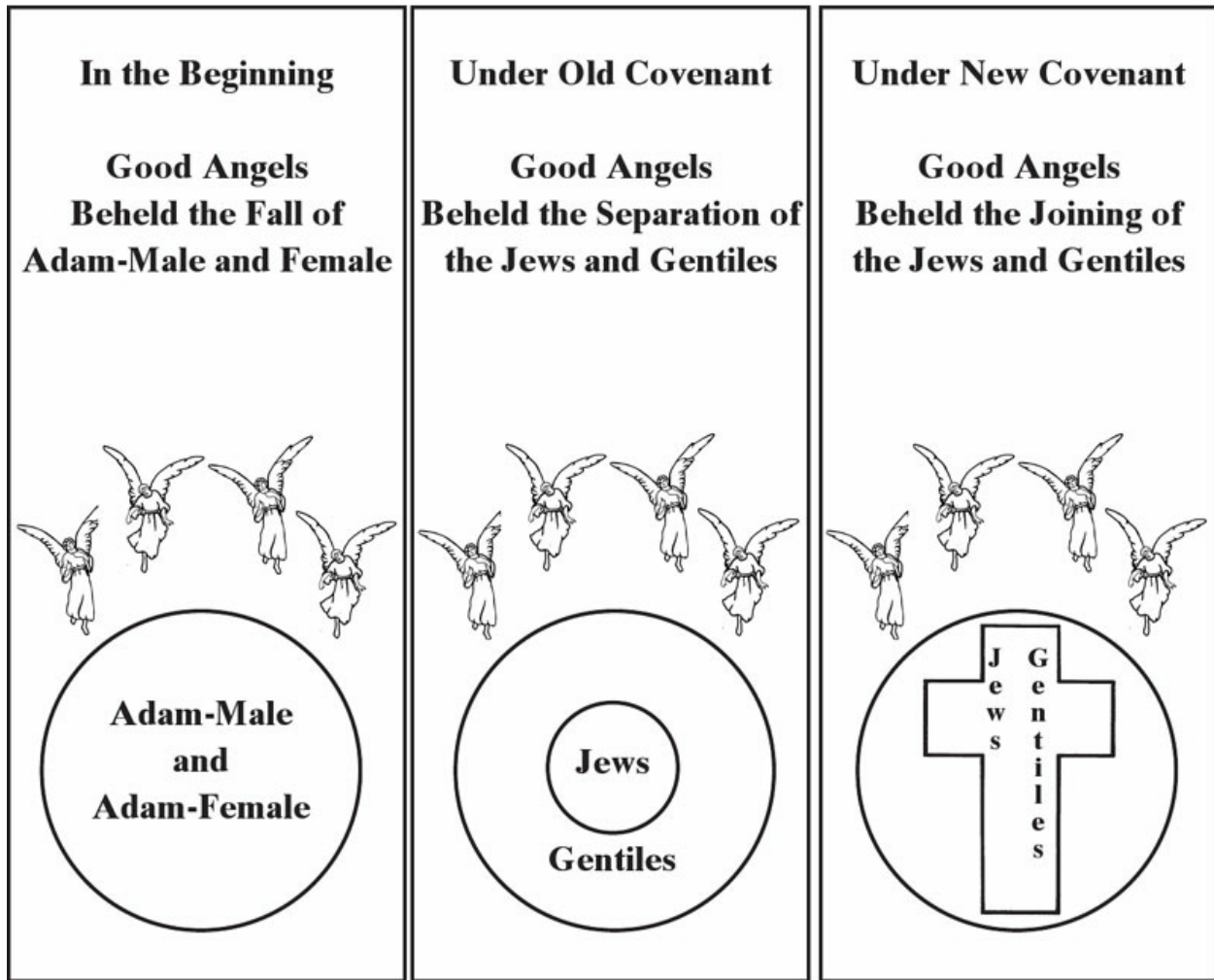
There are many treasures in Christ Jesus, many unsearchable riches in Him. The riches of Christ’s Grace, Love, Mercy, and Faith are inscrutable and dark to man’s human eye and carnal understanding. Nevertheless, the infinities and unsearchableness of Christ’s riches *can* be searched out by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is able to explore and examine the depths and heights of Christ’s riches and reveal them unto us.

There is a great mystery of fellowship in Christ Jesus. Through the Power of His Cross, He has taken away the enmity between the Jews and the Gentiles and has made them “one” in Him. Jesus took those who were near (the Jews) and those who were afar off from God’s Covenant and strangers to His Promises (the Gentiles) and made them “one” in Him. The LORD Jesus Christ is the mutual Creator of both Jews and Gentiles.



Christ has performed a dual creation of both Jews and Gentiles. He has created both Jew and Gentile, naturally and spiritually.

The unsearchable riches of Christ and the mystery of those admitted to spiritual fellowship have been beheld by the good Angels and have had the help of the good Angels from the beginning.



Good Angels beheld the display of the unsearchable riches of God's Grace and Mercy that forgave fallen mankind. It was a mystery how "bad man" could be brought back into fellowship with God while the "bad Angels" could not.

Under the Old Covenant, the good Angels again witnessed the display of God's unsearchable riches when God "separated" the Jews and brought them near to Himself, while He excluded the Gentiles. The Jews' fellowship with God was a mystery to the good Angels.

On the other side, under the New Covenant, the good Angels witnessed a display of the unsearchable riches of God's Grace and Mercy, where the Jews and Gentiles were "joined" in Christ; whereas, before, the riches of His Grace and Mercy had separated Jews and Gentiles. It is a mystery how such enemies, one to another, can become one in fellowship, unity, and peace in Christ Jesus.

Oh, the riches of His Grace and Mercy and the mystery of His Fellowship!

Therefore, fallen Lucifer continually seeks to separate us from the unsearchable riches in the LORD Jesus Christ's Grace and Mercy and from the mystery of the Fellowship of His Humility Cross. Fallen Lucifer stands against the Truth in order to try to prevent hungry hearts from finding new depths and heights of the unsearchable riches of Christ and from having new mysterious fellowship with the Truth of the humility Way of the Cross. If believers find the Truth of God's Grace and Mercy and begin to feed upon it, the enemy will try to devour the Truth out of their hearts and minds by causing them to *forget* what they have heard and feasted upon.

If Lucifer cannot win by having his Satan-nature stand against the Truth or by having His Devil-nature devour the

Truth, he then uses his Serpent-nature to try to change the Truth into a lie. By using his cunning craftiness and deceit, he boldly attempts to make the heart doubt the complete veracity of the Truth that it has heard and received and experienced. If these three vicious attacks from Lucifer's natures of Satan, Devil, and Serpent do not work, he releases his Dragon-nature against us in order to *add to the Truth* or to tempt us *to take away from the Truth* until the heart is stripped of all Truth and is left with complete error and untruth.

If we walk in the humility Way of the Cross, we will battle these four tremendous, hellish forces which fallen Lucifer unleashes against us. The enemy fights repeatedly with his lies and deceit by saying, "You might as well stop trying to walk in the humble 'Crucified Way.' You are no match for the powers that are coming against you. You never will be in the Bride anyway. This Way of the Cross is not for you. God did not call you to walk this way. Give up!" The corrupt, deceitful streams of error and untruth that gush out of Lucifer's mouth seem, at times, to be endless, unceasing streams.

However, we need to remember that God permits Lucifer to attack us because He loves to prove the glorious victory that Jesus Christ wrought on the Cross against all of Lucifer's powers and to prove the "Power of Truth of Christ in us" verses the "weakness of untruths in Lucifer." Therefore, as good soldiers of Christ, let us stand for the Truth and protect it against the onslaught of Lucifer.

When Roman soldiers nailed Jesus Christ to the Cross, Lucifer, the Serpent, ignorantly thought he was overcoming Jesus Christ by bruising His Heel. But, through the very Blood of His wounded *Heel*, Jesus Christ bruised Lucifer's *head* and spoiled all his principalities and all his powers of darkness. Jesus Christ made a show of them openly, triumphing over them (Colossians 2:15). Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He conquered Lucifer *yesterday* when He went to the Cross, and He can conquer him in our life here on Earth. Jesus Christ tramples the powers of darkness in our behalf every time we sell out afresh and anew to take up His Cross and walk in the humility Way of the Crucified Christ. Remember, it was the Blood of Jesus' Heel on the Cross that bruised and wounded the Serpent's head with all its lying, deceitful thoughts.

The Blood of the Cross that overcame principalities and powers of darkness in Jesus' Life, yesterday, will overcome these same wicked forces in our life, today, if we are willing to be joined to the same Blood of the Cross. God desires to display the Power of the Blood of God's Cross in our life just as He did on Golgotha's Hill. The Way of the Cross leads into the Heavens, and it leads to victory over all principalities and all powers of the enemy. Glorious victory is part of the Heavenly Treasure we receive for walking in the Way of the Cross.

#### **D. God's Fourth Reward of Heavenly Treasure—the New City**

The fourth Heavenly Treasure that God gives as a reward to those who have walked with Jesus Christ in the "Crucified Way," the Way of the Cross, is the privilege of being in His Bride, known as the New Jerusalem.

**But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, (Hebrews 12:22).**

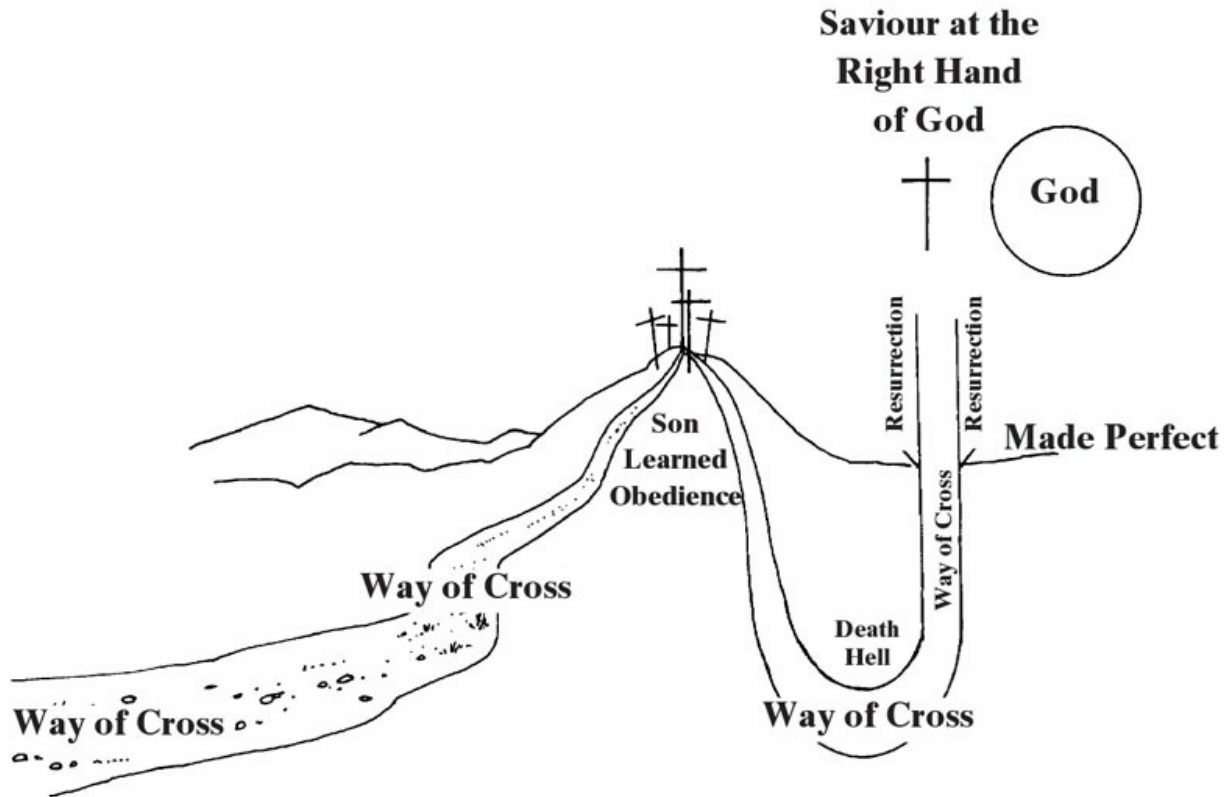
The New City, the Heavenly Jerusalem, is God's greatest Treasure in Heaven. If we join ourself to the Cross of the Crucified Christ, for new crucifixion of our carnal will, and enter into the fresh new life of the Resurrected Christ, the LORD will lift us up into the Heavens by His Spirit and give us a foretaste of the New City by allowing us to walk in joyful and delightful union with Christ in the Spirit. Thus, we can know, prophetically, the joyful reward awaiting those who willingly take up the Cross of Christ and carry it all the way through their earthly journey.

The Cross of Christ not only embodies the Crucifixion and Suffering of Christ but also embodies the Humility, Surrender, and Obedience of Christ, the only Begotten Son, and the unparalleled Peace, the incomparable Love and the Eternal Joy of God the Father. The Heavenly Father knew that not even the spiritual education of His only Begotten Son could be completed until He had walked the Way of the Cross, under the weight of the wood in this world. If the Son of God needed the Cross to complete His spiritual education, how much more do we need to find the Cross, with its initial Salvation, and continue walking in the Way of the Cross in order to complete our spiritual education in this present world?

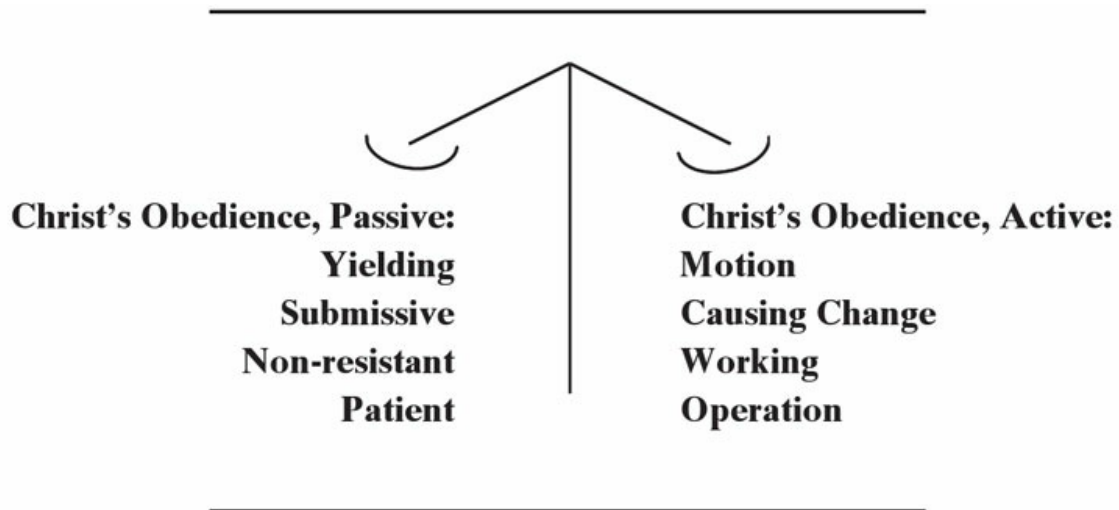
**Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; (Hebrews 5:8,9).**

If God spared not His only Begotten Son from the suffering of the Cross, let us not, through pride and vain deceit, imagine and expect to be exempt and set free from fellowshipping Christ's Sufferings on the Cross. Through Christ's Passive Obedience, He learned Active Obedience. However, Christ never has been disobedient in His dutiful Submission to the Authority of His Heavenly Father. Christ's Words and Actions always exhibited respect and reverence for His Heavenly Father. Through Christ's Eternal Passive Obedience to His Father, He actively obeyed His Father and went to the Cross, even the Death of the Cross.

Christ's Eternal Passive Obedience, his unqualified Submission to His Father's Holy, Just Commands was the foundation for His Active Obedience at Calvary's Cross. Christ's Passive Obedience and no-resistance to the Authority of His Father was His Teacher and Guide to Active Obedience, even the Death of the Cross.



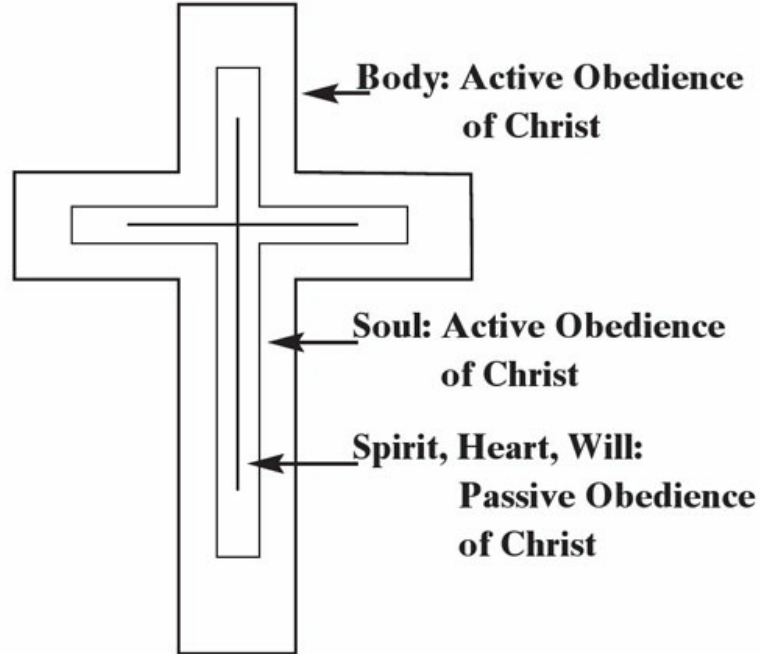
Christ has left us an example so that by following in His Steps, walking in the Way of the Cross, we experience sufferings which teach us His humble Passive Obedience which, in turn, guides us to Active Performance of Obedience to His Will.



The Heavenly Father knew that the Salvation of mankind and all creation depended upon the only Begotten Son's completing His spiritual education in Passive and Active Obedience. In order *to gain* "All Power" in Heaven and Earth and to be the Author of Eternal Salvation for mankind, the Begotten Son had to complete His Spiritual Education which necessitated His always being in subjection to His Father's Will. Because of Christ's Passive and Active Obedience to His Father, we now have a Saviour at the Right Hand of God the Father Who knows *all* the Heavenly Father's Overcoming Power that conquered all the powers of darkness in Death, Hell, and the grave. Thus, Jesus Christ is a merciful and faithful High Priest Who can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities because He has suffered in the flesh, through both Passive and Active Obedience to His Father's Will.

Jesus Christ, our High Priest, is compassionate, tenderhearted, kind, and has great care and concern about sinful humanity because He took their place at the Cross. All who repent and receive Christ as their Saviour, He mercifully restores to communion with Him and His Father. We have a High Priest Who is faithful, firm, true, and loyal to the Will of His Heavenly Father. Christ firmly adheres to the Truths that were taught Him by His Father. He is faithful, honest, upright and true to the Promises of His own Word. Christ is faithful to respect all the Divine Spiritual Principles of His Father. Christ has promised us that if we also are faithful unto death, He will give us a Crown of Life (Revelation 2:10).

Many fail in their walk in the Way of the Cross because they try to walk with the Active Obedience of Christ in their soul and body but shun the Passive Obedience of Christ in their heart and will. Performing obedience in the soul and body must be begotten out of submissive obedience in the heart and will, or one ultimately will fail to walk in the Way of the Cross. When performing obedience stands alone, it soon grows tired, resentful, and blasphemous against the Way of the Cross. The Submissiveness of Christ in the heart and will is the only Power that will not *react* wrongfully when it is *acted upon* by suffering.



Remember, the Passive Obedience and the Active Obedience of Christ is our Blueprint for success in the Way of the Cross, and this dual Obedience of Christ within our being will lead us to the New City.

The sufferings encountered while walking in the way of Christ's Love are not to be compared with the rewards of Christ's glorious Joy and Peace in the New City. The New City is filled with such loving Ecstasy, such delightful Joy, and such rapturous Rest and Peace of the Bridegroom that one's soul becomes an overflowing fountain of adoration, praise, and gratitude for Jesus Christ and for the Heavenly Father.

As long as we live in a mortal body, we cannot receive the fullness of our reward of a bright and splendid future in the New City because this reward is reserved for Eternity in the New City. Our mortal body also is unable to abide constantly, now, in the kind of Joy and Delight that are reserved for our glorified body in the New City. Nevertheless, as we join ourself to the Cross of Jesus Christ, God is faithful to lift us up, periodically, into the Heavenlies in Christ Jesus and to give us a foretaste of His Love and His pleasurable Delights that will be found in His Heavenly Treasure of the Bride, the New City. This Divine Love, Joy, and Peace will be shared by the Bride and the Bridegroom throughout Eternity in the New City.

## **II. The Reward of Oneness of Relationship with the LORD and with Others**

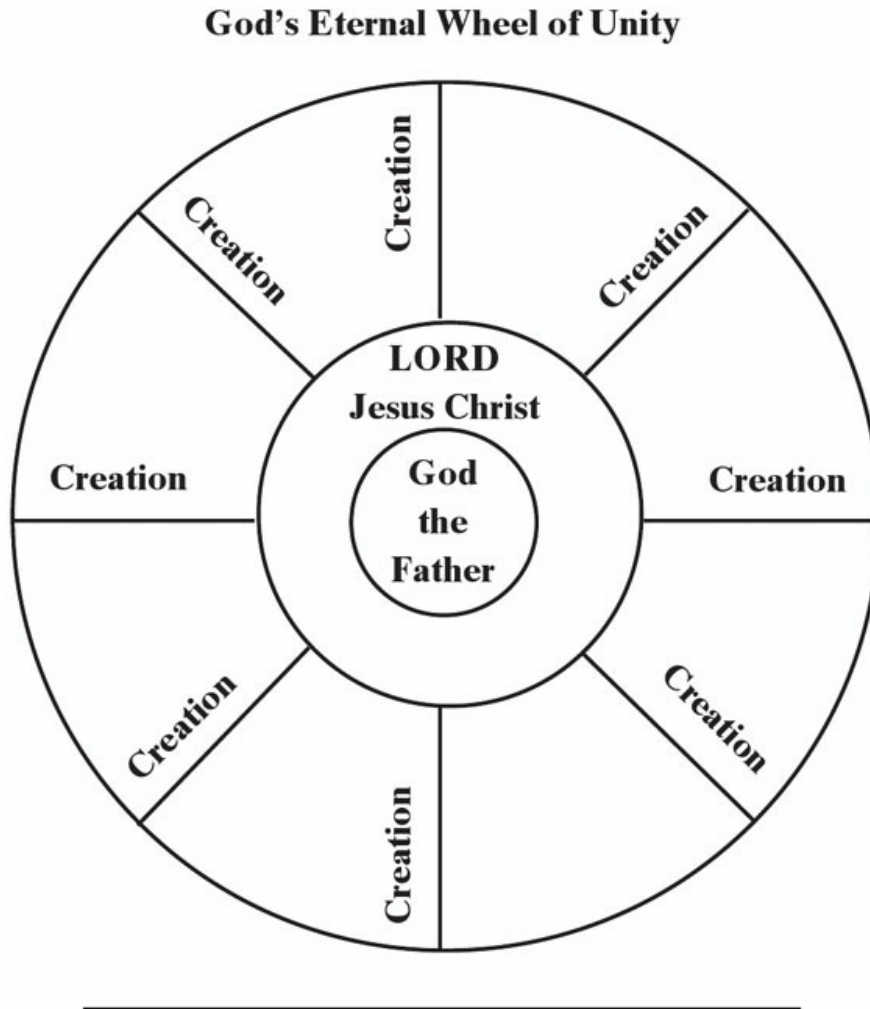
We have seen all the wonderful Heavenly Treasures that are rewards for those who walk in the Way of the Cross, and now we come to the second reward that they are given, which is a Oneness of Relationship with God and with others who embrace the Cross of Jesus Christ.

