

THE CROSS (PART 2)

Total Freedom

In Galatians 5:1 TPT Paul wrote, *"Let me be clear, the Anointed One has set us free—not partially, but completely and wonderfully free! We must always cherish this truth and stubbornly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past."*

More than to secure our ticket to Heaven when we die, *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us, for it is written 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'" (Galatians 3:13).* Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father, took our place, and suffered on the cross, died, and rose again from the dead to offer us a life of freedom.

A life of freedom was the original state of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Through Jesus we have been brought back to the Garden in the place of the Father's delight and pleasure. The power to live the Kingdom life here on Earth does not rest on what we have done or can do. **It is solely because of what Jesus did on the cross.** It is therefore important that we understand the revelation of His death on the cross. It takes a Spirit-breathed heart and mind to grasp what Jesus accomplished on the cross.

The Great Exchange

Jesus Christ, the Son of God became the Son of Man so that the sons of men could become Sons of God. He identified with us and took on our humanity in order to bring us into the fullness of our inheritance in Him. It was on the cross that the great exchange took place. Through the cross, we became one with Him forever.

We will explore step by step the history that led to the necessity of the cross, what happened at the cross, what this means for us, and by the end of the second part of this teaching, we will understand the fullness of exchange that took place for our benefit through the cross.

- **Jesus was Punished that We Might be Forgiven**

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him." (Isaiah 53:5)

- **Jesus was Wounded that We Might be Healed**

"...and by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

- **Jesus was Made Sin with Our Sinfulness that We Might be Made Righteous with His Righteousness**

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

"He shall see the labour of His soul and be satisfied. By His knowledge, My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities (Isaiah 53:11).

- **Jesus Died Our Death that We Might Share His Life**

"But we see Jesus... that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9).

"always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body." (2 Corinthians 4:10)

- **Jesus was Made a Curse that We Might Receive the Blessing**

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:13-14).

- **Jesus Endured our Poverty that We Might Share His Abundance**

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

- **Jesus was Cut Off by Death that We Might be Joined to God Eternally**

"For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken" (Isaiah 53:8-9).

- **Our old Man was Put to Death in Him that the New Man Might Come to Life in us**

"...knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin" (Romans 6:11).

"Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:6).

The Power of the Blood of Jesus

There are at least seven instances in the Bible where Jesus shed His blood. Remember, He lived and died with a purpose. Every event, every word, everything that He did and said was all connected to His Father's purpose. Understanding this, we begin to see the breadth, height, and depth of freedom He gave us through His death and suffering.

Isaiah 53 is a powerful prophetic picture of the crucifixion of Jesus. In Psalm 22, David wrote of the sufferings of Jesus, and like Him we can have a revelation of what the beloved Son suffered for our redemption. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us the revelation of the cross leading to a total transformation and total freedom.

The Revelation of the Cross

- **The Sweat of Blood**

A few hours before Jesus was about to be arrested and crucified, He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. He prayed so intensely that He sweat blood.

"And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:44)

In Genesis, it was in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve lost their God-given authority to rule the Earth when they listened to the lies of the serpent. In Genesis 3:13 the woman said, *"...the serpent deceived me..."* With the shed blood of Jesus, we can boldly claim our freedom from deception and the lies of the enemy.

The power in the blood of Jesus breaks the mindset of doubt, unbelief, deception, and confusion. By faith, apply the blood of Jesus to your mind and heart and ask Him to completely set you free from demonic influences. We can claim freedom from the curse of toiling.

- **The Blood from His Broken Body**

The second time the blood of Jesus flowed was from His broken body. As He was flogged with a cat of nine tails whip (leather whip with metal hooks and spikes at its ends). His body was shredded, and his flesh exposed. His wounds were so severe that His body appeared as a piece of bloody meat.

“Then Pilate ordered Jesus to be brutally beaten with a whip of leather straps embedded with metal.” (John 19:1 TPT) “... Our instant healing flowed from his wounding” (1 Peter 2:24 TPT)

Through His broken body the curse of sickness and disease was broken. Jesus took all forms of diseases upon Himself so we could be healed and in good health.

- **The Blood from His Head**

The Roman soldiers placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head and mocked Him. The crown was forcefully pushed down on His head piercing His scalp, exposing portions of the skull.

