

*The Cross
of Christ*

Table of Content

Deliverance From the Power of Sin	Page 3
Victory Through the Cross of Christ	Page 6
Faith In The Road To Calvary	Page 10
Our Union With Christ	Page 13
The Deeper Life in Christ	Page 16

Deliverance From the Power of Sin

The Cross of Christ - Session One

Providing Deliverance and a New Standard

The purpose of the cross is to give us deliverance from the power of sin. We will see how Christ delivers us from the power of sin, and changes us from the law of death to the law of life.

(Romans 8:2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

(Romans 7:22-23) For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

(Romans 8:7) Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

In another translation “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” is translated “the standard of the Spirit who gives life through Christ Jesus.” “The law of sin and death” is translated “the standard of sin and death.” “The law of God” is translated “the standard of God.” And “the law of my mind” is translated “the standard of my mind.”

We are all going to have a standard in our life, whether we know it or not. One standard leads to death and the other standard leads to deliverance and eternal life. The standard of the mind of people who are not spiritual are against God. This standard rejects the authority of God’s standard. This standard leads to death. Only the standard of righteousness leads to deliverance and life. This is why Jesus went to the cross, to give us the power to have deliverance and a new standard in our life, one that leads to eternal life with Him. (Romans 8:3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

The purpose of the cross is to set us free from the enslaving power of the corrupt life. It is the will of God that we be set free from our sins and our old standard. (Galatians 1:3-4) Grace *be* to you and peace from God the Father, and *from* our Lord Jesus Christ, (4) Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

Living in a sinful nature only produces corrupted sins. God does not want to see His people living this way because it brings dishonor to Him and death. (Romans 7:5, BBE) For when we were in the flesh, the evil passions which came into being through the law were working in our bodies to give the fruit of death.

The purpose of the cross is to destroy the penalty of sin that brings death. The law of Moses shows us that we are all sinners and that we need God’s help to be set free. (Romans 8:3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

The purpose of the cross of Christ was to provide us with a standard that give life not death. As far as providing this standard of life, Christ did it all. This is the only standard that will deliver us from the power of sin. Now that we know that deliverance from our sins is available, let us make the appropriate steps to receive this deliverance.

Receiving Deliverance and the New Standard

There is a difference between providing something and receiving it. There are steps that we need to take so that we can receive deliverance from our sins and a new standard that will keep us.

We read in Romans 8:2 that the standard of the Spirit of God is the standard of life and sets us free from the standard of sin and death. This happens when we allow the Spirit of God to change our old life for a new life, our old standard for a new standard. When we turn to the Spirit of God for help, then we receive the quickening power of the Spirit to help us. (Galatians 5:24-25) *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

Those that belong to Christ have crucified the flesh so that the law/standard of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus can set us free from the law/standard of sin and death. (Romans 8:10) *And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.*

When we turn to the Spirit of God for help, then He gives us His counsel, knowledge, and strength so that we can understand the standard of righteousness. This standard of righteousness will set us free from the standard of sin and death. (Isaiah 11:2) *And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*

It is an “inward principle or standard of life within us,” as we exchange the old life for a new life. When we open our heart to the Spirit of life, then the Spirit of God dwells within us giving us new life, a new standard, and we walk in newness of life. This is how we are set free from the law of sin. As the Holy Spirit takes possession of our inner man, we are then set free from the sinful nature and we are now walking in the Spirit.

The Bible tells us that it is the will of God that we put off our corrupt nature and put on God’s standard of righteousness. (Ephesians 4:22-24) *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Christ’s purpose in going to the cross was to bring sinners into His death. This is the only way that we can be delivered from our sins. As we accept Christ as our Savior and are water baptized into His name, we are buried with Him so that we could be delivered from our sins and have a new standard to guide us. (Romans 6:4-6) *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. (5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection: (6) 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.*

Buried with Christ in baptism will deliver us from our sins. (Acts 2:38) *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Now we are to walk and live as Christ did. (1 John 2:6, GW) *Those who say that they live in him must live the same way he lived.*

By faith we live in the new standard. And this keeps us delivered from our sins.

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

By living in this new standard, we are delivered and dead to sins, and alive in Christ. (Romans 6:11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The purpose for the cross of Christ is to provide deliverance from our sins. As far as providing deliverance, Christ did it all. As far as receiving deliverance, we must put to death our old standard by repentance, water baptism in name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and walking in the standard of God.

Victory Through the Cross of Christ

The Cross of Christ - Session Two

(Isaiah 53:4) Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

(Romans 6:6) 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.