God's ultimate Master Plan, which He has had from the beginning, is to join the Creator and the creation into a single Unity, forming them into a whole, undivided, harmonious relationship.

Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: **That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: (Ephesians 1:9,10).

God the Father desires to gather together *all* things in Christ because all things in Heaven and Earth have their origin in Christ. In His Wise Design, God has purposed that in the proper dispensation He will implement His

Master Plan of unifying all things in Christ.



This great Wheel of Unity will be accomplished only because of Jesus Christ's Reconciling Work on Calvary's Cross.

And **that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross**, having slain the enmity thereby:  
(Ephesians 2:16).

Sin provoked a quarrel between God and His creation. But, through Christ's Work of Reconciliation at the Cross, this quarrel was brought to an end. The Cross of Christ has slain the enmity that existed between God and His creation and the enmity that existed between creation and creation.

Jesus Christ has slain all offense. Therefore, if we continue to carry offense toward God or toward the creation, we are blaspheming Christ's Reconciling Work at the Cross. We are crucifying Him afresh and anew since by our sinful actions we declare that Christ did not indeed put away offense through His Crucifixion on the Cross.

However, great is the Reward of the Cross of Christ because it has slain all enmity between God and sinful man and all the enmity between sinful man and sinful man. The Reward of Christ's Cross reconciles repentant, forgiven man to God; and, then, it reconciles mankind to each other by joining them in a *Oneness* of Relationship.

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**The Cross of Christ  
Forgives and Reconciles  
Repentant Sinner  
unto God.**

**The Cross of Christ  
Slays the Enmity Between  
Creator-Creation and  
Creation-Creation.  
Jesus Christ Became a  
Sin Offering in Man's Place.  
Thus, the Enemy of Sin Was  
Nailed to the Cross.**



**Repentant Sinner**



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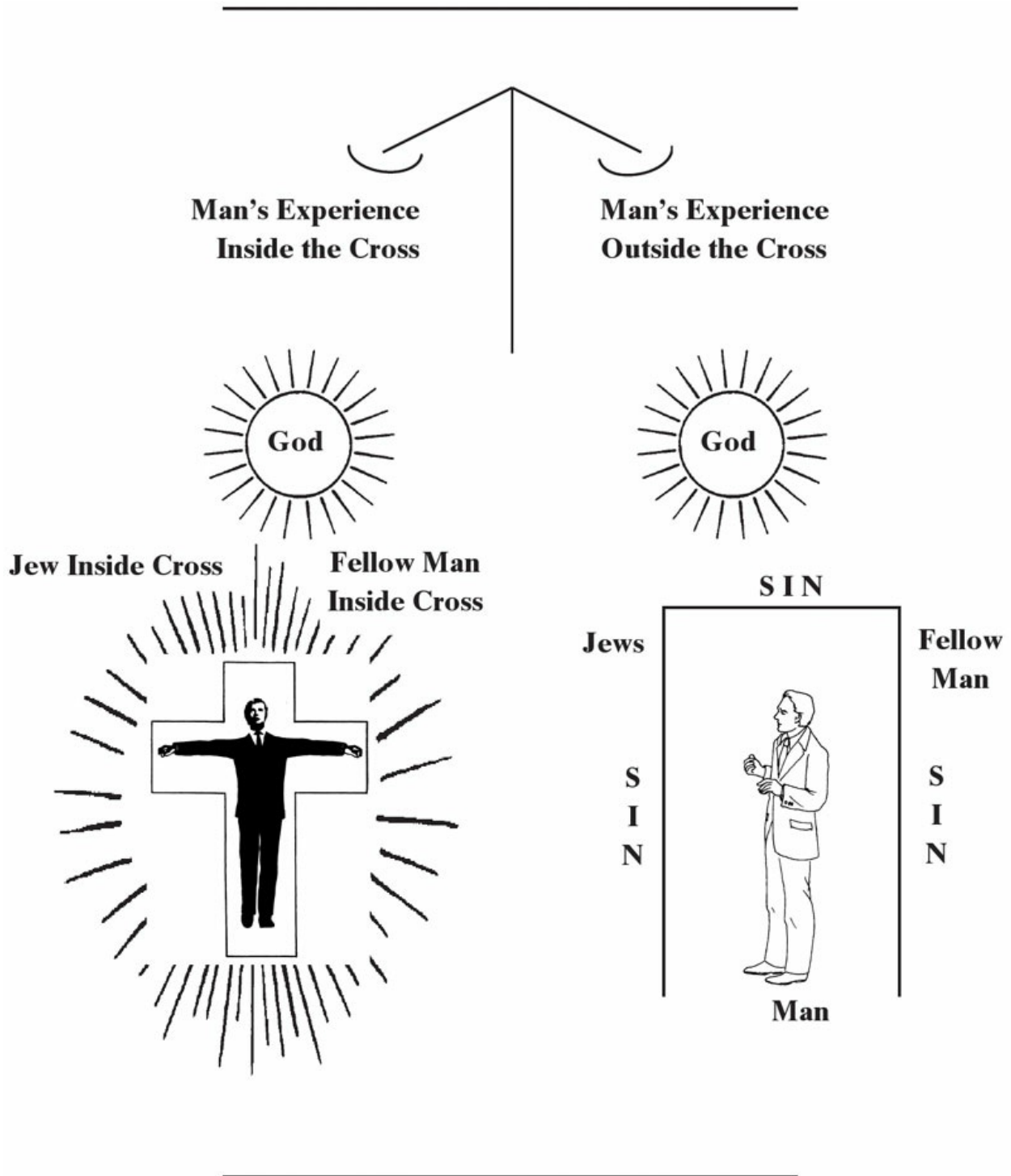
During the Old Testament Dispensation, God accepted animal blood as a shadow and type of the Blood of Jesus Christ, and it became a *covering* for sin. However, animal blood had no power to *restore* man to God's original Image nor to bring man into his original Oneness of Relationship with God. The Old Testament sacrifices were only shadows and types of the Blood of Christ and were only effective until Jesus Christ came in the Flesh and went to the Cross.

The saints of the Old Testament Dispensation died in faith, looking forward to the Cross of Jesus Christ and His Living, Holy Blood which would make it possible for them to enter, once more, into the Presence of the LORD God in Heaven. When these Old Testament saints died, they went to Paradise where they waited for Christ to die on the Cross. When He died, He went to Paradise and liberated them from Death and took them into the Presence of God. Therefore, when Jesus Christ arose from the dead, He led these overcoming saints out of Death or Paradise (which is in the heart of the Earth), and He led them up into the blessed Presence of the LORD God in Heaven.

If the Cross of Christ rewards us with nothing more than Oneness, Unity, and Harmony with God, our heart should sing with joyful gratitude through the endless Ages of Eternity; yet, another abundant Reward of the Cross of Christ is that it also brings Oneness with all others who are carrying the Cross.

Just as sin stands as a giant, inimical wall, separating man from God, it also separates between man and man. For

example, apart from the Cross of Christ, there is enmity between members of the same family in the natural realm, enmity between members of the same church, enmity between co-workers in the same business, enmity between races, enmity between Jews and Gentiles. However, when a Gentile person comes to the Cross of Christ, he begins to feel the same Divine Love that Jesus has for the Jewish race. Similarly, as a Jewish person embraces the Messiah, the Christ, and begins to walk in the Way of the Cross of Christ, he also feels the LORD's Mercy and Compassion for all Gentiles. The enmity and animosity that each man feels for the other is nailed to the Cross, making it possible for men to dwell together in *Oneness* of joyful gratitude and loving harmony!



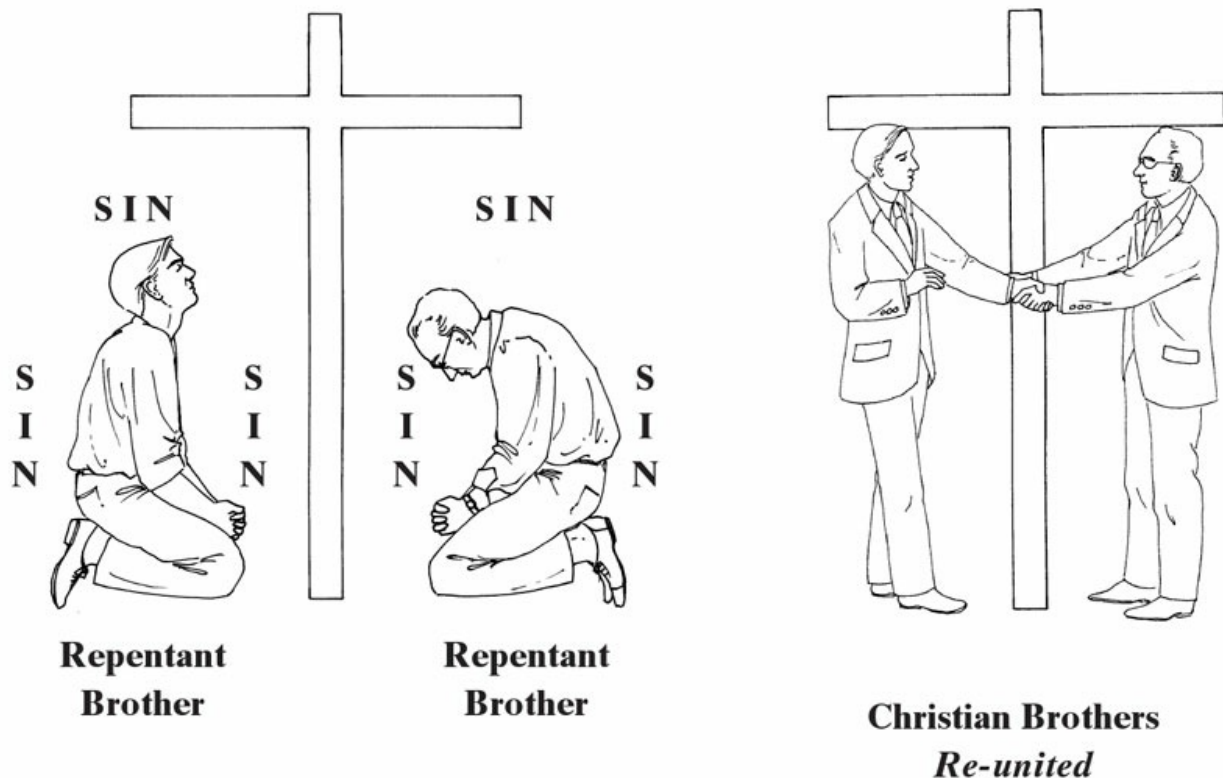
Outside the Cross of Christ, man lives in a prison-house of sinful enmity. He never can experience *true* Unity and Harmony in his spirit and soul with God or with his fellow man. But the Cross of Christ has removed the prison-house of enmity and has brought man into glorious Unity and Harmony with God and with each other.

Certainly, if the Cross can break down the giant inimical wall of sin that separates man from God, then it is a small thing for the Cross of Christ to break down the walls of ancestral enmity between the Jew and the Gentile and all other races. The Cross of Christ brings *Oneness* between all races because the nature of the individuals who cling to the Cross is changed from enmity to brotherly love and kindness. We cannot carry Christ's Cross of Humility, Surrender, and Forgiveness and, at the same time, hold to our proud bitterness, rebellion, and unforgiveness.

Consider, for example, two Christian brothers who allow a sinful attitude of resentment to create a rift in their friendship. Each one feels resentment toward the other until they both come to the Cross of Christ and repent of their resentments. Then, how beautiful and precious it is when the Cross of Christ rewards them with new *Oneness* of Holy Unity and Harmony in Christ Jesus.

This new *Oneness* is achieved because each brother approaches the Cross of Christ, crying, "LORD, I don't have the right attitude in this situation. I'm not acting the way You would act. Jesus, when You hung on Calvary's Cross, You prayed that Your Father would forgive them because they did not know what they were doing. LORD, I want Your same depth of Surrender, Forgiveness, and Humility; I want Your same Measure of Love. Oh, Jesus, forgive me of my hateful attitude toward my brother. I want to be like You. Give me the right attitude; give me the Spirit of Surrender, Humility, and Passive Obedience that You had at the Cross and that You still have."

As each Christian comes to the Cross, he sees his brother praying on one side of the Cross while he is praying on the other side. Then, the Power of Christ's Cross yokes them together in Love, Unity, and Harmony.



“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1). The ground is “equal” at the Cross because it is all “sinner ground.” The Cross of Christ does not rest upon the ground of spiritual self-righteousness. When we come to the Cross, even as believers, we must come as sinners saved by Grace, confessing our sinful errors, faults, failures, weaknesses, and wrongs of the flesh. When we look at the ground under Calvary’s Cross, on which we are kneeling and on which our brother is kneeling, we quickly perceive that we are on equal ground and that we are equal in our sinful problem of diseased flesh in our carnal man. We see that in Christ Jesus we have an *equal* solution to our problem—cleansing by the Blood of His Cross. Then, we behold that we have received the *same* forgiveness from Christ and have the *same* gratitude for that forgiveness.

Yes, unity begins on this “equal ground” under Calvary’s Cross, as we confess our sins unto Jesus Christ Who died at Calvary to save us. Then, the Power of Christ’s Cross slays the sinful wall of enmity, taking away the resentment and bitterness from each heart, giving each the same forgiveness and gratitude, and, then, rewarding each one with the harmonious happiness of being *one* in spirit. The glorious bond of Unity from Christ and from the Heavenly Father, through the Cross, binds the two believers together with strong cords of love for God and for each other. This blessed Unity and precious Oneness of Relationship with Christ Jesus is a tremendous defense against the powers of darkness and the forces of evil that constantly are seeking to create divisions and schisms in the Body of Christ.

How can God’s people deny the wonderful Way of the Cross, the “Crucified Way”? Outside of Christ’s Cross of Love, Humility, and Forgiveness, there is no Unity nor Abundant Life. When we truly have embraced the Footsteps of Jesus Christ that are found in the Way of the Cross, we will experience His precious Love, His prized Humility, and His priceless Forgiveness in our heart. Then, we will know the glorious Oneness and Harmony with God and with all our fellowmen who truly have embraced the Cross. The glorious, clean feeling of Holy Oneness with Christ and God and with each other is one of the greatest *Rewards* found in the Way of the Cross.

### III. The Reward of Humility

The third way the Cross rewards those who walk in the “Crucified Way” is by giving them the Humility of Jesus Christ, God’s priceless Pearl.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross** (Philippians 2:5-8).

True humility is not an attribute of man’s carnal flesh. Humility is a Holy Virtue that the carnal heart admires as long as it remains *afar off* and does not interfere with the heart’s proud affairs of life. A person’s carnal heart does not mind the concept of humility being preached as long as the person does not have to practice it. Everyone thinks humility is good for the *other* person to practice.

Jesus Christ is God’s Humility “Root” from which all true spiritual growth must sprout. The deeper the Humility Root of Christ grows downward in our heart, the higher our spiritual tree will grow heavenward.

The Humility of Christ Jesus is true, crystal-clear perception of God the Father’s Place as the Sovereign Owner and Master of *all things* and Christ Jesus’ own submissive *Place* as God’s only Begotten Son. If God the Son saw *His Place* before God the Father as a *Place of Submission*, how much greater should we see *our place* before God and His Son as one of *complete submission*?

True humility is true perception of one’s rightful place, which is the place of submission to God and His Son. An able person clothed in Christ’s Humility is a priceless jewel in God’s Kingdom. Christ’s Humility is the Way to the New City, the New Jerusalem. Every plant in God’s green world knows that in order to rise and soar upward it first must stoop downward with a humility root. If we truly know Christ, we surely will humble ourself. If we truly know the “self” and its unlikeness to Christ, again we surely will humble ourself.

Unless a wounded heart has the broken, contrite Humility Spirit of Christ, it becomes a biting, devouring, and clawing animal.

God desires that all praise and thanksgiving be formed out of the Humility of Christ.

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**Humility of Christ Jesus:**  
**Lowly**  
**Meek**  
**Humble**  
**Submissive**

**Pride of Carnal Man:**  
**High-minded**  
**Unyielding**  
**Haughty**  
**Rebellious**

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Man's proud, high-mindedness says, "I've had all I'm going to take," and his proud, unyielding spirit refuses to take any more. Although these exact words may never have escaped our lips, we all have had these or similar thoughts rise up in our proud carnal mind. Our proud, haughty judgment delivers its verdict and makes us think, "God, I can't take another step. I've gone as far as I can go."

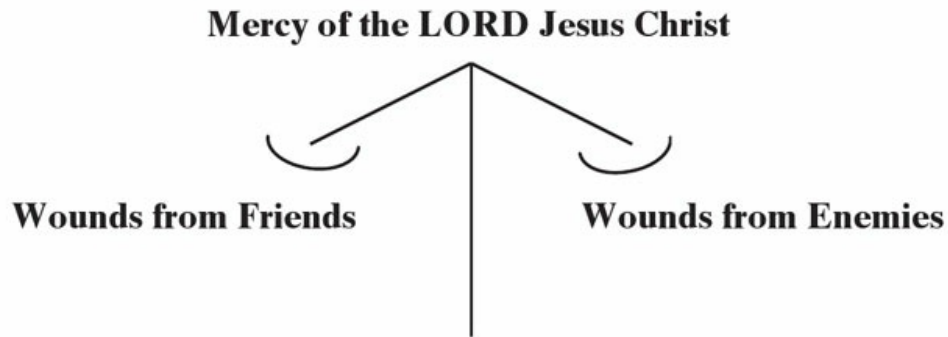
As our rebellion against taking another step increases, we finally stop. Deceived by our own rebellion, we believe that it is our sufferings in our painful situations that prevent us from taking another step when, in reality, it is our own proud, haughty judgment and our rebellion that stop us in our spiritual journey.

Our proud rebellion declares, "My cross is too heavy, and I'm not going to carry it any further," and we feel justified in casting aside our cross. However, when we begin to remember the humility Reward of the Cross, we begin praying, "Jesus, I want to be like You. I want to please You. Don't let my proud flesh keep me from obeying You and walking in Your humility Footsteps." Soon, Jesus hears our prayer and gives us a vision of His Cross which He bore for us, and, through the Holy Ghost, He allows us to fellowship some of His profound Humility and some of His intense Suffering which He endured for us. Then, the vision of His Humility exposes the proud rebellion of our own heart. Once the reality of the Suffering and Humility that He endured for us enters our heart, we quickly repent for ever thinking our personal, temporal cross was too heavy to bear and for failing to remember the glorious Reward of His Cross—His Humility, His priceless Pearl. When our heart is filled with the Humility of Christ, we willingly pick up our personal, temporal cross; and with joyful gratitude, we continue walking in the Way of the Cross of Christ.

All of us pass through hurtful, humiliating experiences in this life. We can choose to take these painful experiences of seemingly unjust circumstances to the Cross of Jesus Christ and allow Him to reward us with His Humility, His priceless Pearl, His Eternal Treasure, or we can stand idly by while bitterness fills our heart to overflowing. Then, we will become a defiled, marred, and useless vessel in God's Kingdom because we have refused to allow our painful circumstances to drive us to the low place in order to find the Humility of Christ.

The precious Humble Mind of Christ never fears the low place. It willingly crawls like a worm, if necessary, to do the Will of God or to see somebody else go on for God. Jesus Christ crawled, as it were, like a lowly worm to the Cross and down to the lowest Hell, to Death, and to the grave for us, and there He found His Father's *Kaw-bode* Glory that raised Him up from the dead. When Jesus Christ established a deep enough Root of Humility, His Father appeared and lifted Him (the Tree of Life) upward into the heights of Heaven at His own Right Hand.

It is a shame that our attitudes do not reflect, always, the Humility of Christ; instead, they often reflect the pride of our carnal mind when we are placed in a low place. We often rather would hate those who have injured us and forced us to the low place than forgive them and recognize that God, our true Owner and Master, allowed us to be brought down to the low place, not for the purpose of becoming bitter, resentful, and unforgiving, but for the purpose of finding Christ's Humility Sweetness and loving Forgiveness. Instead, we prefer to walk in the way of our pride and to keep our hate until Jesus Christ, through His faithful chastisement, opens our eyes so that we can see the wounds He suffered both from His *friends* and His enemies, as He walked in the Way of the Cross for us.



Jesus Christ suffered wounds that were violently inflicted by both His friends and His enemies who cut, slashed, and stabbed Him. They wounded Him “within” and “without.” So when we see this cruel crew who willingly wounded Christ, using such unparalleled brutality, and, then, see the unparalleled Mercy that Jesus Christ showed to them, both friends and enemies, we only can fall at the Foot of His Cross and cry out to know His unspeakable Humility.

After He rewards us with a portion of His Humility, we rejoice greatly that He has counted us worthy to accept His Holy Headship in our life, even in the midst of pain. Having obtained this Humility, we gratefully surrender to pick up our personal cross and follow Jesus Christ in passive obedience and in active obedience.

When we truly forgive with Christ’s Forgiveness, we feel only love and pity toward those whom we once hated; it is as though they never hurt us. The Cross of Christ *rewards* with His Divine Humility that enables us to continue walking in passive obedience and active obedience in the Footsteps of the Crucified Christ.

#### **IV. The Reward of Peace**

The fourth reward that we find in the Way of the Cross is *peace*. The Cross rewards those who walk in the “Crucified Way” by giving them the Peace of God that passeth all understanding.

Peace is the fruit of the submissive Obedience of Christ. The Peace of the Cross preserves the soul in a state of blessedness and happiness. Even in the bitterest pains of life, the Peace of Christ Jesus is a sweet Well of Water that springs up out of His *Acquiescence* to the Suffering of the Cross, not from His exemption from the Sufferings of the Cross.

And, **having made peace through the blood of his cross**, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven (Colossians 1:20).

Before introducing us to the Sufferings of the Cross, God rewards us with the privilege of feeding on the fruits of Peace from the Cross. All the priceless Rewards of the Cross strengthen us to move closer to the Old Rugged Tree, the Cross itself, the origin of our peace, which enables us to bear the suffering we encounter in the “Crucified Way.”

The Blood of Peace of the Cross of Christ is the Mediator of reconciliation of *all things* unto God. Christ begins His Ministry of Reconciliation of all things to God when we accept Him in our life as our personal Saviour. As we walk in the Way of His Cross, He continues to reconcile and change the many things in our life that are not in harmony with God’s Mind, God’s Will, and God’s Holiness. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost have a mutual mission of reconciliation of the creation to God, which will not cease until all creation is brought into one mutual, harmonious society. “That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:” (Ephesians 1:10).

The word *reconcile* means to change thoroughly. The Reconciliation of Christ is both instantaneous and progressive. When He saves us, Christ restores us to friendship with God after our long, sinful estrangement from Him. The Blood of Peace from the Cross washes away the long quarrel that sin created between God and man.

Then, Christ continues His Ministry of Reconciliation by daily bringing our carnal will into a state of acquiescence to the fellowship of the Sufferings of Christ, as we walk in the Way of the Cross. Christ continues His

Ministry of Reconciliation in us by making us ready and willing to *accept* anything or any state that is God's Will for us. Christ continues His Ministry of Reconciliation in our heart until we are filled with His Holy, Blessed Quietness because of God's Will for us and until our will is filled with His precious, passive, submissive Obedience to God. As we begin to enjoy the consistent Harmony of Christ in our whole being "inwardly," the opposing, contrary, and incongruous things "outwardly" begin to fall into harmonizing patterns in our life. How priceless and precious is our LORD's Ministry of Reconciliation to us.

