

# Faith In The Road To Calvary

## The Cross of Christ - Lesson Three

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(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

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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.

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### 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.