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

(1 John 3:8) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

In Isaiah chapter 53, God states the purpose of the cross. This passage of Scriptures was prophesied about B.C. 700. It was prophesied that the Christ would be “despised and rejected of men” (verse 3). In this chapter, prophecies will show us the purpose for the suffering Christ and the purpose for the cross.

Isaiah 53:1 says, “**Who hath believed our report?**” Who will believe this report? Who will believe that the suffering and death of the Christ will give us life? Who will believe that we can be set free from the bondage of sin and death, and receive the Spirit of Christ which is the Spirit of life (Romans 8:2)?

(Romans 13:14) **But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.** The Bible tells us to not give thought to the desires of the flesh. If we do this then we fulfill the law of sin and that brings death. Instead, we should put on Christ, or in other words we should allow the power of the Spirit of God in our life. This will give us the victory that we need. Christ gives to us all that we need to overcome grief, sorrow, sin, Satan, the world, and anything else that will hinder us from living a true Christian life. The victory is in Christ, so let us put on Christ so that we will live a victorious life.

Victory Over Grief, Sorrows, and the Nature of Sin

We should have victory and live a victorious Christian life. The normal Christian life is the “victorious life of Christ Jesus” living in and through us. Every Christian should have a smile on their face because it comes from their heart, and should be living in victory, not in defeat.

In Isaiah 53:3, our Lord Jesus Christ was “**...despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief...**” Verse 4 shows us what He took on His cross: the purpose of the cross was to take our sorrows and our griefs so that we can live the victorious life in this sin-filled world as a testimony for Christ. (Romans 6:6) **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.** We are to put our sinful nature to the cross to have victory over sin, so that we can live for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Christ took our sorrows, He took our griefs, and “**we hid as it were our faces from him**” (Isaiah 53:3). Why? Because who wants to look at Christ suffering on the cross? It might touch our hearts. We may feel guilty because we are the ones who sin, and He took our punishment.

“He was despised, and we esteemed him not” (Isaiah 53:3). Christ was despised, and we did not appreciate Him for what He did for us. If we really appreciate what Christ did for us, then we would gladly be buried with Him in baptism, and then live a holy life. We show our appreciation to Christ by how we live for Him.

We now have comfort over grief and sorrow as we look to Jesus, because He is the God of all comfort. Christ suffered so that we will be able to be comforted by His mercies. (2 Corinthians 1:3-5) Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; (4) Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. (5) For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Victory Over Sin

Do you allow sin to control your life? As we allow sin to continue in our life, these sins can become addictions. These addictions will control our life and will eventually destroy us. Christ’s purpose for going to the cross was to destroy this sin in our life. (Romans 6:14) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. Through the power of the Word of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we can say “no” to sin. (Romans 10:17) So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. This is how we can live by faith. We allow the Spirit of God and the Word of God to guide and strengthen us. Here, in God’s Word, is where we see what He says about the sinful flesh (old man), how to get victory and power over the devil, how to utilize our resources in Christ, and why Christ went to the cross. We are to utilize those resources of why He went to His cross, why He was a man of sorrows, why He was despised and rejected of men, because He bore our sins and our sinful flesh in His own body on the cross. Because Christ was free from sins, did no sin, and knew no sin; therefore, He could take our place on His cross, “For the wage of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23). This is why Christ took our death on His cross. Christ became victorious over that old sinful nature that reigns in us. Now, we are able to become victorious through Christ. We are now able to allow Christ to reign in us instead of sin. We are now a new creature in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. As we live in Christ, our sinful nature is destroyed and we become a new person.

“Surely he hath borne our griefs” (Isaiah 53:4). The purpose for Calvary was to take our sins away, and our griefs also. Sins and addictions in our life also bring much grief, not only to us, but people around us. Christ went to the cross to destroy that in our life. If we want this deliverance in our life, then we need to be crucified with Christ, buried with Him, risen with Him, and living as He lived. When we do this then we live Christ’s purpose for going to the cross. (Galatians 2:20) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Romans 6:1-7) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) 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. (5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: (6) 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. (7) For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Victory Over the World

The purpose for Christ going to the cross was to give us power to live a victorious life in this world. (Colossians 2:20) Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances. This verse means that we are to die with Christ to the world's way of doing things. We are not to be influenced by the way the world does things.