We can humble ourselves sufficiently in a situation so that we continue walking in the Way of the Cross, but we still may not feel the *Reward of Peace*. The Fruit of Christ's Peace means the absence of disturbance, the absence of agitation, the absence of warfare, the absence of nervousness, disquiet, and disharmony. Frequently, what Christians call "nervousness" is nothing but the lack of the *inward* Peace of the Cross in the heart. It is possible to walk in the Will of the LORD with paradoxical feelings. On one side of the Scales, we may be surrendered and desirous of doing the LORD's Will, while on the other side of the Scales, we may be rebelling because we are having to walk in God's Will. Christ, in His magnificent Mercy and His great Grace, continues His Ministry of Reconciliation until our "feelings" are brought into one harmonious, sweet submissiveness to God's Will.

When we allow Christ's Blood of Peace to reconcile all the "things" in our life to His Headship, including our feelings, we will experience perfect rest and peace of mind. "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). The Hebrew connotation is that the disposition that is supported by trust in God will enjoy blessed quietness and harmony with God.

Christians who look for peace of heart, mind, and disposition from any other source than from keeping their hearts, minds, and dispositions stayed on Christ's Cross of Humility will find only turmoil and unrest.

When our heart, mind, and disposition are in turmoil and unrest, our eyes gaze through their clouded lens, called the "diseased perception of reality," and distort the true shape of everything we look upon. This slanted, twisted, corrupt vision causes a person either to dread or to hate what he sees. The heart of unrest will blame the slanted, twisted vision of the eyes upon the object or person within its distorted gaze.

Consider, for example, a husband and a wife who are fighting with each other. On one side of the Scales, the husband, through his distorted gaze, sees an ugly image of a nagging, ungrateful, wretched wife who accepts the shelter of his home and heart and gives nothing in return. On the other side of the Scales, the wife, through her distorted gaze, sees an ugly image of a thoughtless, weak, and careless slob, or a critical, tyrannical husband who accepts her labours of love in the home without even expressing a "piglike" grunt as a token of appreciation. Soon the husband is filled with dreadful resentment when he thinks of going home, and his wife is filled with the same dreadful resentment when she thinks of his returning home. What is wrong? Both of them need to take their eyes off the twisted, distorted, and deformed images which they have created of each other and put their eyes upon the Cross of Jesus Christ.

The Peace Offering Blood from the Cross of Calvary has power to wash away distorted images, bringing peace and harmony to hearts filled with turmoil and unrest and bringing Holy, Unified Quietness to the "feelings" within the heart and will. There never can be a oneness of marriage relationship in the natural realm as long as a husband and wife carry double images of each other—one minute seeing an image of love and the next minute seeing an image of hate. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, we cannot be a part of Christ's Bride as long as we have diametrically different feelings abiding in our will. We cannot love the Way of the Cross one minute and resent the sufferings encountered in the Way, the next minute, and still expect to arrive at the Prize.

The Blood of Peace of the Cross is able to purge, purify, and reconcile all things unto Christ, including all wrong feelings. The Peace Blood of Christ is able to change all our distorted images and warlike feelings of resentment that proceed out of our wicked, alienated, carnal mind. Our outward circumstances may remain the same after we have repented and found the Peace Offering Blood of Christ, but our inward condition is changed when Christ applies His Blood of Peace to our heart. Christ's Blood of Peace changes our images and our feelings toward the "thing" we formerly hated and dreaded; it no longer seems repulsive, hateful, or bitter. The Blood of Peace makes the difference.

The Cross of Christ brings Oneness with God and with our brother who is walking in the Way of the Cross. It breaks down our walls of enmity which separate us from the LORD and from each other in the Way of the Cross.

Moreover, the Cross imparts Christ's Humility which enables us to humble our mind and to take up our personal cross and join it to His Cross in every circumstance of life. When we are joined to the Blood of Peace of the Cross and also joined to Christ's Humility of the Cross, the Cross empowers us to lay down our will in total surrender and submission to Jesus Christ and to arise in the newness of His Passive and Active Obedience. Then, willingly and peacefully, we can follow Him down the Stairway of His Humiliation, counting it a High and Holy Privilege to

place our finite, imperfect feet in His Divine, Perfect Footsteps. The storms of this temporal life may continue to rage unabated in our situations, but our inward storms of agitation and strife cease when God rewards us with the Peace of Christ's Cross. The outward storms of life cannot provoke resentment when our heart is filled with the exquisite Peace of Christ and His Cross which surpasses all human understanding.

Once God opens our spiritual eyes to see the *Rewards of the Cross*, we feel only intense pity and sorrow for those who, like the rich young ruler, walk away with an angry sadness and an angry grudge when they are presented their cross.

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

How painfully sad to see believers cast away their only opportunity to walk in the Way of the Cross. The humble Footsteps of Jesus Christ, found in the Way of the Cross, are found only while we are on this Earth. When we leave this Earth, we will not have the opportunity to walk in His humble Footsteps. Some believers are satisfied with just their Salvation, which they receive from the Cross, and they never learn to walk the humble Way of the Cross where Jesus Christ's Footsteps of Passive Obedience and Active Obedience are found.

People who rebel against carrying their personal cross and who refuse to walk in the Way of Christ's Cross limit themselves to a few earthly possessions and treasures, which they must leave behind when they die and depart from this natural world.

God gives His Rewards—Heavenly Treasures; Oneness of Relationship with God and with One Another; Humility; and Peace—to those who fervently love the Cross and who walk in the Way of the Cross.

# Chapter Two

## The Power Of The Cross

The second major point of Truth about the Cross is its Power. The Power of the Cross consists of the Power of Jesus Christ's Holy Life and Righteous Character, upon which rests all the Power and Authority of Heaven. All the Power of Christ's Authority, His Control and Influence among men, all His Dominion, Rule, and Government rest upon His Holy Life and Righteous Character. How diametrically different from fallen Lucifer's power of this world, which rests upon his unholy life and unrighteous character.

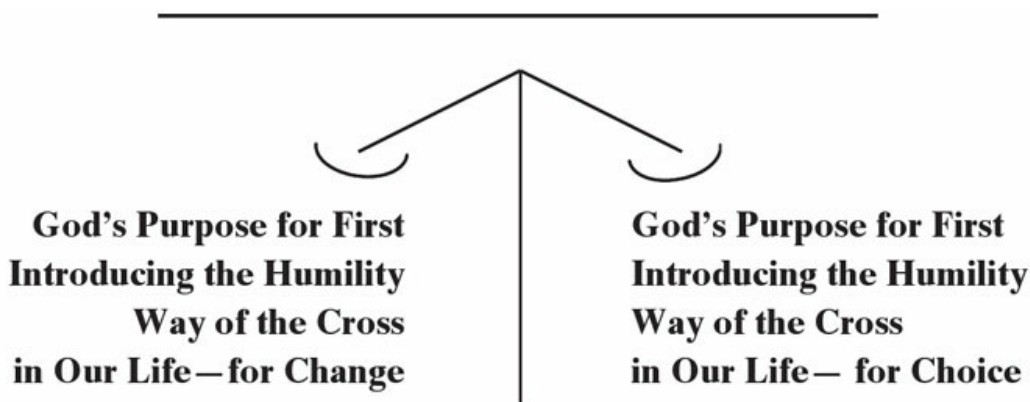
And declared to be **the Son of God with power**, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: (Romans 1:4).

Christ's Holy Life and Righteous Character were by Divine, Eternal Generation of His Heavenly Father. This was evidenced by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead by the Glory of His Father. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

God rewarded the Passive Obedience and the Active Obedience of the Holy Life and the Righteous Character of Jesus Christ by raising Him from the dead and giving Him *All Power* in Heaven and Earth. God the Father, the Fountainhead of *All Unbegotten Power*, recompensed Christ's Work at the Cross by bestowing *All Power* upon Him, the Living, Resurrected Cross of Truth.

The LORD Jesus Christ is LORD, Owner, and Master of all creation. In Heaven, He has All Power over the Holy Angels. From out of the Power of His Cross, Jesus has Power to Intercede before the Father. On Earth, He has All Power over men; every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is LORD to the Glory of God the Father.

God the Father has a dual purpose for introducing us, first, to the Humility Way of the Christ: (1) for our change and (2) for our choice.



Part of God's dual purpose for first introducing us to the Humility Way of the Cross is for *changing* our unholy carnal life and unrighteous character into the Likeness of Christ's Holy Life and Righteous Character so that we can manifest the Passive Obedience and the Active Obedience of Christ to our Heavenly Father. God desires to alter our

carnal nature, will, and disposition, making them different from what they are by causing them to pass from their sinful state into the Holy State of Christ Jesus.

The other part of God's dual purpose for introducing us first to the Humility Way of the Cross is for us to *choose* whether we are willing to suffer the offense of the Cross by making a brave choice in our dauntless spirit to endure the offense, shame, and humiliation of the Cross.

And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me (Matthew 11:6).

The carnal man seems to have many reasons for being offended in the Way of the Cross—the humbled, separated appearance of the lowly Nazarene, the strictness of His Doctrine, the straitness of His Way, the disrespectful slight of men, and the sufferings for His Name's Sake. Many fail to continue walking in the Way of the Cross because of their failure to choose to suffer offense for Christ's Sake. It is very difficult to conquer our carnal prejudices against suffering offenses for Christ's Sake, but it is more dangerous if we do not conquer these carnal prejudices against offense because we never will experience the blessedness of the Miracle-working Power of the Cross in the midst of these offenses unless we do.

**And they were offended in him.** But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house (Matthew 13:57).

Jesus' own people were offended because of the humble family of which He was a part; He was know to be a "carpenter's son," and they spoke contemptibly of Him.

And Jesus saith unto them, **All ye shall be offended** because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered (Mark 14:27).

Although the Apostles had known the LORD Jesus Christ in intimate communion, having worked with Him for three-and-one-half years, they had not *chosen* to bear the offenses of the Way of the Cross. Consequently, instead of entering into the blessedness of the Power of the Cross, they forsook Jesus and fled.

And **blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me** (Luke 7:23).

Those who are not offended by the lowliness, humbleness, and abjectness of the Way of the Cross are blessed because they are ready to enter into the miraculous Power of the Cross.

And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is **the offence of the cross** ceased (Galatians 5:11).

The Apostle Paul was not offended by the strictness of Christ's Doctrine that had separated him from his former doctrine. Paul was not resentful over the strictness of Christ's Doctrine that had separated him from his former leaders and friends, and he was not offended that he had to suffer for the Truth as he walked in the Way of the Cross.

And **great fear came upon all the church**, and upon as many as heard these things (Acts 5:11).

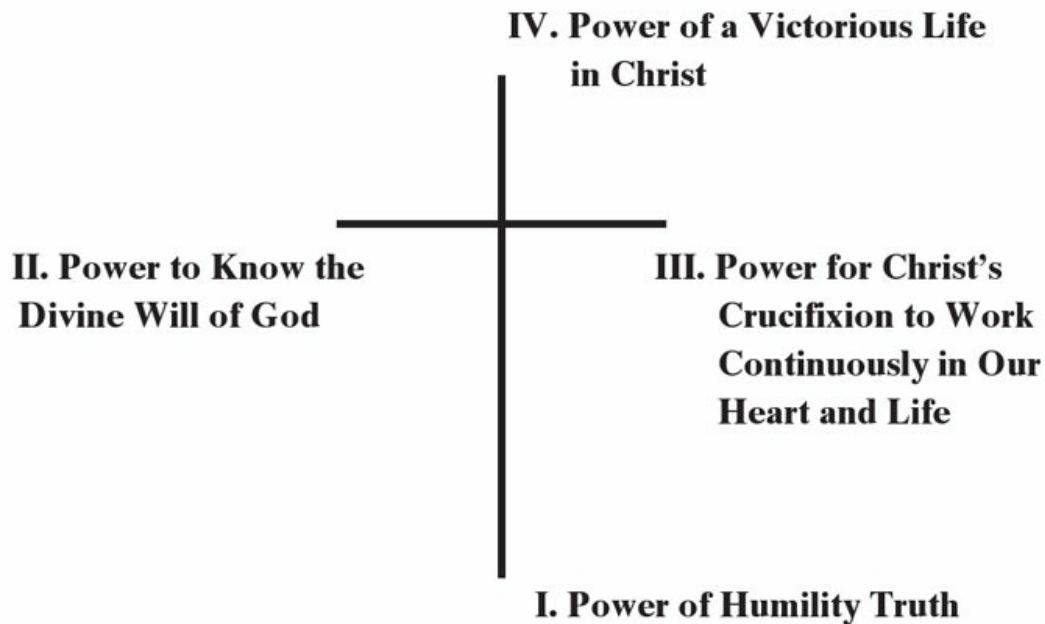
Before Jesus had died on the Cross, the Apostle Peter had chosen neither to suffer the offense of the Way of the Cross nor to permit Jesus to suffer the offense of the Cross. However, Jesus walked by His own Choice to suffer the offense of the Cross. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ wrought an everlasting change in Peter's will, making him choose to suffer the offense of the Cross. After Peter's experience with "change" and "choice," he entered into the blessedness of the miraculous Power of the Cross. The Power of the Cross enabled him to rejoice with great joy that he had been counted worthy to suffer the offense of the Cross for Christ's Name's Sake.

The Power of the Cross was so mighty in those days that Peter's very shadow was permeated with so much Power of the Cross that sick people were healed just by having his shadow pass over them (Acts 5:15).

After experiencing the Eternal Value of the Heavenly Rewards of the Cross, we might expect to be brought

immediately into the Sufferings of the Cross. Instead, God, in His wise Design and magnificent Mercy, reveals unto us the Power of the Cross. This is God's Way of exalting us and lifting us up after we have tasted a measure of Christ's Humility in the low place. Through Christ's "All Power" from the Cross, God lifts us to experience the Power of Christ in the High Place, after we have partaken of His Holy Nature in the low place.

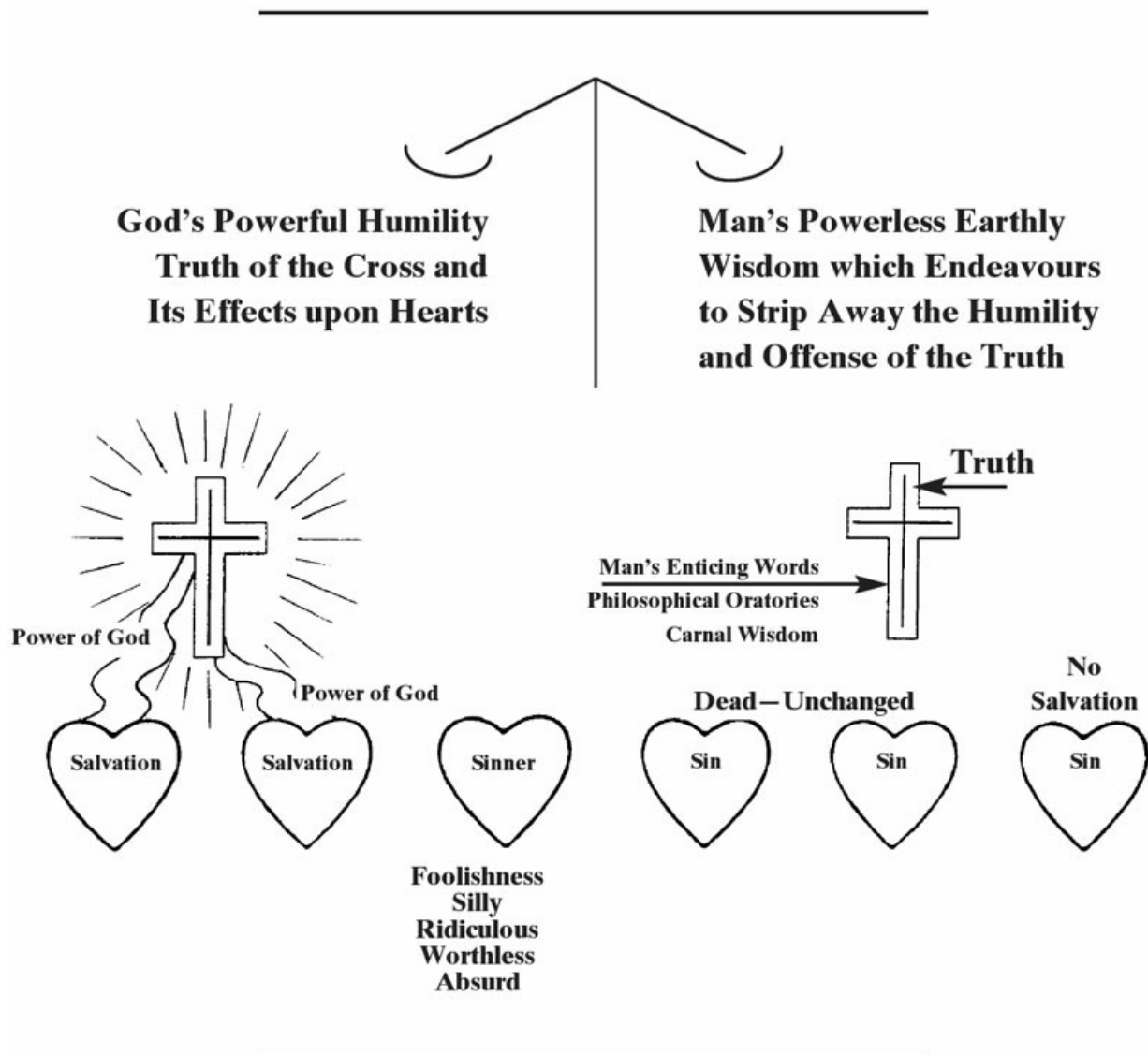
We live in a vicious, power-hungry world in the natural realm. Men strive and even kill to gain a powerful, high place in this present world. The carnal man is always craving a little more of the thing called "power of this world," which is temporal and will pass away. Yet, few people know the true Eternal Power of Christ or how to go about making Christ's Power their very own. *All* real and lasting Power is hidden in the Cross of Jesus Christ. Through the Cross of Jesus Christ, as the believer walks in the Humility Way of the Cross and takes on the Nature of Christ, he legitimately can gain God's true Eternal Power. The Power of the Cross of Jesus Christ is fourfold: (1) the Power of Humility Truth; (2) the Power to Know Him and God's Divine Will; (3) the Power to work continuously for Him as a living sacrifice; and (4) the Power to live a victorious life.



### **I. Power of Humility Truth**

The first class of Power found in the Cross of Jesus Christ is the Power of Humility Truth.

The precious Humility Truth of the Gospel of Christ is clothed in God's beautiful, resurrected Cloak of "All Power" and does not need to be exchanged for the carnal cloak of man's enticing earthly wisdom in the form of philosophical oratories, which stem from man's pride and glory. Man's pride makes the Gospel of Christ and the Cross of Christ of none effect.



For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: **not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect** (I Corinthians 1:17).

The desire to “dress up” the Gospel of the Humility Truth with worldly wisdom dates back to the early days of the Church. Paul had greater educational advantages, a stricter religious background, more advanced training, and had held a higher position in the synagogue than any of the other Apostles; yet he never tried to strip off the beautiful resurrected Cloak of “All Power” from the Humility Truth.

The Humility Truth that is joined to God’s “All Power” does not need the corrupt, weak power of man’s earthly wisdom. Paul never tried to use his extensive vocabulary as a camouflaging cloak to hide the Power of the Humility Truth of the Cross. After Paul had become a follower of Jesus Christ, he used neither his Jewish heritage nor his exalted position in the synagogue to draw people to Jesus Christ, for he knew that the Power of Salvation was in the Humility Truth from Calvary’s Cross that had been clothed in union with God’s beautiful, resurrected Cloak of “All Power.”

There are some hearts that respond to the preaching of the Gospel with the erroneous conclusion that it is silly, ridiculous, worthless, and absurd. However, there are some other hearts that respond to the preaching of the Gospel with a true conclusion that it is the Power of God unto Salvation. Therefore, they believe and receive the Humility Truth and are saved.

On the other hand, some preaching comes from hearts who have not accepted Christ and who, therefore, are not interested in reaching souls for Christ. There are vain, enticing orators, who have not experienced Christ Salvation, who dress up God's Word with their powerless words and philosophical oratories, which are delivered out of their dead, unchanged, lost condition.

What a Holy Joy to experience the Salvation of the Humility Truth and the "All Power" of Christ from the Cross. However, it is so pitiful and sad to see man miss the great revelation of the Humility Truth and the "All Power" of Jesus Christ.

God's Infinite, Divine Humility staggers the finite, human mind. The Living Word, Jesus Christ, humbled Himself to take on Flesh in order to redeem fallen man. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:1,14).

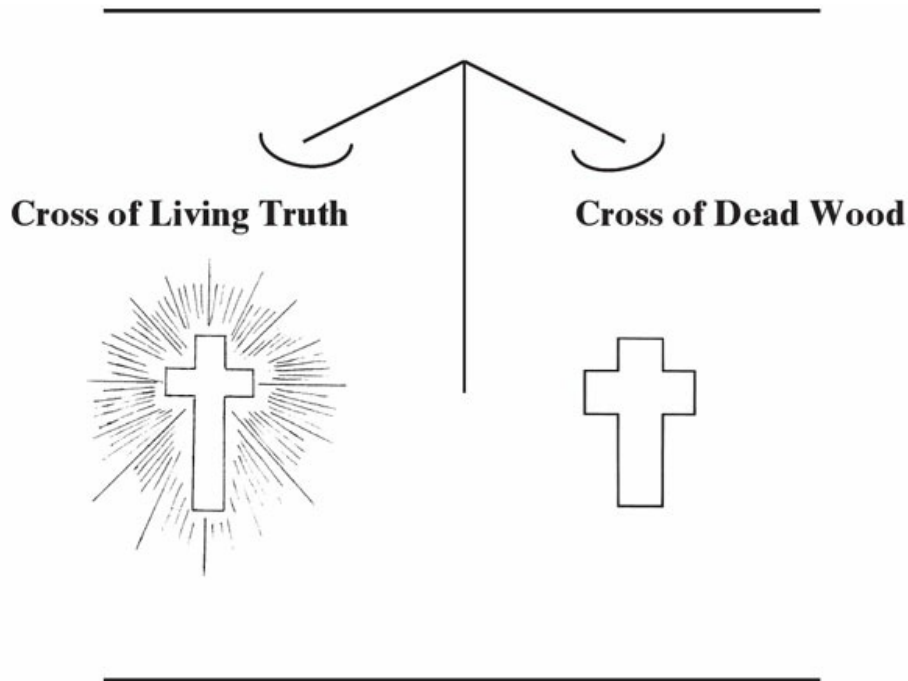
The Living Truth suffered humiliation all His earthly days, finally suffering the supreme humiliation of being hanged on the Cross for us. Jesus Christ suffered supreme humiliation through the blasphemous words of the Chief Priests, the two thieves, and the two malefactors who surrounded Him on Calvary's Hill. They all thrust the same blasphemous words in Jesus' Face. "...He saved others; himself he cannot save. Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe...." (Mark 15:31,32).

As the Son of God, Jesus Christ had Power to redeem Himself from all suffering and humiliation. While Jesus was still in the Garden of Gethsemane, He told Peter: "... Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:52,53). Jesus had Power to deliver Himself from the suffering and humiliation He experienced during His trial and crucifixion.

Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, **Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above:** therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin (John 19:10,11).

Pilate was deceived into believing that his temporal power was greater than the Eternal Power of God. However, it was the Eternal Power of God the Father that had arranged the circumstances of Jesus' Life so that a cross of wood was prepared for Him. The *Eternal Power of Humility* in Christ Jesus enabled Him to walk in Passive Obedience and Active Obedience under the weight of the wood of His Cross until He fell under its weight and another man was constrained to carry His Cross to Calvary's Hill. There in the sweetness of submission to the Humility Truth within Him, He laid Himself down upon the wood in order to be nailed to a tree for sinful man. Thus, the Living Cross of Humility Truth was joined to the wood of a dead cross.