“Then they braided a crown of thorns and set it on his head. After placing a reed staff in his right hand, they knelt down before him and irreverently mocked him, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” Then they spat in his face and took the reed staff from his hand and hit him repeatedly on his head, driving the crown of thorns deep into his brow.” (Matthew 27:29-30 TPT)

Through the blood that flowed out of His head, Jesus did not only break the curse of a poverty mindset and a slave mentality, but also orphan thinking. By His blood, we His children can now walk in freedom to dream, to be creative, to be intelligent, to invent, to manage, and to give solutions and answers to the needs around us. We are now destined for success- financially, intellectually, professionally, and holistically.

- **The Blood from His Face**

Because of the severe beatings, the face of Jesus was disfigured with every blow. People mocked Him, spat in His face, and pulled His beard.

“I offered my back to those who flogged me and my cheek to those who tore out my beard. I never hid my face from demeaning insults or from those who spit on me.” (Isaiah 50:6 TPT)

Man was created in the image and likeness of God. Because of the fall, that image was distorted and disfigured. Jesus came to restore our identities as sons and daughters of Father God. Through the blood that flowed from His broken face, He broke the curse of rejection, shame, guilt, and pain of mankind. He paid the price for our identity, honour, and dignity to be fully restored. Now we can walk in freedom from low self-esteem, poor self-worth, self-pity, and insecurity.

- **The Blood from His Hands**

When the nails pierced the hands of Jesus, blood flowed.

“They nailed his hands and feet to the cross...” (Mark 15:24 TPT)

The blood that flowed was for our freedom from the curse of unproductiveness, toil, hardships, and pain. Our hands represent our profession, our talents, our gifts, our call, and our assignments. God wants us to prosper and live abundant lives. The hands that are blessed because of the power of the blood yields

productivity, progress, increase, and abundance. Jesus used His hands to heal, to guide, to comfort, to reach out in love, and to serve. With His blood applied to our hands, we can now do the good works He prepared for us beforehand (see Ephesians 2:10) giving Him the glory.

- **The Blood from His Feet**

"They nailed his hands and feet to the cross..." (Mark 15:24 TPT)

Our feet symbolize our purpose in life, our direction, and destiny. Due to the fall, mankind lost its purpose. When Jesus saw the multitudes, He felt compassion because *"...they were distressed (harassed) and downcast (thrown down) like sheep without a shepherd"* (Matthew 9:36).

The feet of Jesus were pierced so that we can live a life with divine purpose once again, bringing us back to the path of life. The blood that flowed from Jesus' feet broke the curse of wandering, purposeless existence, and helplessness.

- **The Blood from His Heart**

At the final stage of His agony, Jesus was pierced in His side. Blood and water flowed from it.

"But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out." (John 19:34)

The blood that flowed from His heart is for our healing from abandonment, love deficits, and an orphan heart. He took all our psychological pains and wounds. We are now free from the curse of anger, unforgiveness, resentment, and bitterness.

The New Way of Living

Paul wrote in Romans 6:8 and 11 *"Now, if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him...Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."* In Galatians 2:20 he further said, *"I have been crucified with Christ therefore I no longer live it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which now I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."* We see two aspects to this. First, there was the "old I" who had been crucified with Christ, and then the "new I" who was raised with Jesus in the newness of life.

- **I am Dead to Sin**

"I am crucified with Christ"-He died for me, His death paid for my sins once and for all. I am forgiven, free, and accepted in Him. He died as me, and the 'old' me died with Him. I am free from sin!

- **I am Alive in Christ**

I live in Christ, and He lives in me. His life is in me. By the Holy Spirit, I am one in Him. I have the incorruptible life of Jesus. Christ in me is the hope of glory.

- **He Lives Through Me**

I live in victory because Jesus is in me, living His life through me. I am being changed into His image from glory to glory. I am victorious because He is victory. I am righteous because He is my righteousness. I walk in power and authority because *"Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world"* (1 John 4:4).

- **As a New Creation**

I am born into the family of God and His eternal Kingdom, born from His incorruptible Word (Jesus). I have the DNA of my Father God, for Jesus Christ washed me with His blood. I am no longer under the

race of Adam. I am under the lineage of Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father, who conquered sin, curses, sickness, death, and darkness once and for all.

- **My New Reality is that All Things Have Become New**

All that is true of Christ is true of me because I am in Christ and Christ lives in me.

- **My New Way of Living is Two-fold**

Jesus lives in me, and He lives through me. He takes up His residence in me by the Holy Spirit. He is, "*Christ in me the Hope of Glory.*" The life that I live now is the overflow of the life of Jesus in me. The supernatural life is what is natural for me. By faith, I am constantly being changed into His likeness from glory to glory.