Jesus Christ has given us everything that we need to have victory and power in our life. The apostle Paul said, “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). Paul stated that he could not boast about anything he has done, but he could boast about what Christ did at Calvary. And now Paul’s relationship to the world had changed, because he no longer cared about the things of the world. When we have a true relationship with Christ, then our relationship to the world will change. (1 John 2:15) Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Victory Over Satan’s Power

We see that the purpose for the cross was so that we would also have power over satan. (1 John 3:8) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. The person that sins belongs to Satan. Christ went to Calvary so that we would be free from Satan’s hold on our life. On the cross, Christ defeated the devil. (Colossians 2:15) *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.* Now, Christ gives to His followers that power that is needed to have a victorious life over the devil.

Because the devil is our adversary (enemy to all things that are holy and true), the Bible instructs us to be alert, firm in the faith, resist the devil, and we shall be victorious. (1 Peter 5:8-9) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (9) Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. Being firm in the faith means to be loyal to biblical principles, because the Word reveals to us how we are to live, and what to believe in. True faith is revealed in the Word of God. (Romans 10:17) So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The Bible tells us that we are in warfare, a spiritual warfare. And in this warfare, God gives to us the spiritual weapons to become victorious. (Ephesians 6:10-18) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt

about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

The devil was defeated through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. And now Christ gives to us the resources that we need to be victorious with Him. These are: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer in the Spirit.

Victory Through the Cross of Christ

(Isaiah 53:4-5) Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (5) But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. The purpose of the cross of Christ was to take our punishment of sin, and give us the means to be set free from the bondage of sin. He went to Calvary so that we will become His special people and live a victorious life.

(1 Peter 2:9) But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. We are a special people, a people that belong to God. We praise God because, through the power of Calvary in our lives, we have been taken out of the darkness of sin and Satan, and now stand in the light of the Lord. Let us utilize the resources that are available to us so that we will always live a victorious life.

From "The Purpose of the Cross of Christ" by B.J. Nutter, adapted by Mark J. Starin.

Faith In The Road To Calvary

The Cross of Christ - Session Three

(Isaiah 53:1) Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

(Romans 6:11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Separation from God is the very essence of sin. To every man, "his own way" (Isaiah 53:6) ends in sin; the flesh, the old man, ends in sin. But we have the principle of spiritual life in us, which is prevailing against the sin nature, and Jesus Christ wants to bring it into captivity. (Ephesians 4:8) Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. Christ ascended into the heavens and has become victorious over the nature of sin. We too become victorious over sin as we receive the gift of salvation that is for us.

(John 1:1-3, 14) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (14) 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. The God that made us, has come and dwelt among us to give to us the free gift of salvation. He who made us, knows our weaknesses and has come to help us to be victorious.

Therefore, we need to acknowledge what Christ has given to us, and we need to see with keen spiritual vision the purpose of the Cross of Christ. We as Christians need to put into practice the very power of the cross, knowing that the Spirit of life in Christ has set us free from the law of sin. (Romans 8:2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

(Isaiah 53:1) Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? If we really believe this report, if we have faith that believes this Word of God, then we will put it into action in our life. Who has felt the arm of the Lord, the power of God in their life to set them free from the power of sin? Who believes that this great power of God can be extended to them? This is the faith that believes in God's power. We are to have faith in the fact that God has all power, and that this power can be extended to us. This is the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus that will anoint us with the power to conquer sin in our life. This power that Christ extends to us will quicken the new nature in us to live a victorious, holy, sanctified life in Christ.

(Isaiah 53:6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. This is the result of the fall of Eden (Genesis 3), which is under the curse of sin. But Jesus Christ's death on the cross was to take us out of living our own way in the sinful nature, that old creation, the old life in Adam, that it speaks about in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15. That old life in Adam is corrupted; God does not even acknowledge it. That is the purpose of our Lord Jesus Christ going to the cross, so you and I do not have to live in it. We are to allow the Spirit

of life in Christ Jesus to set us free - free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The Holy Spirit in us does for us what we cannot do, and that is to live the victorious Christian life. Christ in us to have the abundant life that He intends us to have. (John 10:10) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. That is the purpose for Calvary, to give us victory over the old nature that produces death.

(Colossians 3:3-4) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Through Christ we are dead to this sinful nature. We have a new life through Christ, and as Christ lives in us, He gives us a new hope as we wait for His coming. Again, we see that the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death. And when Christ returns, then we will appear like Him in His glory. As we live in this present world, the Bible tells us to, (Colossians 3:5) Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth... This means to put to death anythings in us that is worldly or sinful. (Romans 6:11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. As we look to Calvary, we are to let this law live in us instead of the law of sin. We are to let the power of Christ rule us instead of the power of sin. This is being alive to Christ and dead to sin.