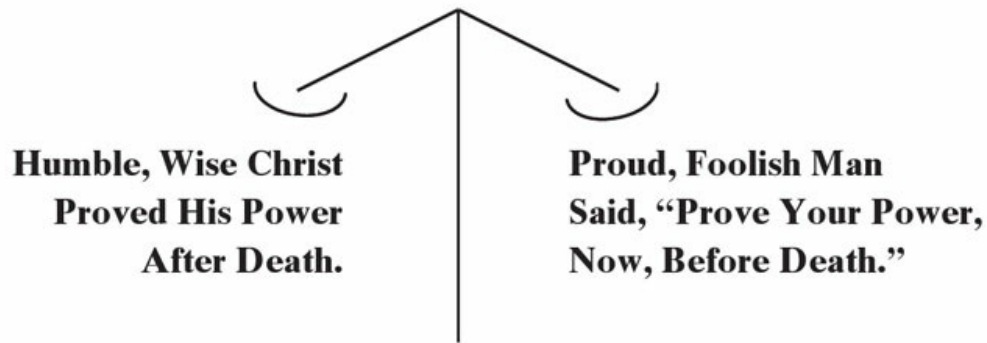
Amazing Grace and unparalleled Humility Love were displayed as the Saviour hung on the Cross, bleeding for others. If He had saved His Blood, He could *not* have saved others. If He had saved Himself, He would have been a dormant "grain of corn" that never fell into the ground to die; therefore, He would have remained fruitless and alone. But, because the Humility Truth fell into the ground and died and rose again, He *has brought* and *is bringing* many sons into Glory.



What depths of humiliation for the Infinite, Divine, Living Humility Truth, the Creator, to be joined to a cross of dead wood that was taken from His own creation! What a mystery that the Living Creator should be joined to dead creation! This amazing scene plunges our soul to the depths of shame and astonishment that One should love us so much, on one side of the Scales. But, on the other side of the Scales, our soul is lifted up to the heights of hope and faith, seeing that the Living Truth embraced the full stature of dead wood of creation, demonstrating to our soul that the Living Humility Truth will embrace the full stature of the dead cross of our wood, hay, and stubble and clothe it with His cleansing, sanctifying Blood.

The Humility Truth in Christ made Him willing to join the Living Cross of Truth to a Cross of Death in order to redeem us. Nothing less than the Power of Divine Humility held the Living Cross to the Cross of Death. If He had succumbed to the crowd's blasphemous ridicule, He might have proven His Power to a few men standing around the Cross. However, He would have forfeited, forever, the opportunity to prove His "All Power" to fallen Lucifer, by overcoming him, and to souls, by redeeming them from Death and Hell. Foolish men said, "Prove Your Power, now, *before Death.*" But, through the Humility Truth in Jesus, He said, in so many words, "I will prove my 'All Power' *after Death.*"

If Jesus had come down from the Cross, He would have proven only a small amount of Power, but to no avail. However, because He remained on the Cross, He will prove His "All Power" throughout Eternity.



We also are like the human flesh that surrounded Christ’s Cross. We also desire to have a small temporal display of power without death, instead of humbling ourself and dying daily, as the Apostle Paul did, and receiving the Eternal “All Power” of Humility Truth after death.

However, the humble, wise Christ knew that the only way to prove *all* His Power was *after* Death, both in His individual experience and in His mutual Message and His mutual Ministry to us. Jesus Christ could not have proven His Resurrection Power without His Death. Now, after His Death, He has proven that He has “All Power” over fallen Lucifer, Death, Hell, and the grave; therefore, He can save the chiefest of sinners, and He can save His children from all their “dead trees” of carnal flesh of wood, hay, and stubble.

A sinner’s first experience with Salvation comes when he falls at the foot of the Cross, by faith, and receives redemption from the penalty of sin, which is Death and Hell. However, the Power of the Cross does not stop with the initial experience of Salvation from the *penalty* of sin. The Power of the Cross continues ministering Salvation to the believer in order to liberate him from the *power* of sinful thoughts in his carnal mind, from the *presence* of sinful feelings of resentment in his attitudes and in his disposition, and from the “purpose” of sinful independence in his will which prevents him for knowing Unity and Harmony with God. Paul told the Corinthian church: “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God” (I Corinthians 1:18).

We do not reach spiritual maturity the moment we receive Jesus Christ into our heart; it takes time for the spiritual Marriage Relationship between our will and the Will of God to be perfected experientially in our life. Each day gives us new opportunities to let the Humility Truth and the “All Power” of Christ save us from the pride of our carnal will. The Power of Humility Truth delivers us from our diseased perception of reality which tells us that we must cover up the plain, unadorned Truth of Calvary’s Cross in order to do a great work for God. A great work for God is a work that will live on throughout Eternity, and it is a work that can be accomplished only through the preaching of the Power of Humility Truth. This work of Humility Truth works a change in the hearts and lives of God’s people, and this work of Humility Truth will abide the Judgment Fire of Christ at His Judgment Seat.

People who claim to be God’s children often sit in service after service piously listening to white-robed choirs singing bloodless songs. Their meticulously dressed ministers speak eloquently about the “Abundant Life” and the “Wells of Living Waters.” In these stately auditoriums, with their stained glass windows, there is never a mention of Golgotha’s bloody scene. Consequently, everyone goes away with his proud heart untouched and unchanged because the Humility Truth of the Cross was not made clear and plain.

The Power of the Cross is in the Humility Truth of Jesus Christ. Once we personally have felt the touch of His Humility Truth and have seen the change it has wrought in our life, we love the Cross and desire to hold high its Humility Truth for all the world to see. Only Humility Truth has power to save a person from the awful sin of pride. We cannot cover up Christ’s Humility Truth with great philosophical oratories and still expect it to turn people from their proud ways.

Pride causes us to feel that our personal cross is too heavy to bear. We may even consider casting it aside in order to prove that we have power to redeem ourself from an unpleasant situation. This is when we should go—indeed must go—to Calvary’s Cross for another look at the Power of the Creator’s Humility that held Him to the Cross

while His own created beings flung blasphemous accusations in His Face. The precious Humility of Christ has “All Power,” today, to save us from the pride that causes us to despise our heavy personal cross. Each time we touch the Living Cross, Jesus Christ, we feel a new swelling surge of Christ’s Love for His Father’s Holy Will, and we feel new overflowing billows of His Forgiveness to those who crucified Him. The Living Cross of Humility Truth will impart the new “All Power” of Christ to us so that we can surrender our will completely to the Will of God in passive obedience and active obedience.

People who foolishly choose to exercise the power of their carnal wills, now, limit themselves to temporal power that will pass away after death. Man’s carnal power can last no longer than his mortal life span. On the other hand, those who choose the Power of the Humility Truth of the Cross of Christ in this life will know a great portion of the “All Power” of the Living Cross, now, and after death, they will know in its fullness the “All Power” of the LORD Jesus Christ. If we expect to love and fellowship the “All Power” of the Cross of Humility Truth in Eternity, we must receive it and embrace it as we walk through this life. We must be willing to suffer the offense of it as it is heaped on us by the foolish, proud ones of this present evil world.

## II. Power to Know Christ and the Divine Will of God

The second class of the “All Power” to be found in the Cross of Jesus Christ is the Power to know Him and the Divine Will of God.

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. **For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified** (I Corinthians 2:1,2).

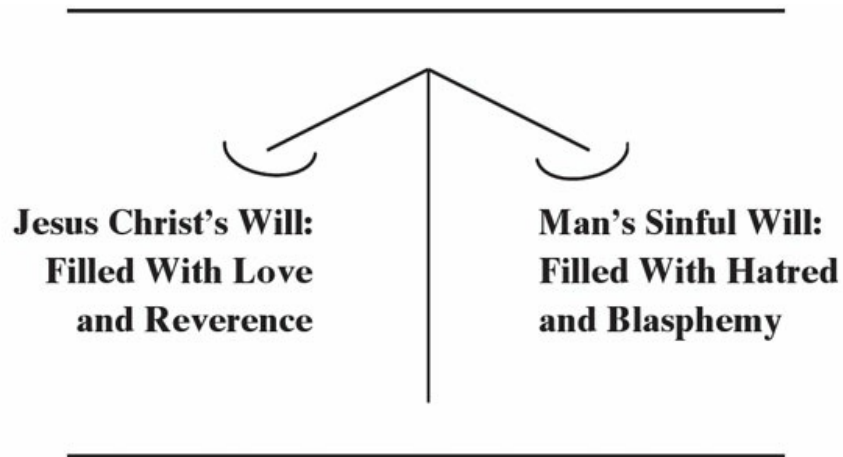
Paul reminded the Corinthians that he never covered the Truth of the Power of the Cross by using the excellent words of wisdom which he had acquired at the feet of his Hebrew teacher, Gamaliel. He went on to say that he was determined *to know* nothing in their midst except Jesus Christ, the Crucified One, Who, at Calvary, was a visible manifestation of God’s Divine Will. The Apostle Paul did not want to know *things*; he wanted to know a *Person*—Jesus Christ.

Throughout the Scriptures, God uses the word *know* to signify the marriage union between a husband and his wife. For example: “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD... And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth:...” (Genesis 4:1,25) When the Angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she would bring forth a Son, she immediately replied: “... How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34).

As an exceptionally intelligent, gifted, talented person, Paul might have joined his will to many things other than the Cross of Jesus Christ. Since he was a Roman citizen by birth, he might have joined himself to worldly fame and political power, for example. Since he was of the sect of the Pharisees, he might have joined himself to their self-righteous opinions and erroneous ideas. He might have joined them in their murmuring, their criticism, and their rebellion. This is the normal pattern for the flesh to follow. The flesh needs only a brief exposure to someone else’s bad spirit before it joins itself to that spirit. But, not Paul; he purposed in his heart not to be joined to the fleshly attitudes and dispositions of those about him, for he already knew about the Rewards and the Power of being joined to Jesus Christ, the Living Cross.

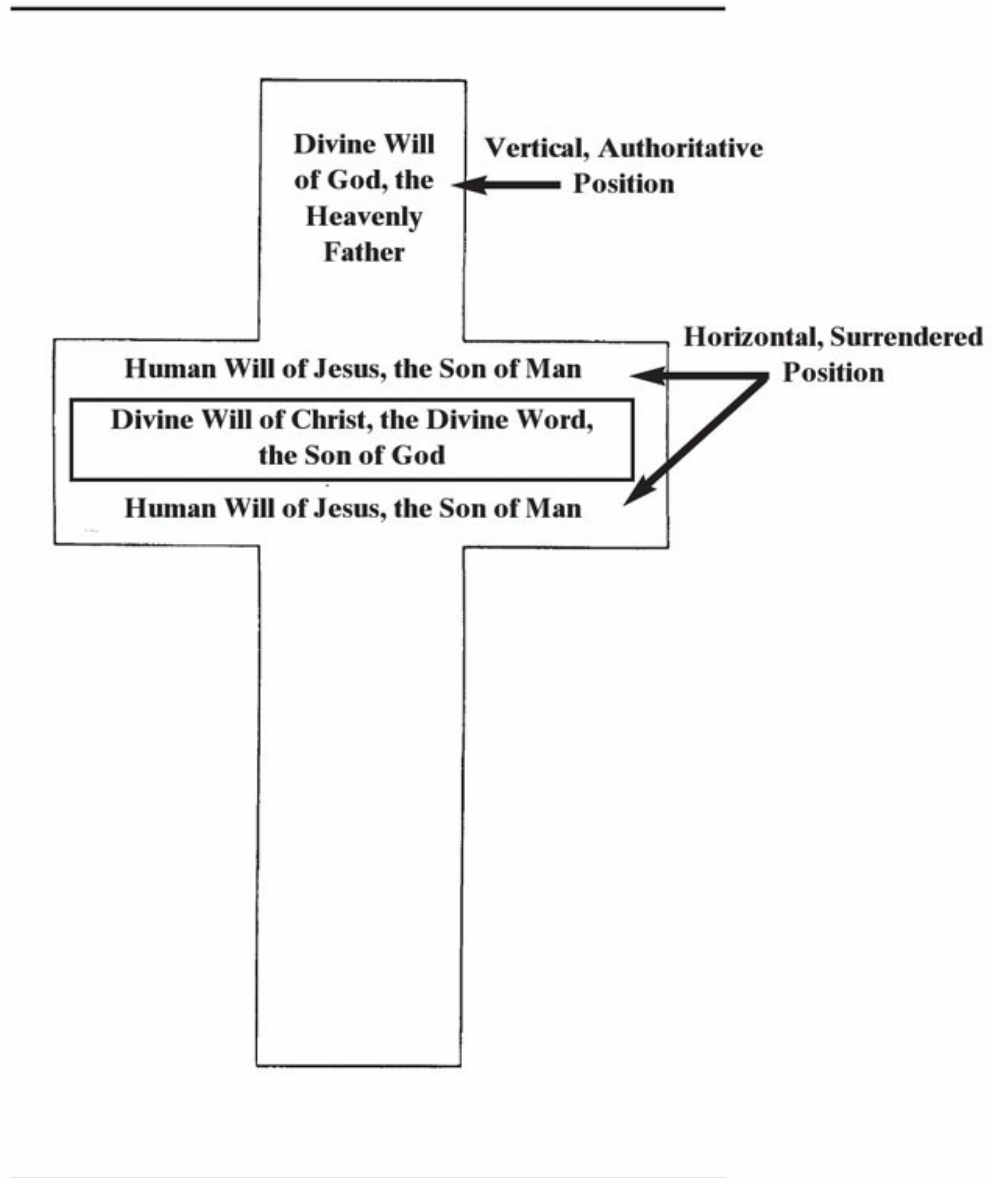
Jesus Christ is the greatest example of the Power of the Cross joining a human will in spiritual Marriage Relationship with the Divine Will of God. Jesus Christ walked always in the Way of the Cross and kept His Human Will in a pure, Holy, Spiritual Marriage Relationship with the Divine Will of His Heavenly Father. Jesus Christ had no desire to *know* any other will.

The Prophet Isaiah described the Promised Messiah as a Root out of a dry ground (Isaiah 53:2). A natural root draws its nourishment from the soil and air about it. Not so with Jesus Christ, the spiritual Root out of dry ground. His spiritual Nourishment from the Will of the Father was not drawn from the dry ground of natural circumstances or carnal people that surrounded Him. Men despised Him, cursed Him, called Him Beelzebub; they even crucified Him. Yet, He never joined Himself to their will of hatred and blasphemy by allowing His Will to be filled with the same hatred and blasphemy.



When we allow the same kind of hatred and blasphemy to enter into us that our persecutors have, we are made one with them. When we hate others, we are *joined* to them night and day in our thoughts, feelings, actions, and dreams, with all the misery, woe, and afflictions that accompany hate. How much better it is to ask Jesus Christ to teach us to be like Him. Then, He will purge and purify our will and join it to His Love and Reverence which are joined to His Heavenly Father.

Through the Power of Surrender, Jesus was able to walk all the days of His life with His Human Will of Love and Reverence joined to God's Divine Will. The Divine Will of Christ, the Word, inside Jesus, the Man, nourished and sustained His mortal Life until He had fulfilled His Heavenly Father's Master Plan for redeeming fallen mankind.



Jesus Christ came to Earth to bring His Father's Will so that it might be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Through the Mediatory Work of the Power of His Cross, Jesus Christ is able to establish the Father's Will in us. Thus, we can *know* the Power of the Cross of Christ. It is unnecessary, then, for us to take up the rebellious spirits of those around us because the Cross still has Power to make us *know* that we are to be joined to the Divine Will of God. We can purpose with Jesus Christ and with the Apostle Paul to *know* the Power of the Cross and the Divine Will of God.

### **III. Power of Christ's Crucifixion to Work Continuously in Our Heart and Life**

As we daily walk in the Way of the Cross, allowing Jesus Christ to employ and exercise the Strength of His Cross within us, He applies His precious Blood to our heart for inward cleansing from the little faults and failures of our carnal flesh. Then, He gives us Power, through His Cross, to present ourself as a living sacrifice in outward service to Him. The Power of Christ's Cross exercises Authority, Control, and Dominion, both inwardly and outwardly, over His people, as they follow Him.

#### **A. Power of Christ's Cross to Crucify Our Self-Centeredness**

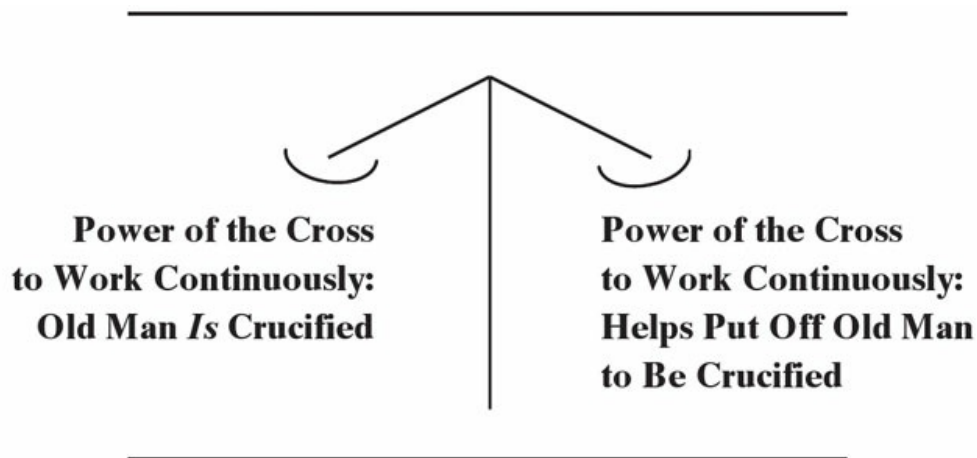
The old man, the flesh, is being crucified continually for those who *put off* the old man and give him over to the continual Working of the “All Power” of the Cross. The old man is crucified. Henceforth, we will serve the LORD Jesus Christ and not sin.

The following Scripture speaks of the continuous Work of the Cross.

Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed**, that henceforth we should not serve sin (Romans 6:6).

The body of sin consists of many corrupt members and many corrupt parts. The carnal mind in the body of sin is at enmity with the Holy, Righteous Mind of Christ. Therefore, we must allow the Cross of Christ, the “Axe” of God, to sever from us this root of corruption in our heart and will. We must lay the “Axe,” the Cross of Christ, to our vicious inward feelings of doubts, fears, resentments, and rejections of the Truth. We must, through the Power of the Cross of Christ, cast our iniquitous idols out of our heart. Then, we can cease from the outward acts of sin. From this point on, we can be the servants of Christ in true Righteousness and Holiness.

Although we may still have a few “Canaanites”\* living in our land, we do not have to be a slave to them. We can continue our daily warfare against the body of sin with its carnal sceptre. The Cross of Christ can break the yoke of the body of sin and destroy its ruling rod of iron.



That ye **put off concerning the former conversation the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (Ephesians 4:22,23).

**But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;** And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness (Colossians 3:8-14).

The Power of the Cross that works continuously helps us to “put off” the old man, with his anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, and lying. It also helps us to “put on” the New Man, Christ Jesus, with His Mercies, Kindness, Humbleness of Mind, Meekness, Long-suffering, Forbearance, Forgiveness, and Love.

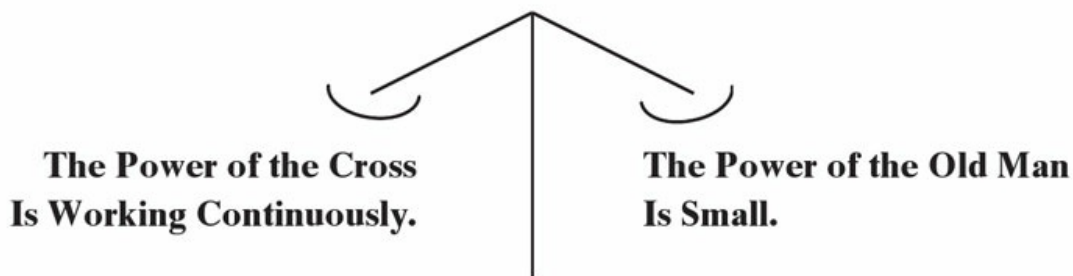
The wondrous Working Power of the Cross is (present tense) continually operating to help us “put off” the flesh and to help us “put on” Christ.

It is impossible for the human will of our “old man” to hang on to the Living Cross of Christ without having something happen to him, simply because the power of crucifixion is working continuously. When a part of our fleshly nature comes up, we can run immediately to the Cross of Christ and feel His Power of Crucifixion begin to

subdue the flesh of our old man so that we can put him off and put on the New Man.

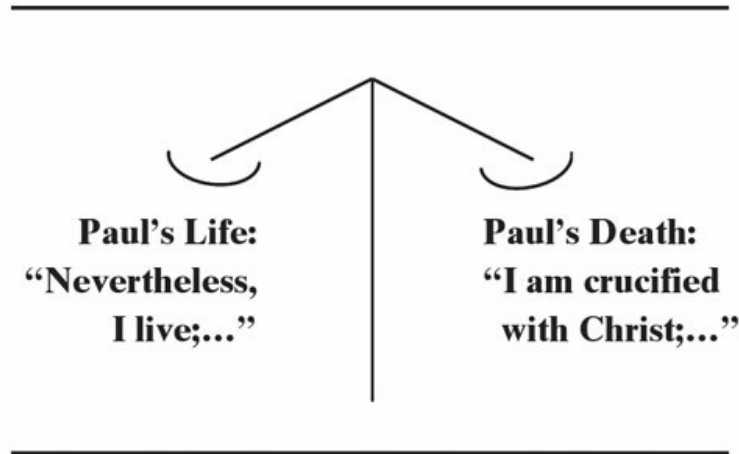
We cannot prevent our carnal, fleshly nature from coming up, but we can prevent it from continuing to rule and reign over us. We do this by carrying it to the Cross where the continual “All Power” of Christ’s Crucifixion is working. As we continue seeking God in prayer and in His Word, our circumstances are changed, although at the time we may not be conscious of the extent of the Working Power of His Crucifixion. For example, when God puts us back into a situation similar to the one that caused our anger to blaze up weeks or months earlier, we are amazed to find that the fire of our anger no longer burns. Then, we realize how effectively the Power of Crucifixion has worked to strip off the old man and to adorn us with the New Man. Thus, we are able to maintain love, victory, and peace in a situation in which we normally would have exploded into a fit of vile temper.

Death by natural crucifixion was slow and painful. History records that some victims survived for as many as nine days before finally expiring. Likewise, death by spiritual crucifixion does not come instantaneously. Until we recognize that the Power of the Cross is Working continuously, we feel tempted to turn loose of the Cross. The Devil tells us, “Look at what a mess you are. You can’t even control your temper. You’re nothing but a hypocrite. Why don’t you forget about the ‘Crucified Way’? You’ll never be any different than you are today.” These are all lies. No matter how big and strong the flesh, the “old man,” may be, he cannot be compared to the Power of the Cross that is Working continuously.



The Power of the “old man” is small compared to the wondrous Working Power of the Cross. If a natural cross has power to bring natural death to those who hang upon it, then how much greater does the Power of God’s Living Cross have to work spiritual death in the flesh of our “old man”? We need not worry about changing ourself. The Cross accomplishes *continual change* as we cling to it.

We need not wait until the next church night to experience the wondrous Working Power of the Cross because it is an omnipresent Working Power. The Apostle Paul said, “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” (Galatians 2:20). Paul experienced the Working of the Power of Crucifixion in his life, daily. Moment by moment, he put off his flesh and offered it up for crucifixion. Even while his fleshly man hung upon the Cross, Paul felt the quickening Power of the Life of Christ Working in His being.



While the Apostle Paul was experiencing present-tense-crucifixion (I am), he also was experiencing present-tense-resurrection-life (I live). The spiritual Principle is this: if I *die*, I *live*.

The “Crucified Way” worked for Paul, and it will work for us. As we offer our old carnal will for crucifixion, the Power of the Cross will begin to work death to our flesh, and Christ will begin to live in our heart in a new way. We have this blessed Promise in God’s Word: “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” (Philippians 1:6). The Power of the Living Cross will not cease to work crucifixion in our flesh until He has finished the good Work He has started in our heart.

#### **B. Power of Christ’s Cross to Make Us a Living Sacrifice for Him and Others**

The LORD Jesus Christ does not force the Power of His Cross upon anyone. He beseeches us to *present* ourselves unto Him so that He can exercise the Power of His Cross in our heart and life, transforming us into a living sacrifice so that we can serve Him according to His Will.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God (Romans 12:1,2).

Presenting ourselves unto the LORD means that we set ourselves before Him or introduce ourselves to His Presence through the Blood of Christ, recognizing that the LORD is our Superior; to offer ourselves for better acquaintance with Him; to exhibit, display, or present an appearance before the LORD of willing submission to His Ownership and Mastership; to bestow a gift of ourselves to the LORD, to put ourselves into His Hands, and to offer ourselves openly unto His Supreme Control.

The LORD entreats us and earnestly implores us to come to Him and *present* ourselves willingly unto Him so that we may be partakers of the Power of His Cross in our heart and life. The Power of Christ’s Cross will cleanse our person and strengthen our performance as His servant. The Power of Christ’s Cross can cleanse our heart and body, making them instruments of righteousness. Thus, we are transformed into instruments of righteousness for Christ’s Sake.

The LORD does not desire that we be *slain* sacrifices, but that we be *living* sacrifices so that we may live and lift up His Name in praise and thanksgiving and make His Sufferings on the Cross known to others.

The only way we can be living sacrifices is through the Power of Christ’s Cross which transforms our mind so that our thoughts are changed into the image and shape of His Selflessness and willing Sacrifice to help others.

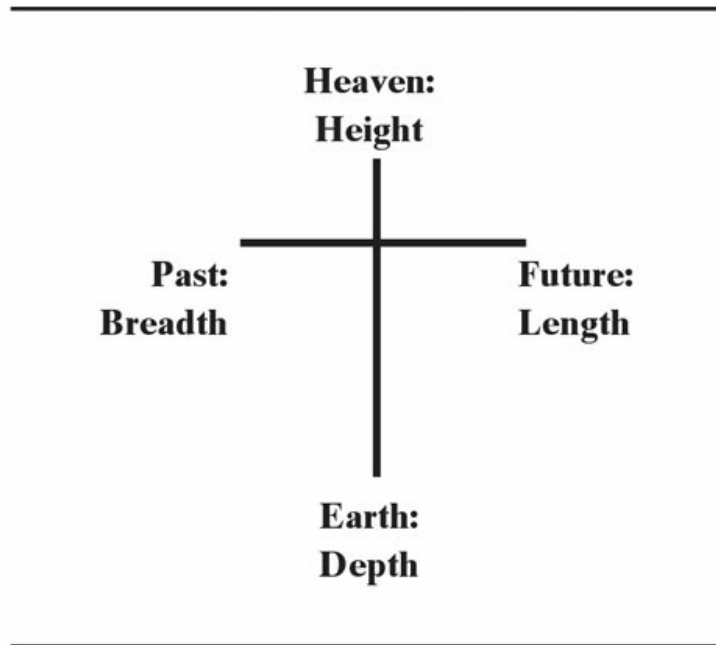
The Power of the Cross of Christ is able to change the nature, character, and disposition of our selfishness and self-centeredness by swallowing us up in His Divine, Merciful Nature.

The Apostle Paul was so transformed by the Power of the Cross that he was determined to know *nothing* but Jesus Christ and Him crucified on the Cross.

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified (I Corinthians 2:2).

Paul learned that the Cross is the secret of real Power. He knew that there is no power in vain, flaunting words, in eloquent oratory, or in profound philosophy. Paul was persuaded that the Divine Wisdom of the Christ and the Power of His Cross needed neither the artificial adornment of man's finite speech nor the oratorical power of his philosophical skills. All of man's profound words that flow from his proliferous mind, through his skilled tongue, cannot change the greed, selfishness, and self-centeredness of the human heart. **Only the Wisdom of Christ and the Power of His Cross can transform sinful man.**

The Cross of Christ is the only "ladder" long enough and powerful enough to lift man up and out of the pit of his sinful, selfish nature and his proud works and into the Divine Nature of Christ and His Righteous Works. The soul that has experienced and is experiencing the beautiful transformation of Christ and the Power of His Cross finds the burden of His Cross light and sweet. **Only to the resentful, rebellious will and heart is Christ's Cross heavy and bitter.** If we willingly and sweetly carry Christ's Cross of Suffering and Pain, it will lead us to Christ's Cross of Resurrection Glory and Power; and, then, His Cross will carry us. The Power of the Cross in our heart and life is the Power of God unto our Salvation.



The Power of the Cross of Christ joins us to the Holy Father in Heaven Who forgives our sins, gives us daily Bread, and protects us, although we are encompassed by the present evil world. Through the Power of the Cross of Christ we are rooted and grounded in the Will of God on Earth. It saves us from the past, reconciling us to God; and the Power of the Cross faithfully destroys our greatest enemy—self. Through many little, daily deaths we can stride forward to the future, when we shall be Christ's Bride in the New City.

If we walk in the Way of the Cross, its Power will expand our heart with affection and love for the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, and will enlarge the sphere of our heart with sympathy and concern for both the saint and the sinner so that we can minister to others through the Power of Christ's sacrificial Love.

The Power of the Cross of Christ enlarges the *heart, inside, to love* the LORD, completely, and *strengthens the soul and body* as a righteous instrument *to serve* saints and sinners in our outside world.

The continuous Work of the Cross enables us to be servants of God, instead of servants of sin.

#### **IV. Power of a Victorious Life in Christ**

The fourth class of Power found in the Cross of Jesus Christ is the Power of a victorious life in Christ. The

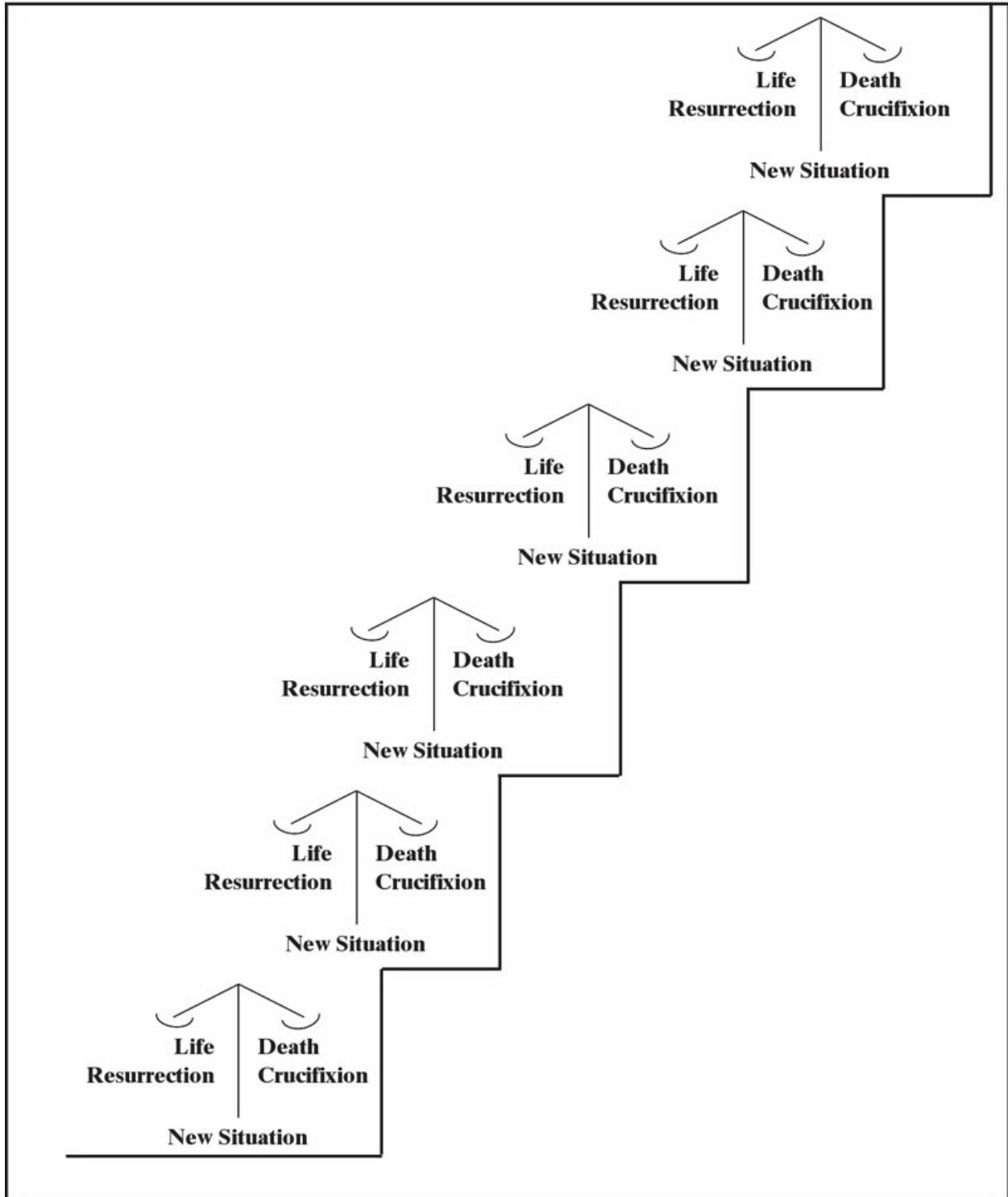
victorious life that has its origin in the Power of the Cross will triumph over all powers of Satan, the Devil, the Serpent, and the Dragon natures of fallen Lucifer, enabling us to conquer all obstacles that we meet in doing the Will of God. The victorious life from the Cross enables us to succeed although we are used to experiencing failure.

**O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? (Galatians 3:1)**

The man Jesus was crucified in Jerusalem, not in the midst of the Galatians. Therefore, this Scripture must refer to the visible witness of the Power of the Cross that was manifested in Paul's own life. Paul did more than preach about the Power; he let it work humility and crucifixion in his own heart. In so many words Paul said: "I stood before you as a victorious example of one who died daily, as one who let the Power of the Cross bring death to my carnal will."

Even if the Galatians had failed to understand the spoken Word preached by Paul, they could not have missed the reality of the Living Word of Truth that worked in his life. They had to have recognized the humility, surrender, passive obedience, and active obedience that they saw exemplified before their eyes.

Spiritual growth is a progressive experience, which includes death by crucifixion and victorious life by resurrection.



Each day brings new situations into our life which reveal deeper depths and higher heights of our carnal will, thereby giving us new opportunities to offer our flesh for crucifixion. In order to avoid undue discouragement, we need to remember that the flesh we hang on the Cross, today, is not the same flesh we offered when we first started clinging to the Cross. The Apostle Paul said: “And they that are Christ’s *have crucified* [past tense] the flesh with the affections and lusts” (Galatians 5:24).

Through the continuous Working Power of the Cross, it is possible to reach a place of complete victory over a

measure of our flesh. For example, we may no longer go to the worldly places we once attended because our *desire* for such things has hung on the Cross until we actually can say, "It is dead; it *has been* crucified." Moreover, we can look back and see many other fleshly attitudes and dispositions that the Cross has crucified completely. This glorious victory in Christ gives us no reason to boast in the flesh but rather to praise and magnify Christ! The Power to crucify the flesh and the Power which causes us to walk victoriously in this life belong to the Living Cross, the LORD Jesus Christ. Therefore, to Him belong all the Glory and praise. Bless His precious Name forever!

God, in His Goodness, unveils the Rewards of the Cross; then, He shows the Power of the Cross. The Power of the Cross includes the Power of Humility Truth; the Power to know Union with the Will of God; the Power of the Cross that Works continuously; and the Power of Victory. Only after showing all these wonderful things to us does God ask us to fellowship the Suffering of the Cross.

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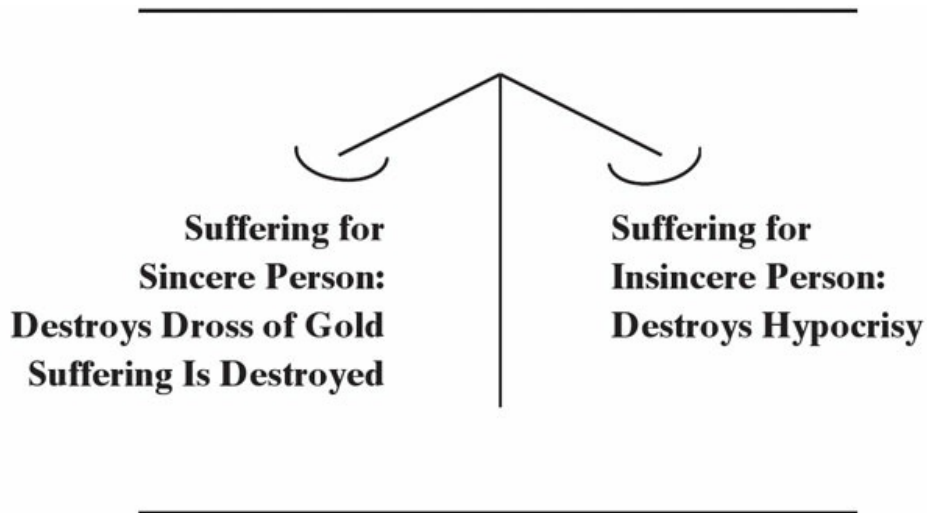
\* B. R. Hicks, [\*The Sanctification Of Overcoming Believers\*](#),(Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l, Inc., 1995).

# Chapter Three

## The Suffering Of The Cross

The third point on the major Stature of Truth about the Cross deals with the Suffering of the Cross.

The fires of suffering reveal the real “metal” in the human will, whether it be iron or gold. When a person’s human will feels great enough pain and distress in its spirit and soul, the real nature of a person’s will will be discovered. If a person’s will is full of the iron of rebellion against God’s Headship, he will judge that the injuries he has received, the pains and inconveniences he has endured, and the losses he has incurred in the Way of the Cross make the Way worthless and hopeless. But, if the “metal” of a person’s will is gold (even if it has dross in it), he is passively and actively obedient to the Headship of the LORD God, the Owner and Master, and acknowledges that all the sufferings he has undergone are for the purpose of his experiencing purging and purifying of the “dross” in his human will—the nature that is unfit for the Way of the Cross. Suffering serves a dual purpose: it destroys, and it is destroyed.

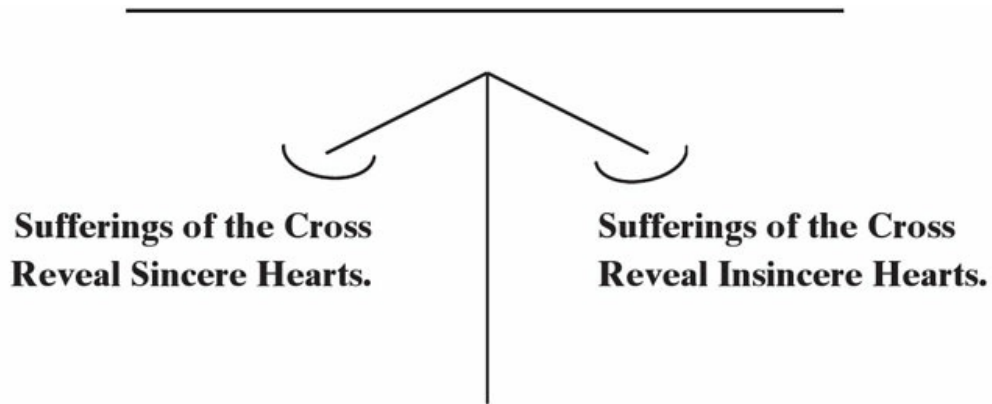


The Suffering of the Cross of Christ destroys the dross of unbelief in the gold of faith in the sincere believer who desires to walk in the Way of the Cross. After the dross has been purged, purifying the gold, God extinguishes or destroys the fire of suffering because it has accomplished its mission. Thus, suffering destroys and is destroyed when a person is sincere.

The Suffering of the Cross works on a person’s rebellious will by destroying the will’s hypocritical cloak that made the person say that he wanted to walk in the Way of the Cross if, like Judas, he was granted the Reward and the Power of the Cross. The Sufferings of the Cross are mighty “servants” of God that purge and purify on both sides of the Scales.

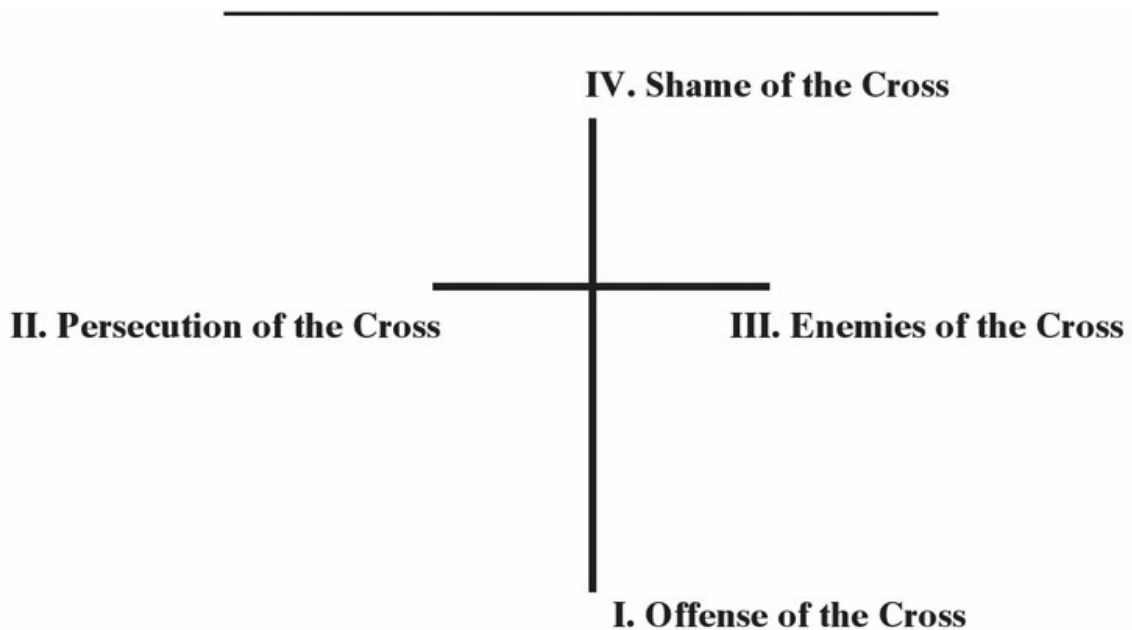
A mixed multitude of people are drawn into the “Crucified Way” by the Rewards of the Cross and by the Power of the Cross. Although they all profess a desire to walk in the “Crucified Way” or in the Way of the Cross with Jesus Christ, all of them do not have pure motives and pure love for all the Truth. Those who love just the pleasure side of the Cross will walk in the “Crucified Way” for only as long as they continue to feel the blessings of the Reward and the Power of the Cross. Their eyes may be wet with tears when they speak of the theoretical Truth of Jesus Christ’s Suffering on Calvary’s Cross; nevertheless, when they are asked to fellowship, personally and experientially, the sufferings of the Cross so that their deep carnal loves might be destroyed, they turn aside out of the “Crucified

Way,” out of the Way of the Cross, and walk no further in their spiritual journey with Jesus Christ. God uses suffering as a sieve to separate sincere believers from insincere believers.



God will not impart the Pleasures of His Eternal Glory in the New City to people who reject the painful purgings and purifyings of the Cross.

The Sufferings which Jesus Christ, the Living Cross, experienced during His Lifetime on Earth included offense, persecution, enemies, and shame. Those who walk in the Footsteps of Jesus Christ will experience the same classes of sufferings.



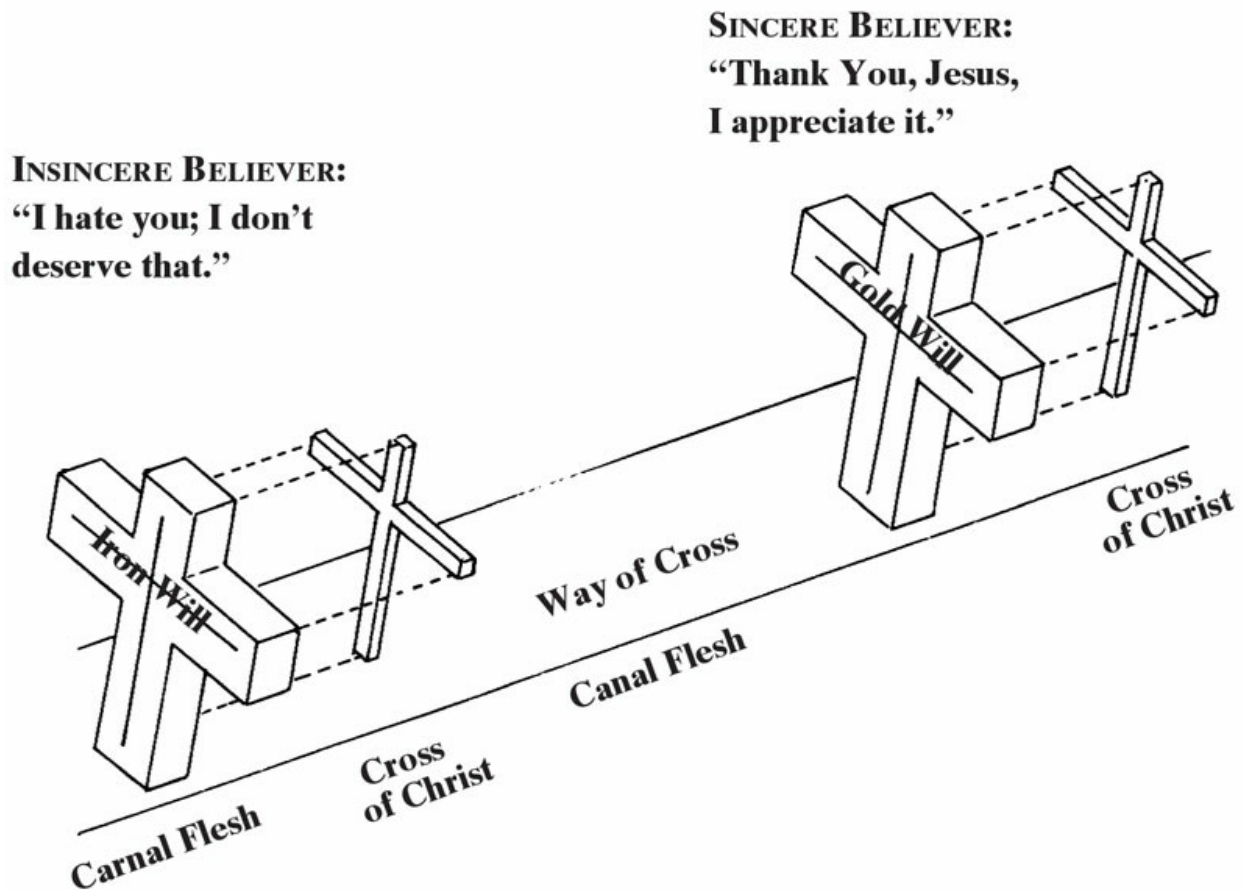
Jesus Christ suffered these things in order to reveal the purity of His Gold; human beings suffer these things in order to reveal either the dross of unbelief that remains in their gold of faith or the iron of rebellion that lurks in their human wills.