Freedom Through Christ

(Colossians 1:14) In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins. True freedom only comes through Christ. True freedom cannot come from human nature, education, wealth, or through society. The only way that we can be set free from our sinful nature is through the blood of Christ. This is the reason for the Cross of Christ. Jesus should receive all the praise, all the honor, and all the glory because He has given us full salvation over the nature of sin. (Jude 25) To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

(Romans 6:2-7) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) 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. (5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: (6) 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. (7) For he that is dead is freed from sin. We receive freedom as we go to Calvary with Christ. We praise Jesus because He took the shame and punishment for our sins. (Hebrews 12:2) 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. Now we go with Christ to Calvary, and we receive His blood as we repent and die to sin, as we are baptized to remove the sin, and then we rise with Christ to walk in a new life. We walk in a resurrected life where the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has power over that sinful nature in us, because Jesus Christ through His death destroyed the sinful nature, so henceforth we should not serve sin. We praise Christ because He did everything needed to provide full salvation. Now, we are to

go with Christ to Calvary to receive that salvation.

(Isaiah 53:6) ...and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Everything that is corrupted in us was laid upon Jesus Christ, so that we can be set free from ourselves. This is why we should be eternally grateful to Jesus Christ our Lord. This is why we should follow the Lord and obey every commandment, because He paid the price of our sins, so that we can be set free. Now, this life changing power is available to us.

Faith in Jesus Christ

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

The life that I now live, I live by complete faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who paid the price for my freedom. I have faith in this because I have faith in the Word of God that reveals all truth. (Romans 10:17) So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Isaiah 53:1 states, “Who has believed our report?” I have believed this report. (Hebrews 11:1-2) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (2) For by it the elders obtained a good report. Just as the prophets received God’s favor for their faith, we too are able to receive God’s favor. By faith we receive the words of Jesus as He said, (Mark 1:15) And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. By faith we receive and obey the words of Jesus as He said, (Mark 16:16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. By faith we receive the Word of God and receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, (Galatians 3:14) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. And by faith we continue to live in a manner that pleases God, (Romans 5:1-2) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Through faith we take the road to Calvary, and there we are set free.

From “The Purpose of the Cross of Christ” by B.J. Nutter, adapted by Mark J. Starin.

Our Union With Christ

Cross of Christ - Session Four

Jesus turned to the multitudes that were following Him and said, (Luke 9:23) *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.* This is what we are talking about. You will deny that old nature within you. Put it off! (Ephesians 4:22) *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.* It is filled with deceitful lusts and can produce every sin that this world has ever known; this is what the unsaved live in. The unregenerate live in all those sins of the sinful nature, but we are new creations in Christ Jesus - we are to live like that. This is the purpose for the cross of Christ.

Born Again, Crucified and United With Christ

When we are born again we are born crucified, because that sinful nature was crucified with Christ. (Romans 6:6) *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.* When you are born again, you come out of the sinful nature that comes from Adam, and you are born into the righteous nature that only comes from Christ. This is our union with Christ. (1 Peter 1:23) *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.* This union with Christ will give us the power to be victorious over the nature of sin. (1 John 5:4, 18) *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.. (18) We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

We are born again when we are crucified with Christ. Jesus said, (John 3:5-6) *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* Being born of the water refers to water baptism. Jesus went to Calvary to give us His blood to redeem us, (Colossians 1:14) *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.* He also gives us His name to be buried/baptized into, (Acts 2:38) *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

When we are baptized into the name of Jesus Christ, we are united and crucified with Him. We repent and we die to our sins. In baptism is where we take on the family name, and this is where the blood of Christ is applied to us for redemption. Now that we are born of the water and the blood of Christ is applied, all of our sins and the nature of sin are completely washed away. We are now crucified with Christ to be united with Him and to be reborn in His righteousness. (Romans 6:3) *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

Sanctification of the Spirit

Being born of the Spirit is referring to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was crucified, not only to give us His blood and name, but also His Spirit to keep us living in

this new life. (Romans 8:10) And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. Born again is being crucified and united with Christ, (Romans 6:5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection.

As we have received the name of Christ we must not dishonor the family name. The Scriptures tell us to live a life that honors Christ. (1 Peter 1:2) Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

The Spirit of Christ in us sanctifies us! It is the Holy Spirit in us that puts holiness within us! It is the Holy Spirit that puts the love of Christ in us! But if you continue to live in sin, then the Holy Spirit cannot do that. That is why Paul said, (Romans 6:1) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? No! We died to sin at the cross. We are crucified with Christ so that we can walk in a new life, Romans 6:2-7.