**I. Offense of the Cross**

The first class of suffering experienced by Jesus Christ, the Living Cross, came because the Cross was an offense to man's carnal flesh.

And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is **the offence of the cross** ceased (Galatians 5:11).

The Greek word for *offense* means to strike the foot against something, a thing that offends; it also means an occasion to fall, an occasion of unbelief, of doubts, of attacks, assaults, displeasure. We understand, then, that the offense comes from the Cross Himself; it is He Who "kicks" and offends all pride of the carnal flesh. Therefore, when we walk in the Way of the Cross, we can expect the Cross to "kick" our carnal flesh.



After the Living Christ has shared His Rewards and His Power with a person, He tells that person he cannot go farther in the Way without sharing His Suffering.

Among the Jewish people, circumcision was a well-established doctrine which dated back to the days of Abraham. Yet, when the Living Cross of Truth came, He began to "kick" against their doctrine, not because circumcision was wrong, but because they had allowed it to become an empty form. Real circumcision goes beyond the physical realm and touches the heart. "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Romans 2:29). The Jewish people, as a whole, never let the sharp Sword of God's Word cut away the self-righteousness and pride of their hearts.

Consequently, the Cross was an offense to them.

Likewise, Jesus Christ offended many people when He declared Himself to be the Living Bread, greater than the Manna their fathers had eaten in the wilderness. It offended the people to be told that they needed spiritual circumcision, and it offended them to be told that they did not already possess the Bread which furnished Eternal Life and Resurrection Life. The Gospel of John tells us, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him" (John 6:66). When Jesus asked the twelve Disciples if they also would go away, Peter replied by saying, "...Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). Only a few of the many who called themselves Disciples of Jesus Christ had "gold" wills which accepted His offensive "kicking" and clung gratefully to the Living Cross.

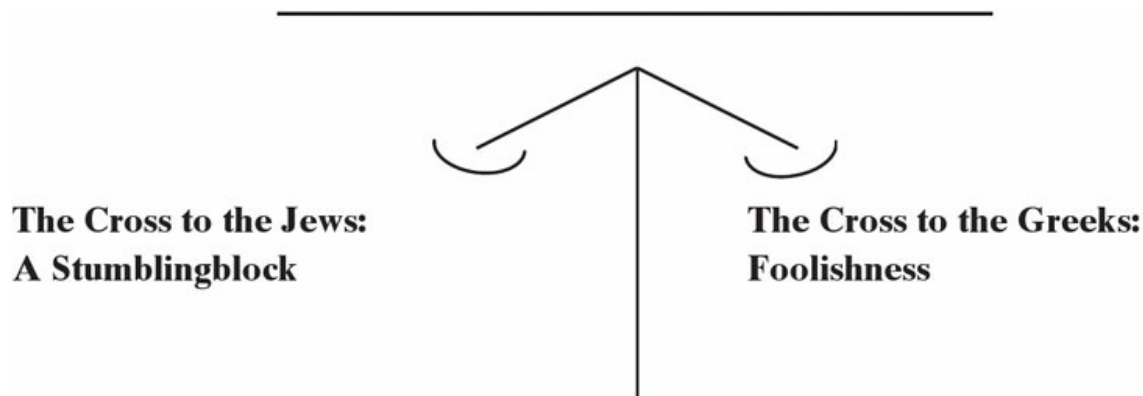
The Cross continues to "kick" against man's erroneous ideas and opinions. God's perfect Plan is for us to bring our ideas and doctrines to the foot of the Cross and wait in prayer and in the Word until the Living Truth begins to "kick" against our false doctrines. If we refuse to accept the personal "kicking" that His Truth gives while we are in our prayer closet, He will allow the "kicking" to come through a loved one, a fellow Christian, a fellow employee, or even a stranger. The Living Cross is faithful to continue "kicking" until our dross is exposed, purged, and purified.

This Principle of Truth worked in the life of the Apostle Peter. While in a trance, Peter saw a great sheet, which contained all manner of unclean animals, descend out of Heaven, and he heard God say, "Rise, Peter; kill, and eat" (Acts 10:13). These words offended Peter's Jewish doctrine. Never had he transgressed the dietary Ceremonial Laws given to Moses. Yet, God said, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common" (Acts 10:15).

God gave the vision in order to show Peter that He, the Creator, was not a respecter of persons. Although the Jewish people considered the Gentiles an unholy and unclean people, Jesus Christ loved them and died to save them, too. Peter seemed to receive the "kicking" from the Cross, for he agreed to preach the Gospel to the household of Cornelius, the Italian centurion. Later, however, Paul rebuked Peter severely for separating himself from the Gentile saints at Antioch (Galatians 2:11-14). Peter received this second "kick" openly before all men because, in his heart, he had failed to accept the Cross' personal "kick" while in the privacy of His prayer closet.

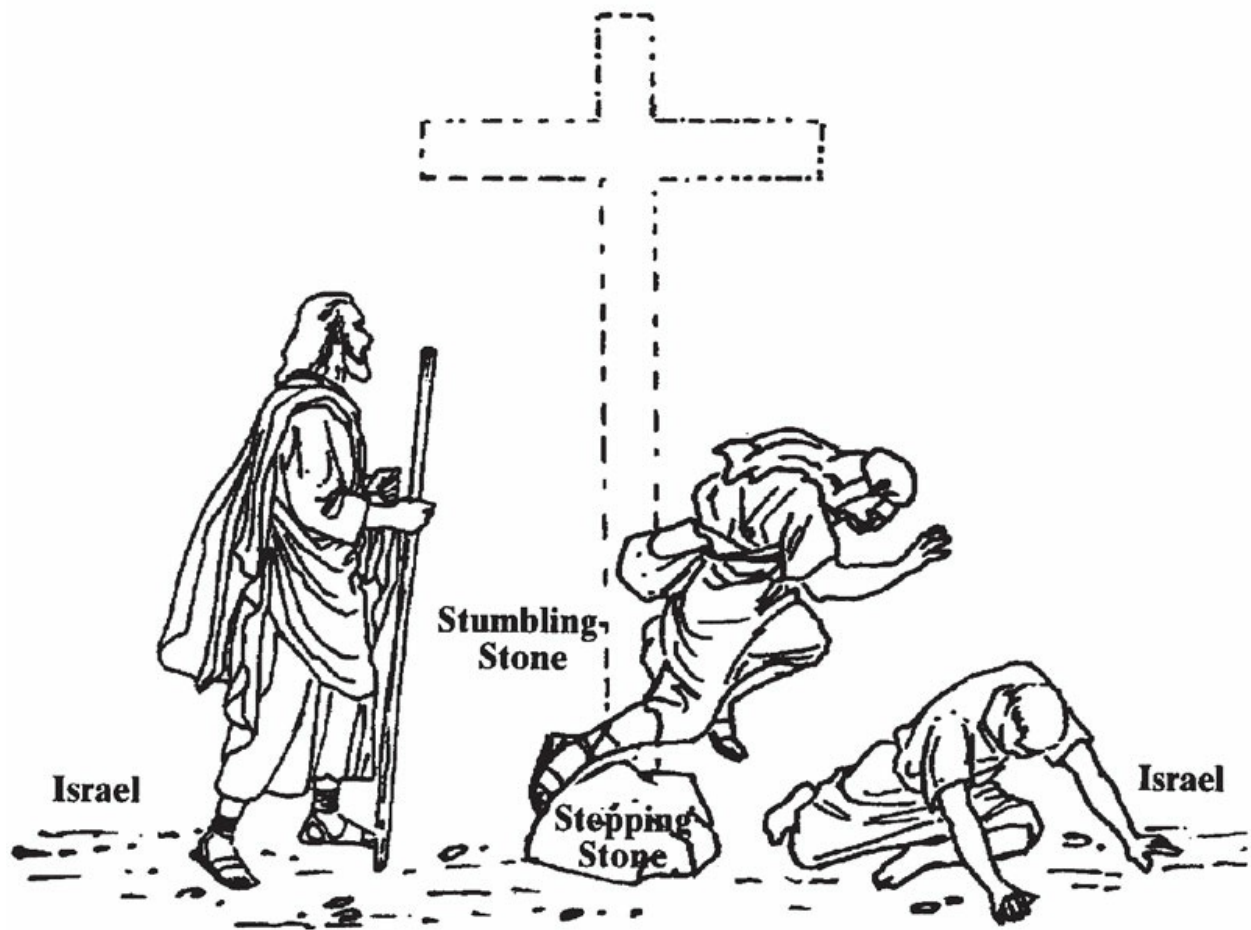
We experience the same thing today. Many times, because we refuse to accept the "kick" that the Cross of Truth gives us while we are in our prayer closet, God has to use those who are close to us to "kick" against the proud opinions we have of ourself. Then, we weep bitter tears of self-pity when, actually, we should be rejoicing because it is the Cross trying to show us a layer of flesh that we have been ignoring.

The message of crucifying the flesh is as much of a stumbling block and a message of foolishness to some people, today, as it was in the days of the Apostles. Paul said, " But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;" (I Corinthians 1:23).

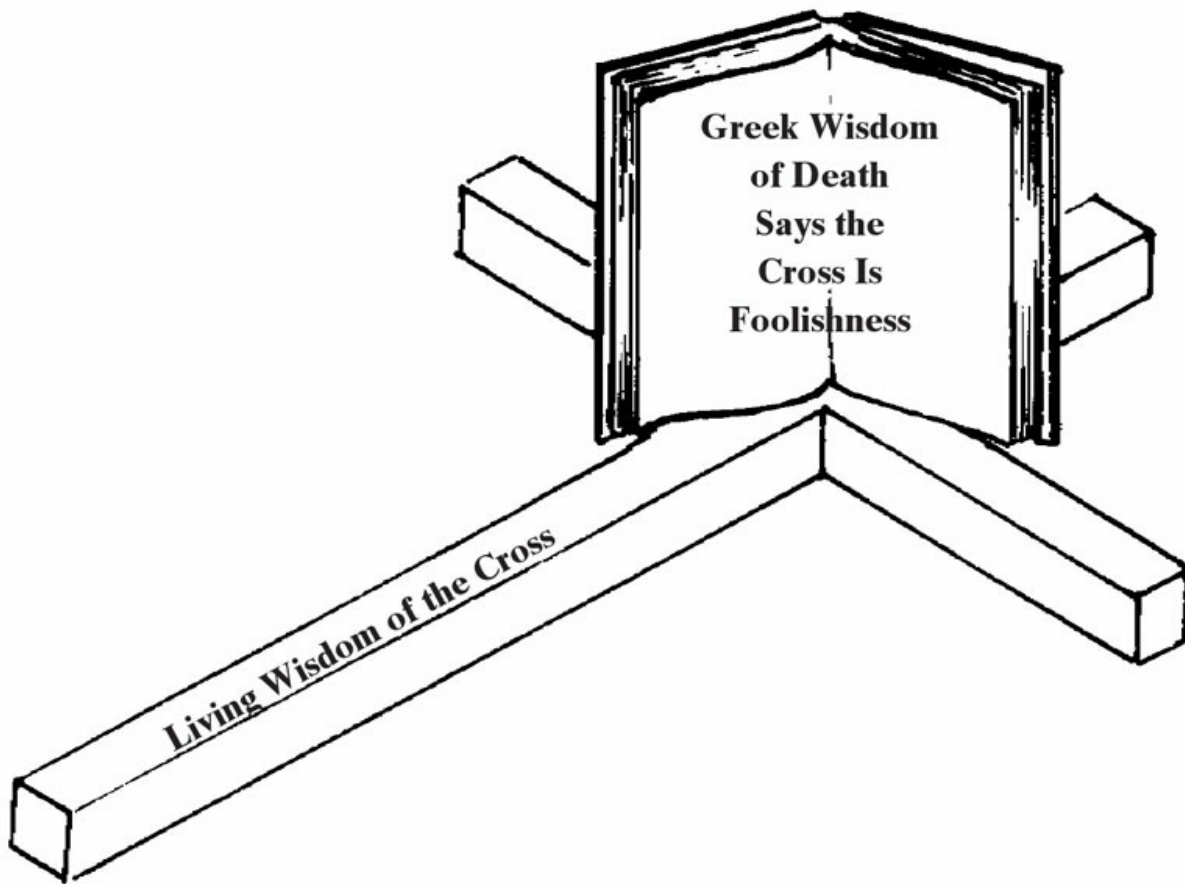


The Living Cross is a Living Stepping Stone or a Living Way to Eternal Life, Resurrection Life, and Everlasting Life. However, if we reject the Cross, it becomes a Stumbling-Stone unto Death, or it appears as a foolish, worthless thing, which the sooner we discard the better off we are.

What will we do with the Living Cross of Jesus? We cannot be neutral! God intended for the Jews, as a nation, to use the Cross to step up into a new spiritual life, but they rejected the Stepping Stone; therefore, it became a Stumbling-Stone, and they stepped down into Death.



God intended for the Greeks (Gentiles), through the Cross, to enter into the true Wisdom from above, the Wisdom that is pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated. But, the Greeks preferred their earthly, sensual, devilish wisdom and exalted it over the heavenly, prudent Wisdom of Christ. The Greeks called Christ's bright, brilliant, and intelligent Wisdom of the Cross "foolishness."



The Jewish people stumbled over the Cross of Jesus Christ and never acknowledged their need for personal crucifixion. Therefore, they shoved the Cross to the ground and exalted their animal blood over the precious shed Blood of Christ. The Greeks shoved the Living Wisdom of the Cross to the ground and exalted their wisdom of death above it. They, too, never acknowledged their need for personal crucifixion.

If we are wise spiritually, we will not follow these deadly examples of rebellion and foolishness. When the Cross “kicks” against our flesh, it is our opportunity to stretch ourselves out on the Cross, confess our sins, and say, “Here I am, LORD; crucify my flesh. Make me like You, Jesus.” It is a privilege to suffer the offense of the Cross in order to know Christ in the fellowship of His Suffering, and it is a blessing to suffer the offense of the Cross in order to be separated from the dross of our carnal flesh. How sad to see some who have iron wills refusing to suffer the offense of the Cross and walk in the Way of the Cross; for, as a result of their unbending wills, they will be forced to suffer Eternal separation from Jesus Christ in the New City.

## **II. Persecution of the Cross**

The second class of suffering experienced by Jesus Christ, the Living Cross, came in the form of persecution.

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** (Galatians 6:12).

The Cross of Jesus Christ suffers persecution. The Greek word for *persecution* means to breathe hard after, to pursue, to follow with the motive and intention of slaying and killing.

Some men persecuted Paul and even desired to kill him because he refused to make circumcision a prerequisite for the Salvation of the Gentiles. The Gentile believers kept the Moral Righteousness of the Law through the Power of Salvation in Christ Jesus, but their uncircumcised bodies drew persecution from those who had nothing more than the outward sign of circumcision in their flesh. By their unChristlike actions toward the Gentile saints, the persecutors demonstrated clearly that they never had allowed God to circumcise the fleshly attitudes of their hearts. The Cross offended their Jewish doctrine. Therefore, instead of feeling personal animosity against an individual, these self-righteous ones were provoked by a hatred for the Cross that caused them to persecute Paul and the Gentile saints.

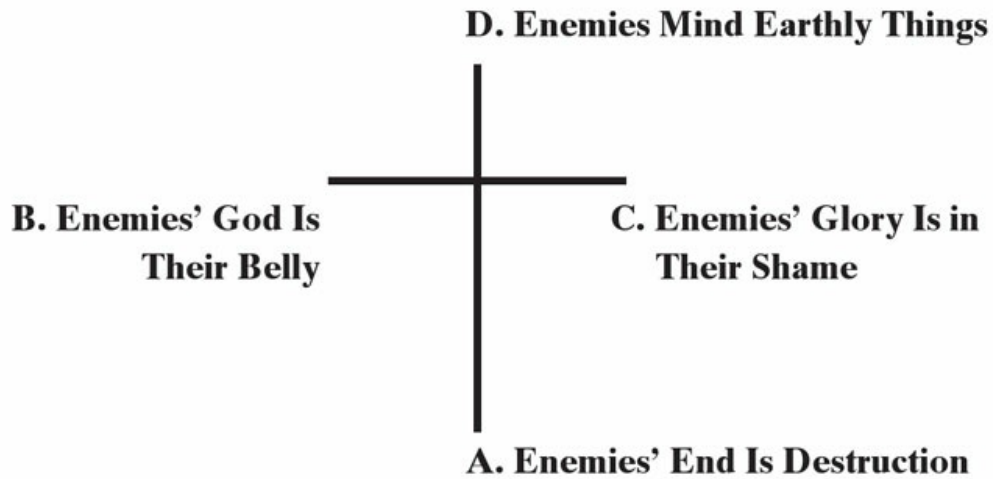
During the days of His Flesh, Jesus Christ, the Living Cross, exposed the carnality of the human heart. For this reason, men persecuted Him and, finally, killed Him by nailing Him to a cross made of wood. The Living, Resurrected Cross is Omnipresent today, so He can live in the hearts of all those who walk His Pathway of Surrender and Passive Obedience and Active Obedience. It is the Living Cross that men see in our life that causes them to persecute us when we have done no wrong. All those who follow the Cross must expect to fellowship Jesus' persecution.

### **III. Enemies of the Cross**

The third class of suffering experienced by Jesus Christ, the Living Cross, came through wicked men who were enemies of the Cross.

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (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**: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) (Philippians 3:17-19).

Paul warned the Philippian Christians to expect enemies who would seek to distract them from following the Cross and attaining the Prize of being in the Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ. The Cross of Christ still has enemies, today, who act just like the enemies the early Christians encountered. In the foregoing verses, Paul gave a fourfold description of the enemies of the Cross. Their end is destruction; their god is their belly; their glory is in their shame; and they mind earthly things.



#### **A. Enemies' End Is Destruction**

Paul exhorted the Philippians to think seriously before they forsook the “Crucified Way” of Jesus Christ. If they chose to walk in the way of rebellion with the enemies of the Cross, they needed to remember that at the end of all rebellion against the Cross is destruction.

(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: Whose end is destruction**, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) (Philippians 3:18,19).

We may avoid incurring the wrath of the enemies of the Cross if we forsake the way of crucifixion of the flesh, the way of surrender and obedience to the Headship of Jesus Christ. However, if we choose to fellowship those who hate the Cross, we can expect to join them in their Eternal Destiny, which is Destruction. The little suffering we experience while walking in the “Crucified Way” will be nothing in comparison to the Eternal Suffering that awaits the enemies of the Cross of Jesus Christ.

#### **B. Enemies' God Is Their Belly**

The enemies of the Cross of Christ do not fast nor practice self-denial in this life because their god is their belly.

(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: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly**, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) (Philippians 3:18,19).

The belly has a very limited vocabulary. First, it cries, “Give me food and drink.” Then, it says, “Give me more food and more drink.” Thus, a person who listens to his belly never fasts. All his time and energy are taken up in serving and trying to satisfy the insatiable god of his belly.



One of the signs that will point to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be man's lust for food and drink.

And take heed to yourselves, **lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [eating], and drunkenness [drinking]**, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (Luke 21:34-36).

The Return of the LORD Jesus Christ to this Earth is as certain as the reality of His First Coming. However, before Christ returns to the Earth a second time, there will be a falling away among the believers. Many believers will be led astray from the preaching of the Cross. Christians who are deceived by those who preach a false doctrine of self-indulgence will not be ready when Christ returns to catch away His Bride and the overcomers in the Wedding Party.

The insatiable appetite of the carnal flesh is brought under the control of the spiritual man only as we pass through special seasons of fasting and prayer. Self-denial is a painful experience for the flesh; nevertheless, it is needful for those who desire to be ready at the Second Coming of the LORD.

### **C. Enemies' Glory Is in Their Shame**

Sin brought shame into the world, but the enemies of the Cross seem to feel no shame nor remorse. Instead of repenting of their sinful deeds and glorying in the blessed Cross of Christ, its enemies glory in the very thing that made them shameful in God's Eyes.

(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:** Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and **whose glory is in their shame,** who mind earthly things.) (Philippians 3:18,19).

As a minister of the Gospel, I have dealt with both men and women who have gloried in the fact that they had stolen another person's mate. They should have been expressing their shame before the LORD and showing their remorse for having broken His Seventh Commandment, but they gloated about what they had done.

Almost everyone will agree that this is a pitiful condition for any soul, even the soul of a sinner. Yet, Christians, who may never break the Seventh Commandment, can be guilty of glorying in their shameful sin. For example, we all have had the experience of having our flesh proudly declare, "No one is going to run over me." Then, we have proceeded to give someone what is commonly called a "piece of our mind." After this had happened, did we immediately repent at the foot of the Cross for our unChristlike outburst? Or did we glory in our shame by rehearsing the matter to anyone who would listen? Very often we glory in our shame for an hour, a day, a week, or longer before we finally get around to going to the Cross in repentance.

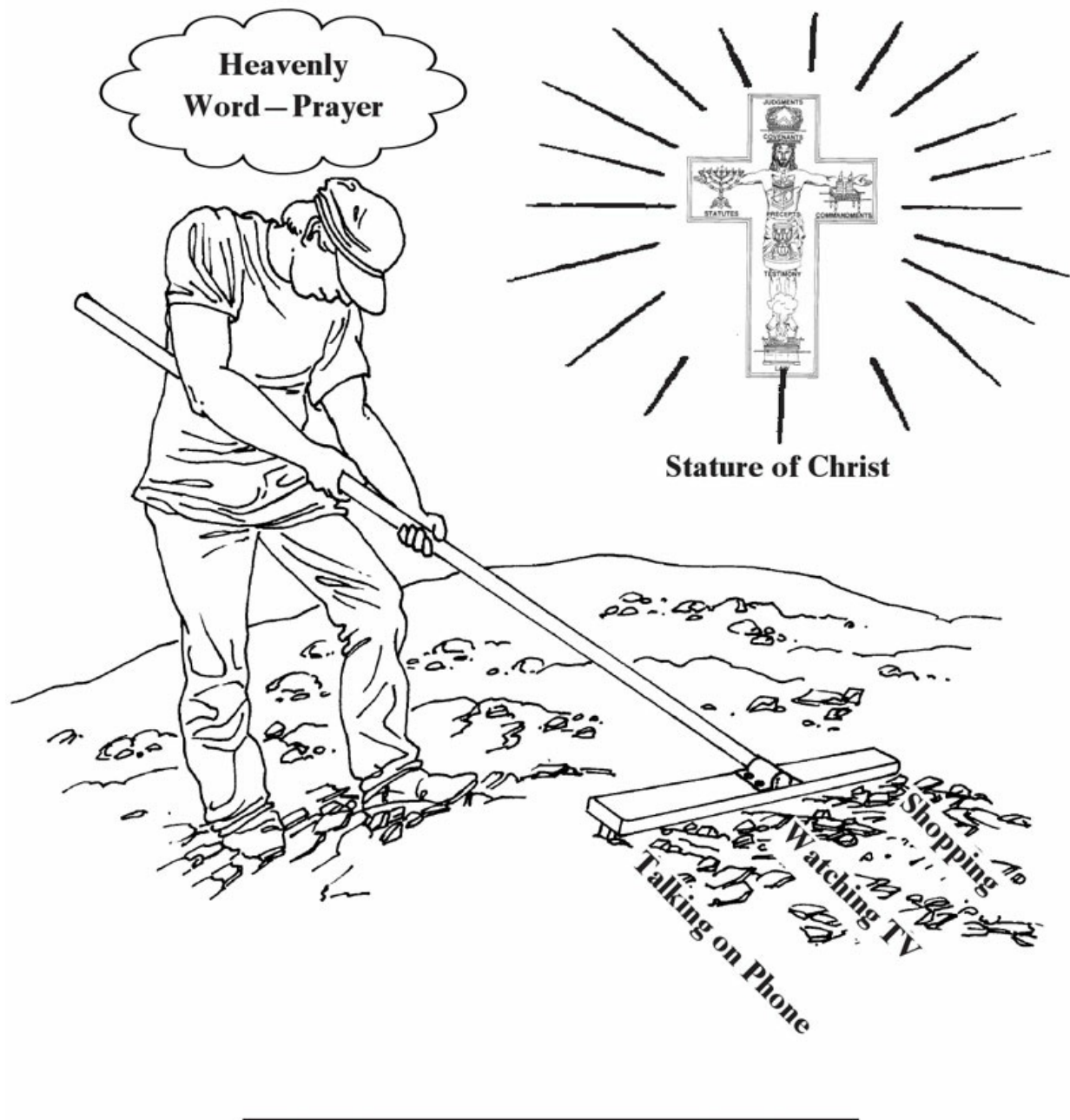
Our own carnal flesh is the greatest enemy of the Cross that any of us will encounter as we walk the "Crucified Way." Thank God that we have a place we can go to crucify every carnal attitude and disposition that rises up to glory in its own shameful, sinful nature.

#### **D. Enemies Mind Earthly Things**

People who are enemies of Christ are easily recognized by the way they spend their time.

(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:** Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who **mind earthly things.**) (Philippians 3:18,19).

Worldly-minded people can tell you about every program on television; they are walking commentators of what is happening throughout the whole world. However, they never seem to have time to read the Word of God or seek Him in prayer. They are too busy talking on the phone, going shopping, or doing countless other mundane things.



This does not mean that one should never use the telephone, never go shopping, never do anything but study and pray. As mortal creatures, we have earthly tasks and duties that must be performed. But, we are not to let earthly things become uppermost in our mind. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we always should carry, in the forefront of our mind, the Image of the Living Cross, the LORD Jesus Christ. The Cross faithfully will expose these earthly things that draw our heart and mind downward to temporal things and away from the Heavenly, Eternal Things of Christ.

#### **IV. The Shame of the Cross**

The fourth class of Suffering experienced by Jesus Christ, the Living Cross, came in the form of shame.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2).

The LORD Jesus Christ, the Living Cross, endured the disgrace, dishonour, derision, and humiliation of having His Holy Body crucified upon a wooden cross. The shame of the wooden cross accompanies the Living Cross. If we choose to follow Christ, we, too, must be willing to endure the shame of His Cross. Many people run well for a season, but they draw back when they face the shame connected with the Cross.

Jesus' Death of Crucifixion represented the most shameful Death possible, "...for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" As far as the world was concerned, the Cross symbolized an ignominious Death of absolute failure. What unparalleled shame that the Holy Creator should be nailed to corrupt creation, a dead, wood tree, and have the sins of all corrupt mankind heaped upon Him, making Him a Sin Offering for mankind. As Jesus Christ poured out His last drop of Blood, the world, in general, saw only a mortal man, nothing more. The jeering crowd assembled around His Cross, accusing Him of being a blasphemer because He claimed to be the Son of God with Power to raise up the Temple of His Body in three days, if it were destroyed. To the unbelievers, Jesus' Death was no different than that of the two thieves and the two malefactors who hung on Calvary's Hill with Him. When man looks at the Cross through carnal eyes, he sees only the humiliation and shame of it.

One day, however, all the world will behold the glorious Victory that Jesus Christ won as He hung upon Calvary's Cross. He went through humiliation and shame; and, now, He stands triumphant over all the powers of the world, the flesh, and the Devil. His steadfast Endurance and glorious Victory make it possible for us to endure the shame that we feel as our flesh hangs in dishonour and disgrace on the Cross of Christ. Friends and loved ones may mistake our humiliation for failure, but gaining victory over the flesh is not failure. It is the greatest victory known to man!

The Suffering of Jesus Christ included the offense of the Cross, the persecution of the Cross, the enemies of the Cross, and the shame of the Cross. All the sufferings we experience as we walk in the "Crucified Way" represent only one fourth of the measure of the full Stature of the Cross. Jesus Christ never asks us to bear the Suffering of His Cross until He has shown us the *Rewards* and the *Power* of the Cross. Then, after we have descended into the low place to fellowship His Suffering, Jesus brings us up again to experience the *Glory* of the Cross.

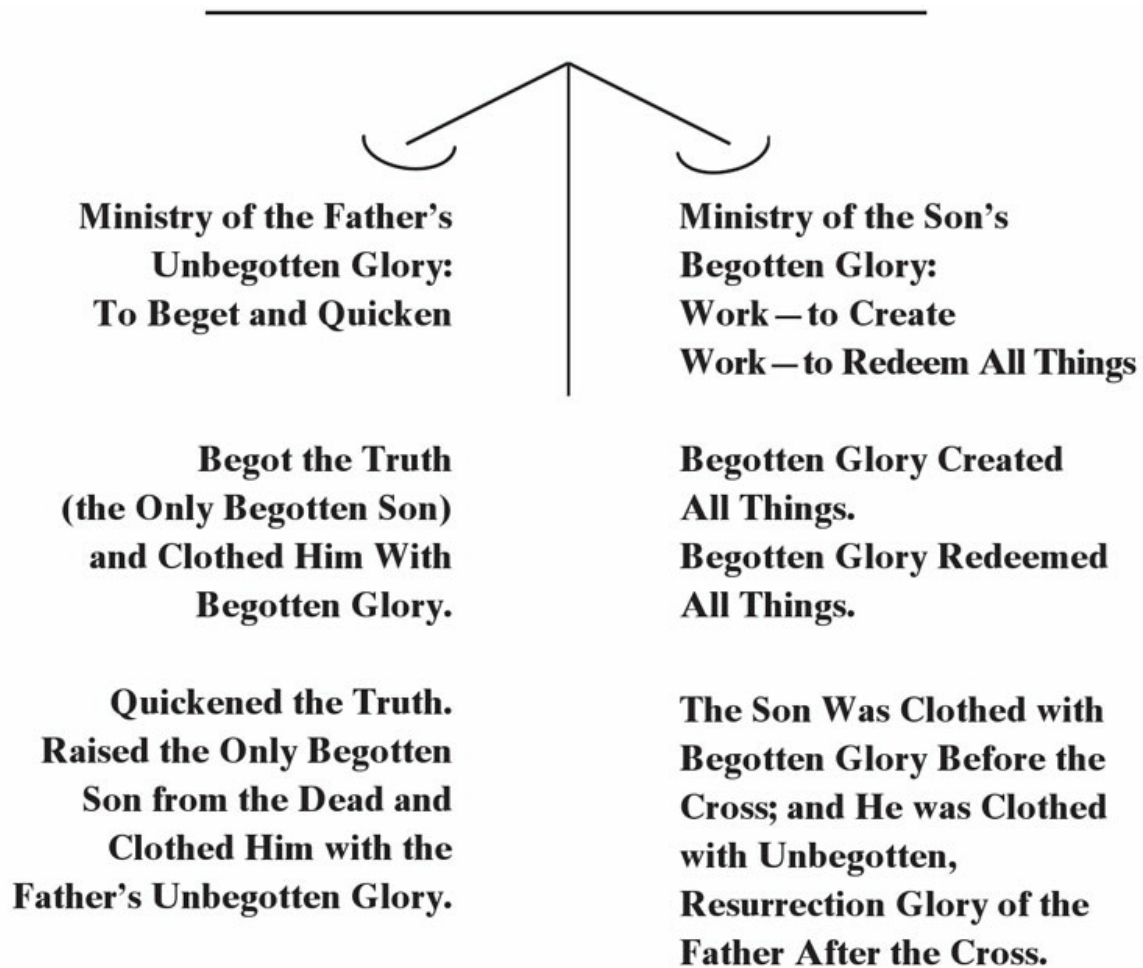
# **Chapter Four**

## **The Glory Of The Cross**

A wreath of thorns crowned the Head of Jesus Christ as He hung upon Calvary's Cross. As far as the world was concerned, His crown was an ugly, painful one. However, when a person's spiritual eyes are opened, he can see the Begotten Glory that crowned the Cross of Jesus Christ and the Unbegotten Glory of the Father that followed Jesus' Cross.

### **I. Ministry of the Father's Unbegotten Glory and the Son's Begotten Glory Before the Cross**

If we examine, first of all, the Ministry of the Unbegotten Glory of the Father and the Ministry of the Begotten Glory of the Son before the Cross, we will understand the Glory that came to Jesus Christ after the Cross of Calvary, as a Reward for His Obedience to the Father's Will.



**A. Ministry of the Father's Unbegotten Glory to Beget Truth—Before the Cross**

The Glory of the Father had Power to beget the Truth. By the Begetting Truth, Glory, and Power of the Father, the Divine Son of God was brought forth. Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, is not a Son by adoption nor by creation; He was *begotten* by the Glory and Power of the Father and, therefore, has Begotten Glory within Himself.

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, **Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee** (Psalm 2:7).

The Begotten Word and the Begotten Glory of the LORD Jesus Christ dwelled among men. Although the Son of God appeared on Earth in the form of a servant, His Divine Begotten Glory appeared in the Divinity of His Doctrine and in the magnificence of His Miraculous Works. Christ, full of Begotten Grace and Truth, dwelled among men.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and **we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,**) full of grace and truth.... No man hath seen God at any time; **the only begotten Son**, which is in the bosom of the Father, **he hath declared him** (John 1:14,18).

The *Begotten* Christ lay in the Bosom of the Father from Eternity-Past. Christ lay in the Bosom of the Father and

fed on His Love, His Truth, His Counsels, and His Master Plan for the Ages.  
Christ was before all things.

And **he is before all things**, and by him all things consist (Colossians 1:17).

The only Begotten Son of God was *before* all things, before all time and creation, and was, therefore, from Eternity. Christ, the only Begotten Son (Who had Begotten Glory and Power), the Begotten Wisdom of God, was with the Father in the beginning of His Way.

**The LORD possessed me [Wisdom] in the beginning of his way**, before his works of old (Proverbs 8:22).

The Father begot His Son, Who was the all-intelligent Wisdom of God, and set Him up to preside over the creative birth of all nature. The only Begotten Son of God, the Wisdom of God, was appointed by God the Father to be the controlling Moral Force of all life, both of the Universes and of mankind, individually and collectively.

The Father begot His Son, or He detached *Wisdom* from Himself, the Divine Source, and brought the Son to birth. Therefore, the only Begotten Son with His Begotten Glory and Power was made subservient to the Father's Divine Master Plan for all Ages.

The only Begotten, Glorious, and Powerful Son of God is from Everlasting.

### **B. Ministry of the Son's Begotten Glory to Create All Things—Before the Cross**

The only Begotten Son of God was brought forth from the Bosom of the Father in Eternity-Past, whose *goings forth* to do the Creative Works of the Father were from the *days of old*, the *ancient days*. The Father gave His Master Plan for the Universes to His only Begotten Son, and the Begotten Son created the Universes.

But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; **whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting** (Micah 5:2).

The LORD, God the Father, commanded His only Begotten Son, and His Son created and established everything according to the Will of the Father.

Let them praise the name of the LORD: for **he commanded, and they were created** (Psalm 148:5).

God the Father conceived the Begotten Word, the Wisdom, the Christ, His only Begotten Son, Who existed in the beginning of His Way. The only Begotten Son, the Eternal Word, is the Beginning and the End. From the beginning, the Eternal Begotten Word created all things.

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. **All things were made by him**; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not (John 1:1-5).

The only Begotten Word of Truth co-existed with God the Father in the beginning. He was with God in essence and substance.

The LORD Jesus Christ was infinitely happy, first, in the Bosom of the Father and, second, at the Right Hand of the Father when He was clothed with Begotten Glory and Power to work and to create all things according to the Will of the Father.

*Before* the Cross, the only Begotten Son of God was clothed with the Begotten Glory and Power of the Father. Before Jesus Christ went to the Cross, He used the Begotten Glory to raise Lazarus and the widow's son from the dead.

Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And **he that was dead came forth**, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go (John 11:40-44).

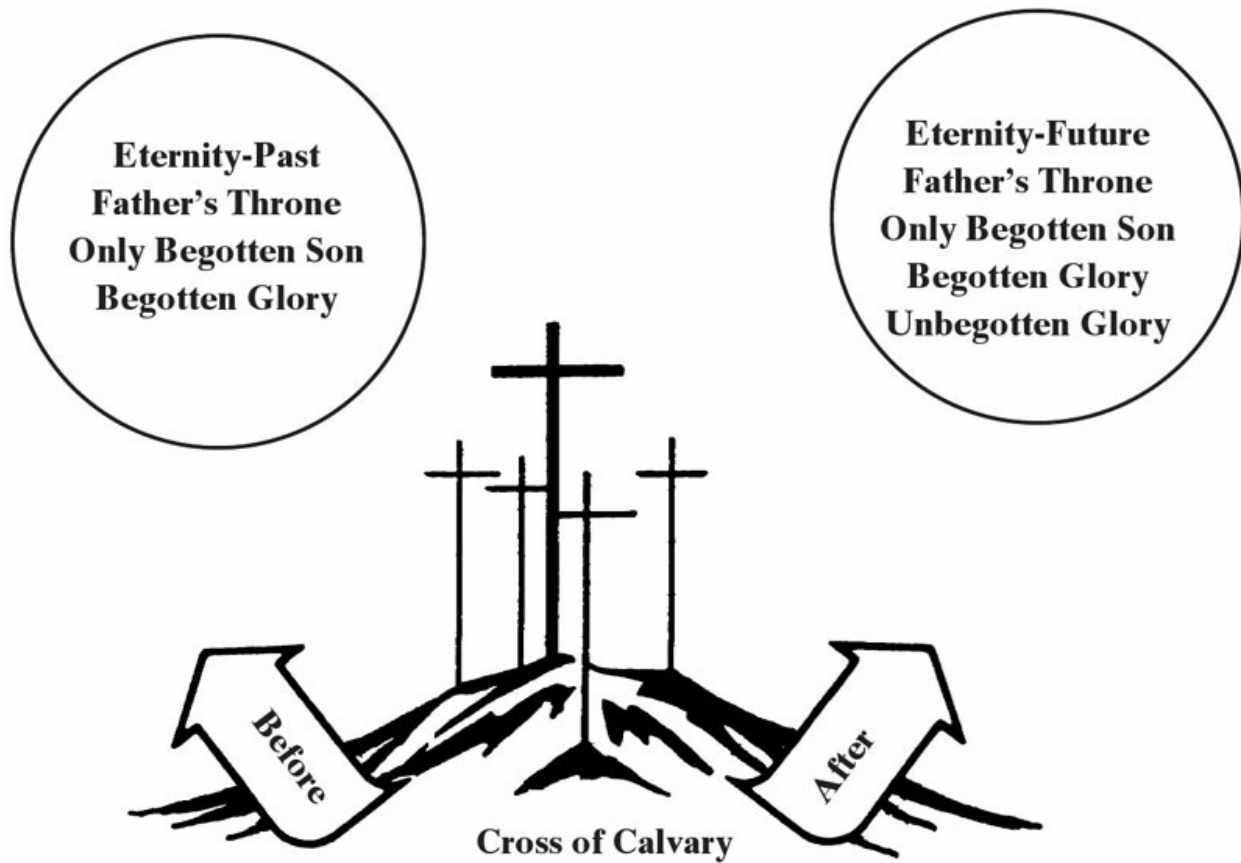
The Glory that Lazarus' sister Martha and the others saw was the *Begotten Glory* of the Father. The Begotten Glory did not have *All Power* over death *before* the Cross. Therefore, Lazarus, in due season, died again because he was resurrected with a Glory that had an *end*.

And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And **he that was dead sat up, and began to speak**. And he delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people (Luke 7:14-16).

The *Begotten Glory* of the Father also raised up the widow's son. However, the Begotten Glory could not produce a permanent change in the body until the Unbegotten Glory of the Father, which is without beginning and without end, was manifested *after* the Cross.

## **II. Ministry of the Unbegotten and Begotten Glory—After the Cross**

Before the Cross of Calvary, the LORD Jesus Christ possessed only the Begotten Glory and the Power at the Right Hand of the Father. *After* the Cross, the LORD Jesus Christ was clothed with the Unbegotten Glory of the Father. Therefore, He now is clothed with both the Begotten Glory and the Unbegotten, Resurrection Glory and Power of the Father. The joining of the two Glories is why the LORD Jesus Christ possesses *All Power* in Heaven and Earth. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth* (Matthew 28:18).



#### A. The Ministry of the Father's Unbegotten Glory—After the Cross

The Unbegotten Glory of the Father quickened the Begotten Truth and the Begotten Glory when He raised His Son out of Hell and Death.

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as **Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father**, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).

The Apostle Paul bore witness that God the Father raised up His Son and clothed Him with His Unbegotten Glory. The Father glorified His Begotten Wisdom, Truth, Glory, and Name in His only Begotten Son by raising Him from the dead, and He also glorified His Omnipotence. Christ's Resurrection was a display of the Omnipotent Glory and Power of the Father.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter also bore witness of Christ's glorious Resurrection.

**Whom God hath raised up**, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.... This **Jesus hath God raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses (Acts 2:24,32).

The Father bestowed His Unbegotten Glory on His Son, effectually wiping away the humiliation and reproach of His ignominious Death. The Heavenly Father delivered His only Begotten Son *to* the sorrows and travails of Death,

and then He delivered Him *from* Death by His Unbegotten Glory.

The Father's Unbegotten Glory loosed the pains of Death, transforming the enemy, Death, into a friend for all who believe in Christ Jesus. The Father, through Christ Jesus, has forever altered the power of Death.

The Father and the Son sent the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost so that the Apostles could be faithful to bear witness to the Father's glorious Ministry of raising Christ from the dead.

And killed the Prince of life, **whom God hath raised from the dead**; whereof we are witnesses.... Unto you first **God, having raised up his Son Jesus**, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities (Acts 3:15,26).

After Peter and John had healed the crippled man, in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ (Who, at His Resurrection, had been clothed with the Unbegotten Glory of the Father), Peter took the opportunity to preach Christ and His Resurrection from the dead.

Peter told the Jews that they had killed the Prince of Life, but that God the Father had raised Him from the dead; and they, he reminded them, were all witnesses of the Truth of His resurrection.

The Father raised His Son from the dead so that He could continue seeking and saving the lost.

The Resurrected Christ has the Unbegotten Glory and Power of the Father *to bless* and to turn His people away from their iniquities.

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of **Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom ye crucified, **whom God raised from the dead**, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole (Acts 4:10).

Peter charged the elders of Israel with being responsible for Christ's Death in the hope that they would be convinced and convicted of their sin. Peter strongly declared that God the Father had resurrected Christ, trying to convict and condemn Christ's persecutors in his effort to reach them with the Message of Christ's Salvation. The miracle of the healing of the lame man was proof to all that Christ had, indeed, risen and was clothed with the Quickening Power of the Unbegotten Glory of the Father.

**The God of our fathers raised up Jesus**, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins (Acts 5:30,31).

Israel loaded Jesus Christ with the deepest shame, reproaches, and dishonours, but God the Father raised Him with the highest Honour, Praises, and Favours, clothing Him with His Unbegotten Glory and sitting Him at His own Right Hand to be a Saviour and a Prince Who was able to give Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins.

Israel slew their Prince of Life and hanged Him upon a tree, but God exalted Him by raising Him up as a glorious Prince and Saviour with the highest Dignity and the greatest Power. God the Father wrought an Eternal Ministry and Work upon Christ when He raised Him from the dead, clothing Him with His Unbegotten Glory.

**But God raised him from the dead:** And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that *he hath raised up Jesus again*; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. And as concerning that **he raised him up from the dead**, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: **But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption** (Acts 13:30-37).

God the Father raised Christ from the dead. Christ never again will return to the corruption of the grave because He is clothed with the Unbegotten Glory of the Father. He left His graveclothes in the tomb because He never will wear them again. Lazarus brought his grave clothes out of the tomb with him, signifying that he would need them

again.

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that **he hath raised him from the dead** (Acts 17:31).

God the Father begot His Son, and, through His Son, God made the worlds. By the Son, He redeemed the worlds; by the Son, He governs and guides the worlds; and by the Son, God will judge the worlds through the Unbegotten Glory that He has ministered to His Son.

This Ministry of the Father to the Son is proof of His Ordination of Him as Judge of the world. This Ministry of the Father's Unbegotten Glory is sufficient assurance to all men to put their trust in Christ Jesus as their Saviour and their Judge.

But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if **we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead**; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification (Romans 4:24,25).

For our justification, God the Father raised Christ by His Unbegotten, Omnipotent Glory.

For our offenses, the Father delivered the Son as a Sacrifice for sin. Christ died to make Atonement for sin. He was raised to acquit us, before God, of our sins. He was executed for our debt of sin, which He had undertaken to pay for us. God the Father raised Christ as a Witness that His Divine Justice had been satisfied. Christ lives, now, to impute His Righteousness into our heart and life. Christ died to free us from our sins (those which we did have), and He arose to impute to us His Righteousness (that which we did not have).

Knowing that **Christ being raised from the dead** dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him (Romans 6:9).

Christ Jesus has been raised from the dead, and Death has no more power or dominion over Him. He is alive forevermore (Revelation 1:18).

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that **ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead**, that we should bring forth fruit unto God (Romans 7:4).

Paul declared that until Christ had come and had died in man's place Israel was married to the Law that was written in stone.

The law of marriage is binding until one or the other of the partners in the marriage contract dies. The death of either one annuls the law of marriage so that the living partner is free to enter into a new marriage contract.

We died in Christ on the Cross. With His Unbegotten Glory, God the Father raised up Christ, the Living *Torah*, from the dead, and He has raised us from sin and Death, prophetically. So we are free to be married to the *Torah* in flesh, instead of being married to the *Torah* in stone. Through Christ's Death, we have been set free from the old marriage contract. Now, through the Resurrected, Unbegotten Glory of the Father, we are free to be married to the Resurrected Word.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, **he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you** (Romans 8:11).

Through His Spirit of Life, the Son has shared the Resurrected Unbegotten Glory that the Father ministered to Him. Therefore, in the resurrection, one side of the Scales will quicken our body with the same Unbegotten Glory of the Father. We will be clothed with a suitable degree of Glory, according to the Spiritual Stature of Truth that we have attained in Christ Jesus.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that **God hath**

**raised him from the dead**, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Romans 10:9,10).

If we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that God the Father has raised Christ from the dead, we shall be saved. This does not apply only to our original Salvation from guilt and sin. Each time we need some form of Salvation—physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially, or any other form, Christ's Unbegotten Glory will meet our need.

We never will be ashamed if we put our trust and confession in Him, Whom the Father has raised from the dead.

And **God hath both raised up the Lord**, and will also raise up us by his own power (I Corinthians 6:14).

God the Father honoured the Body of His Son because it served Him and did His Will. He also will honour our body for serving Him by raising us with His Unbegotten Glory.

Knowing that **he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus**, and shall present us with you (II Corinthians 4:14).

Christ was raised from the dead by the Ministry of the Father, and He will also raise us up by Jesus. This blessed hope prevents us from sinking in despair when we see our outward man perishing. The same Father Who raised up the literal Body of Jesus Christ also will raise up the overcomers, the Spiritual Body of Jesus Christ, at the Rapture.

Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and **God the Father, who raised him from the dead;**) (Galatians 1:1).