Now, the Holy Spirit can sanctify us, because of our union with Christ. As we are called into the body of Christ, we are called to live a holy life and be obedient to the Word of God. To do this we need the help of the Spirit. (1 John 4:4) Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. It is the Spirit of God that is greater than the nature of sin. God's Spirit in us will give us the power to live a holy life. That is why Christ went to Calvary, to redeem us with His blood, give us the family name, and give us the Holy Spirit to keep us walking in righteousness.

Our Death Identification With Christ

(Romans 6:1-4) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) 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.

Every time we see in the Scriptures "into his death" that means the cross. When the Word says "we are buried with him by baptism" means that we are united with Christ through repentance and baptism in His name. We die to sin and are buried with Him in the waters of baptism. This is being crucified with Christ. And baptism in His name is to be identified with Him. This is our death identification with Christ.

Our Union With Christ

(Romans 6:5-8) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection: (6) 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. (7) For he that is dead is freed from sin. (8) Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

As we have been united with Christ's death through repentance and baptism, we also can be united with the resurrection of Christ. The only way someone can live with Christ, he must first die with Christ. We go to Calvary, not only to die with Christ, but also to live with Him. (Colossians 2:12) 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.

Our union with Christ becomes complete when we are filled with His Spirit. (Romans 8:10-11) And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. (11) 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. Now we identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. This is the purpose of the cross. For us to have a way to be completely united us with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

From "The Purpose of the Cross of Christ" by B.J. Nutter, adapted by Mark J. Starin.

The Deeper Life in Christ

The Cross of Christ - Session Five

Life in the Spirit

To be united with Christ, we have to cast off some things before we can put on the new man in Christ. (Ephesians 4:22, 24) *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts... (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Again and again we see that we have to turn from our sinful nature, put it to death on the cross, and then live in union with Christ. It takes the power of the Holy Spirit to live this way. And as we have this power in us, we are to walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16) *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* How do we walk in the Spirit? We keep a daily prayer life. And when we feel conviction to do something, or not to do something, we yield to that feeling, because this is the Spirit leading us.

What is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, which is the Spirit that was in Christ. (John 14:17) *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.* Christ told His disciples that He lived with them, but He was going to be living in them. Christ went to Calvary so that we could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7) *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

Christ told His followers that if they desired spiritual things, then they would find them in Him. (John 7:37-39) *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (39) (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)* If we hunger and thirst for spiritual things then we will find them in Christ. The purpose for the cross of Christ was to give us these spiritual things. We find these things in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Christ went to Calvary to give us the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit puts in us what God expects out of us. (Philippians 2:13) *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.* In other words it is God who produces in you the desires and actions that please Him. It takes God in us to help us to do the right thing. As we give ourselves over to the Spirit, God will fill us, lead and guide us into all truth and righteousness. (John 16:13) *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.* It is the Holy Spirit that gives us the power to live above the nature of sin. (Romans 8:8-10) *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (9) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (10) And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.* Here we see the great contrast between living in the flesh and living in the Spirit. Living in the Spirit is having the Spirit, and then allowing the Spirit to guide us into truth and righteousness.

Exchanged Life in Christ

The great exchange was this - Christ for our sins. This is the purpose for the Cross of Christ. Now we are to exchange our life of sin for a life in Christ. For believers, the message of the cross is powerful, (1 Corinthians 1:18) *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.* The power of the cross is to be dead in Christ, dead to sin, and alive to righteousness, (Romans 1:16-17) *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. In faith we live an exchanged life in Christ, (Romans 6:11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. In faith we live in righteousness, (Romans 6:19) I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. We live in righteousness because we believe in God's judgment and in His free gift for us, (Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

(Acts 1:8) *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* There great witness was a born again life that the whole world saw. A life that honored Christ. In Antioch the born-again believers lead a life of true holiness, so much so that the non-believers started to call these people Christians, because their lives were Christ-like. They lived an exchanged life in Christ. (Acts 11:26) *And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.* This is the power of this gospel, because it will change people's lives. This is the power of Christ in us, for He will give us the power to live an exchanged life.

(1 Corinthians 6:11) *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.* In the church in Corinth, Paul said that fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, thieves, drunkards, and other such sinners would not inherit the kingdom of God. Then Paul told them that some of the church people were sinners like this, but they are no long. They have been transformed by the name of Jesus in baptism and by the power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is the exchanged life in Christ. As a result of this changed life, we receive the promise of heaven.

A deeper life of walking in the Spirit will give us the power that we need to walk in righteousness. (Romans 8:10) *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*