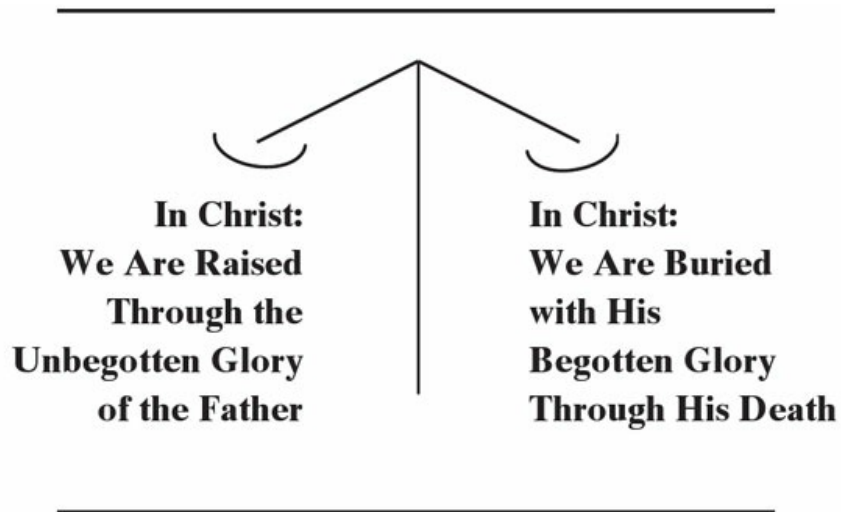
God the Father gave a public testimony, when He raised His Son from the dead, that He was well pleased with His only Begotten Son's Sacrifice.

Which he wrought in Christ, when **he raised him from the dead**, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, (Ephesians 1:20).

God the Father is rich in His Infinite Unbegotten Glory, which is the exceeding greatness of His Almighty Power, by which He raised Christ from the dead and set Him at His own Right Hand in Heavenly Places.

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of **God, who hath raised him from the dead** (Colossians 2:12).

What a privilege to be buried with the Begotten Glory and to be raised with the Unbegotten Glory!



When we are buried with Christ in Baptism in His Begotten Glory, we take on the responsibility to die daily unto all sin. When we are raised, by faith, through the operation of the Unbegotten Glory of the Father, we assume the responsibility to live unto the newness and righteousness of life in the Resurrected, Glorified Christ.

And to wait for his Son from heaven, **whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus**, which delivered us from the wrath to come (I Thessalonians 1:10).

The saints in the Old Testament waited with joyful anticipation for the Messiah to come in His Begotten Glory. How much more should we long and look for the Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ, to return with His own Begotten Glory and the Unbegotten Glory of the Father?

Remember that **Jesus Christ** of the seed of David **was raised from the dead**, according to my gospel: (II Timothy 2:8).

In the midst of Timothy's sufferings for Christ's Sake, the Apostle Paul encouraged his spiritual son by reminding him that the Father, through His miraculous Unbegotten Glory, had raised Christ from the dead. Christ's Resurrection is the great confirmation of the Truth of our faith. If we lose our life for Christ's Sake, the LORD also will raise us from the dead in due season. The Incarnation, Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ are our greatest encouragement and support in times of sufferings in this present life. If we suffer with Him in His Begotten Glory, we shall also reign with Him in the Unbegotten Glory of the Father.

Who by him do believe in **God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory**; that your faith and hope might be in God (I Peter 1:21).

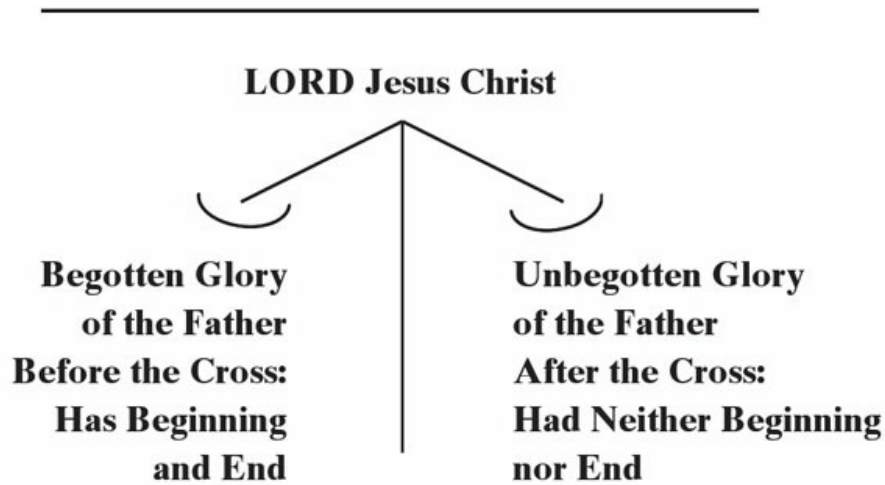
As the Just Judge, the Heavenly Father released Christ from the prison-house of Death, raising Him up and glorifying Him eternally with His Unbegotten Glory. Therefore, the LORD Jesus Christ has All Power of the Father's Begotten Glory (the beginning and the end) and the Unbegotten Glory (that has neither beginning nor end). The Father's Ministry of His Unbegotten Glory to His Son is Eternal and without beginning or end.

The Humiliation and Suffering of the Son in this world was for a short season, but His Eternal Exaltation and Pleasure in the Unbegotten Glory of the Father is forever, through the ceaseless ages of Eternity.

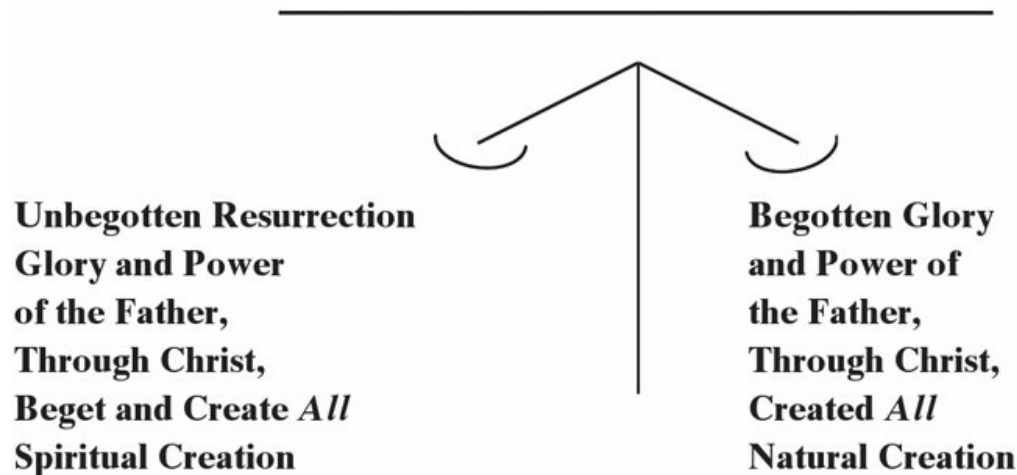
### **B. Ministry of the Son's Begotten Glory and Unbegotten Glory to Beget and Create a New Spiritual Man**

Since His Resurrection by the Father's Unbegotten Glory, the LORD Jesus Christ now possesses both the Father's Begotten Glory that had a beginning and an end (which Christ had before the Cross) and the Unbegotten Glory that had neither beginning nor end (which Christ Jesus received after the Cross). The Unbegotten,

Resurrection Glory and Power of the Father is the *Glory of the Cross!*



The LORD Jesus Christ now possesses both the Begotten Glory and Power of the natural creation and the Unbegotten Glory and Power of the spiritual, redemptive creation.



The Only Begotten Son of God created all natural creation out of the Begotten Word and Begotten Glory. Now, because He also possesses the Unbegotten Resurrection Glory of the Father, Christ Jesus begets and creates, within the heart of repentant man, a new person, a new creation, out of His new spiritual Substance, the Union of the Begotten Glory and the Unbegotten Glory. The Father resurrected His Son with His Unbegotten Glory, filling the Body of Jesus Christ with His Unbegotten Glory. Then, Jesus Christ, filled with both the Begotten Glory and the Unbegotten Glory, resurrected (took up) His Blood-Life which had been shed for man's sins.

**As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep....** Therefore doth my Father love me, because **I lay down my life, that I might take it again.** No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. **I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.** This commandment have I received of my Father (John 10:15,17,18).

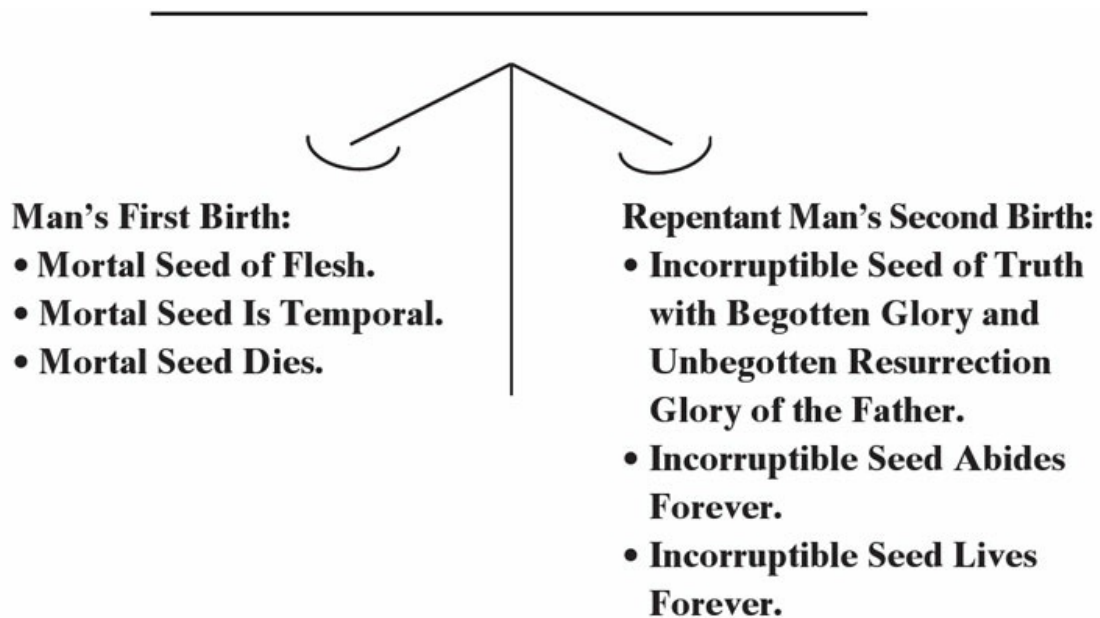
Jesus willingly laid down His Blood-Life as a sacrifice for man's sin; then, He took up His Blood-Life, again, after the Cross, because He had been given the Father's Unbegotten Resurrection Glory. The Son was able to resurrect His Blood-Life after He had been given the Unbegotten Resurrection Glory of the Father. The Begotten Redemptive Blood of Christ Jesus plus the Begotten Word joined to the Unbegotten Resurrection Glory of the Father make the new Substance out of which all spiritual generation and creation proceed.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But **with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in **God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.** Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: **Being born again**, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever (I Peter 1:18-23).

Jesus Christ paid for our redemption with His own precious shed Blood and His Blood which was resurrected. Man's redemption is real. It is not metaphorical. The only Begotten Son of God, the Lamb of God, was foreordained to be the Redeemer *before* the foundation of the world. Jesus Christ was manifested in these last days to prove that He was the Redeemer Whom God had foreordained.

Jesus Christ went to the Cross, died, was buried, and rose again, receiving the Unbegotten Glory of the Father. Now, Christ Jesus, the Word of God, has All Power in Heaven and Earth, both from the only Begotten-Glory side and from the Unbegotten-Glory side of the Father.

Therefore, the Word, the Christ, is the incorruptible Seed, Who has the Unbegotten Power of the Father to quicken Himself in the hearts of repentant men. Man's second birth is greater than his first birth.



There is no comparison between the first, mortal, natural birth and the second, immortal, spiritual birth in Christ Jesus. Mortal man is conceived from a mortal, temporal seed that will soon die, but the immortal Spiritual Man is conceived from an incorruptible Seed of Truth that lives and abides forever.

Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things

are become new (II Corinthians 5:17).

The New Creation in Christ Jesus, which has been begotten from an incorruptible Seed and clothed with the Begotten Glory and Unbegotten Glory of the Father, is a Righteous and Holy Creation.

The darkness and death of the habits, the old thoughts, the old principle of lawlessness, and the old noxious poison of hate pass away as the New Creation rises in the heart of man like a radiant and brilliant Sun of Righteousness.

That ye **put off** concerning the former conversation **the old man**, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye **put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness** (Ephesians 4:22-24).

We are exhorted to put off our old man (who was created from a corrupt seed that was filled with deceitful lust) and to put on our New Man in Christ Jesus, Who was created in Righteousness and true Holiness.

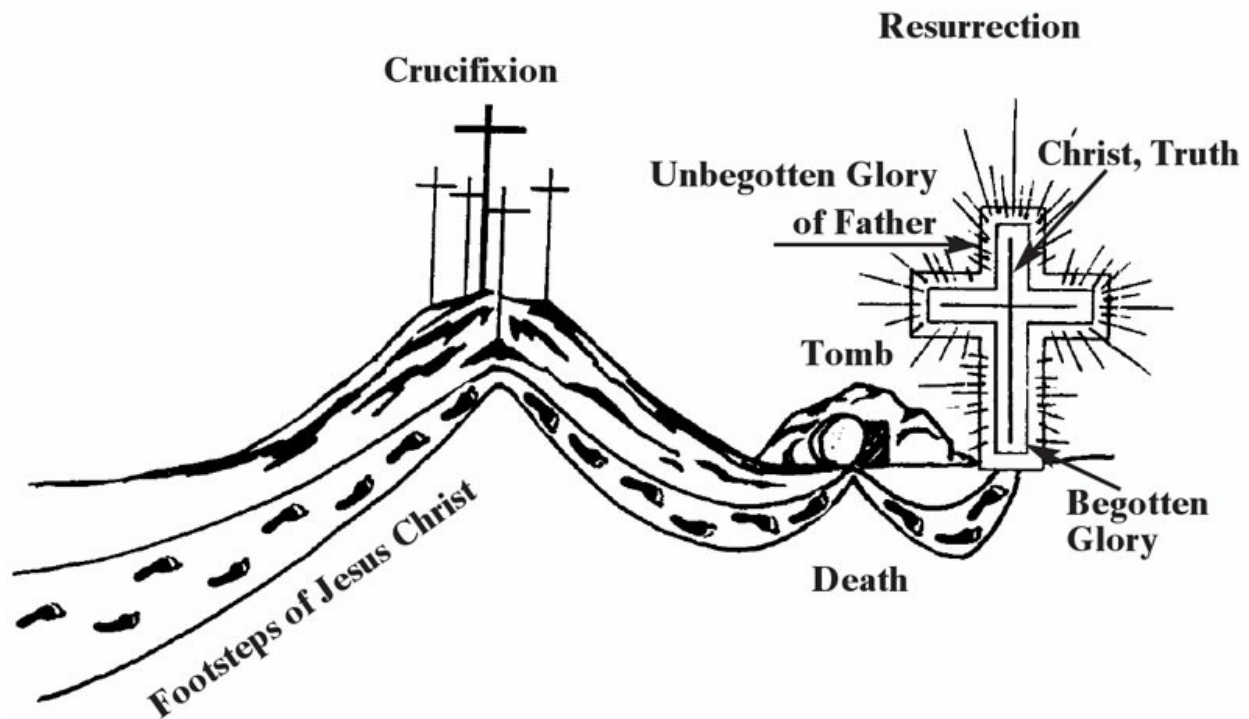
The Cross of Christ Jesus was His “Doorway” to the Unbegotten Glory of the Father—Glory that is without beginning and without end.

The LORD Jesus Christ has left us an Example; therefore, we should follow in His Steps.

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:** (I Peter 2:21).

The Steps of Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, lead us to Calvary for crucifixion of our flesh, the old man, and on to the Unbegotten Resurrection Glory of the Father.

Jesus Christ’s Footsteps lead us to His Cross for crucifixion of everything that has had its origin in the corruptible seed of the old man. Then, His blessed Footsteps lead us to the Unbegotten Resurrection Glory-Life of the Father, which we take on in our *heart and will*, now. Then, at the time of the Resurrection or Rapture, we, too, will take on the Unbegotten Glory of the Father in our *body*, and we will live forever, without end, in a glorified body like unto the glorified Body of Christ Jesus.




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For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself (Philippians 3:20,21).

The LORD Jesus Christ has All Power in Heaven and in Earth, through both the Begotten Glory and the Unbegotten Glory of the Father. Therefore, He will change our vile body because He has Power to subdue *all things* unto Himself.

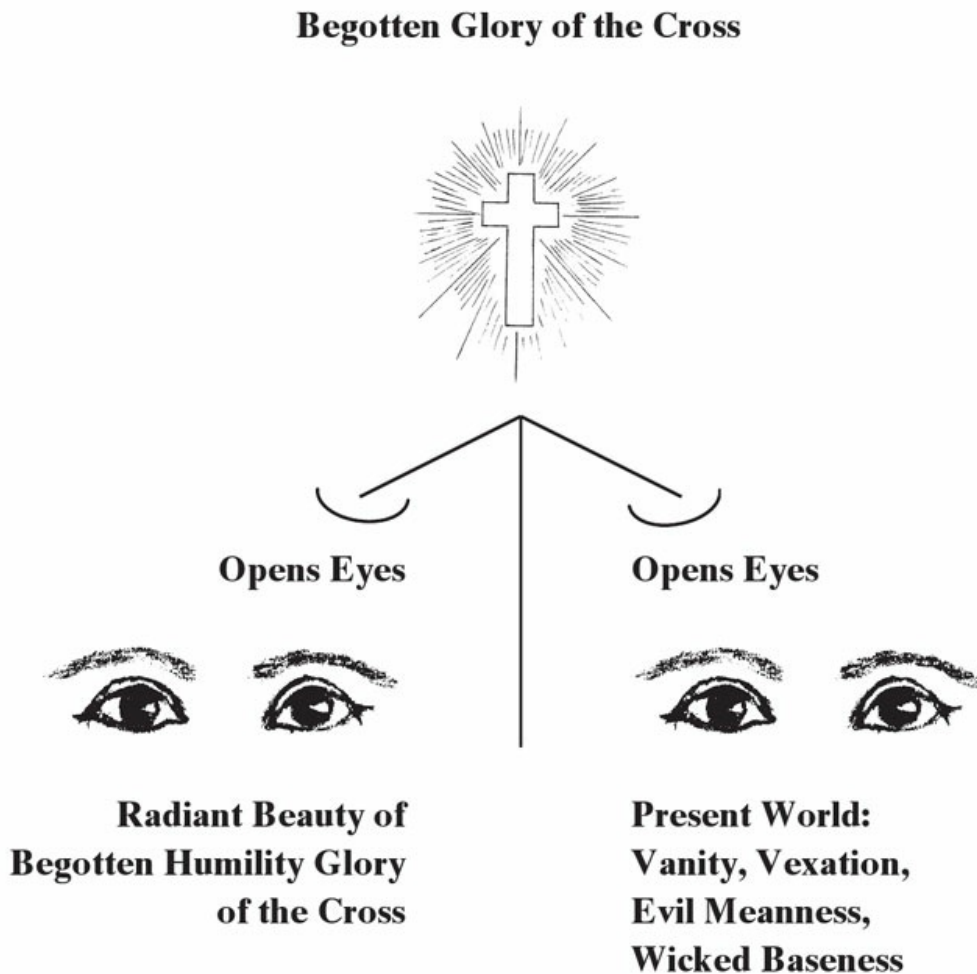
The Apostle Paul knew the Begotten and the Unbegotten Glory of the Father that crowned the Cross of Christ and that followed the Cross of Christ after Resurrection Morning. Therefore, Paul was determined to glory in nothing but the Cross of Christ.

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 (Galatians 6:14).

The word *glory* means to rejoice, to boast, to be full of joy. The ability to glory or rejoice with unspeakable joy in nothing except the Cross does not come the moment we pick up the Cross. On the contrary, our flesh feels the pain as the Cross “kicks” against the proud, self-righteous opinions we have of ourself. In the beginning of our spiritual

walk with the Cross, because the strong hooks of the world are still fastened in our heart, we constantly feel the powerful pull of the world as it tries to lure us from the straight and narrow Way of Holiness. We still joy in the splendor of our worldly appearance; we boast about the grand connections we have in this present world, and we rejoice in the grandeur of our worldly possessions, while we despise the humility meanness and baseness of the Cross of Christ.

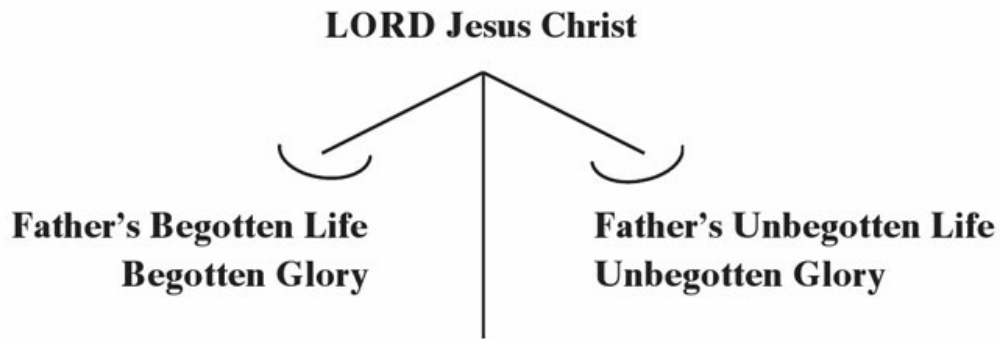
However, as we continue to walk with Jesus Christ and embrace the fullness of His Cross, the world is crucified to us, and we are crucified to it. The Cross of Christ, with its brilliant Begotten Glory, melts the dark vaporous clouds of blindness that surround us. Then, we can see the *real* Truth. On one hand is the vanity, vexation of spirit, and the evil meanness and wicked baseness of this present world. On the other hand is the radiant Beauty of the Begotten Humility Glory that crowns the Cross.



It is a grand and glorious day when the LORD Jesus Christ opens our eyes to see the Glory of His Cross and to see the real Truth about this present world. Then, we can choose, freely and willingly, the Begotten Glory of the Cross in preference to the carnal, fading glory of this present world.

Thus, the Cross becomes such a living reality in our life that we become completely dead to the things of the world. The Cross becomes the Glory, the Joy, the Thrill, and Delight of our heart and life. We discover that the Cross means more to us than *all* the world. We can sing with glorious passive obedience and active obedience, "Take the world, but give me Jesus!"

The Cross is real, and the “Crucified Way” is real because it is the Way of the Cross of Jesus that He walked during His earthly journey. He was faithful to the Living Cross of Humility all the days of His Life, and He clung to it unto Death, even the Death on the wooden cross. Now, since His Death, Burial, and Resurrection, He stands in His Begotten Life and His Begotten Glory and the Resurrected Life and Unbegotten Glory of the Father.



Jesus Christ is the Living Christ, the Living Way. Therefore, we make no apologies to the modernists for our walk with Jesus Christ in the “Crucified Way.” Those who walk the “Crucified Way” with Him find that the Reward, the Power, and the Glory of His Cross far outweigh the Sufferings they experience along the way.

The Sufferings of the Cross are not to be compared to the Rewards of the Cross, the Power of the Cross, and the Begotten Glory and the Unbegotten Glory of the Cross. Those who embrace the full Stature of the Cross of Jesus Christ, in this life, will know the Eternal Ecstasy of lifting up His blessed Cross of Truth and glorious Light for all the world to see, and they will enjoy seeing hungry “golden” souls embrace the Living Cross of Truth. Praise God for a “Crucified Way” in which we can learn to walk here on Earth because Christ’s Footsteps, which we follow in the “Way,” will lead us to God’s Eternal New City!



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