

Speak of what I've done

Christ's provision for you on the Cross

Mark Hemans

Encounter Ministries Publications
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About the author

Mark Hemans was born in Chile, migrating with his family to Sydney, where he grew up in the context of the great charismatic movement of the 1970's. He was converted as a boy and called by the Lord to pastor at the age of 17. He received the baptism in the Holy Spirit at that time, and was healed of partial deafness.

In 1984 he received his B. A. in Biblical Studies from Wheaton College, Illinois, B.Th and Dip Min. from Ridley College, Melbourne. He entered the pastorate in 1989 serving in Melbourne. This was followed by missionary service in the outback of Paraguay, South America. He is now pastor of Living Hope Church, in Liverpool, NSW.

In 2004 the Lord spoke to him in a dream to begin itinerant ministry. He founded Encounter Ministries Int. and has been travelling to various countries. The focus of his teaching ministry is the Person of Jesus Christ, the Cross, and the Kingdom of Heaven. The teaching of the Word has been accompanied by miraculous healings which you can read about at www.hope.au.com

Endorsements

The endorsing of a book in my mind is also the endorsement of a person, the author who writes the book. Mark Hemans has written a clear and straightforward "summary" of the essentials of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, and he has supported what he has written with many references to scripture and with wonderfully interesting stories from his life and the lives of others. And behind this book, there is the man. You can catch his heart for people, for the Kingdom and for Father God as you read this book. I commend him and what he has written to you for that reason.

Here we find an expression of God's heart, written in the life of a man who loves God and people, now placed on paper. May Abba encourage you and touch you deeply through *Speak What I've Done* and the man who wrote it.

Dr. Tom Wymore
National Simple/House Church Coach
US Foursquare Churches

"Speak of what I've done." The author has obeyed that command to the letter.

I have known the author since he was a boy & seen him grow into a true man of God mighty in His Word.

Ps Mark has written a number of books and he brings to it the same fervour for teaching the truth from Scripture as shown in his earlier writings..

Mark is a former missionary to South America & still has a passion for mission that reaches out to the unreached of many lands. He is a true & humble servant of the living God & obedient to Him & His Word.

During almost 20 years since his ordination as a pastor, he has shown himself to be gifted as an evangelist and a teacher-preacher with a ministry of healing & deliverance.

This book again reveals his style of writing as being simple but profound, easy to understand, practical & relevant to life. As is his custom, it is soaked in Scripture & its exposition.

It is a book to be richly enjoyed & from which great benefit may be obtained.

Pastor Greg Blaxland.
Former missionary to South America
Co-Founder of the mission agency Operation Abba

Mark Hemans' teaching in "Speak of What I Have Done" is securely based on Scripture and on his own experience of the powerful out working of the Cross. Each page bears witness to the anointing of the Holy Spirit as the

reader is invited to share in a deeper understanding of the love of Jesus as revealed through His suffering, death and resurrection.

Either by covering the whole text or by prayerfully reading a chapter at a time, this book offers rich material for meditation, praise and worship, and stirs us into a hunger and desire to know Jesus more intimately.

Pat Shepherd
Director of Restoration
Healing Prayer Ministry

*“For the word of the
cross is folly to those
who are perishing, but to
us who are being saved it
is the power of God.”*

1 Corinthians 1:18

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*“Sing praises to Him,
sing praises to Him, tell
of all His wonderful
works!”*

Psalm 105:2

God speaks through a printer

One evening I was preparing to preach at our Spanish congregation. I had written my sermon in Spanish and clicked the “print” button. But nothing happened. I then unplugged the printer, cleared the print dialogue box, but still nothing happened. My wife and I prayed over the printer. When we finished praying suddenly the printer began printing on its own.

It printed in English, not Spanish. It did not print anything that was in my computer. God had intervened and connected the printer to heaven to deliver a message to all of us. It was a prophetic miracle. The printer printed the following five words:

Speak of what I've done

At first I thought that the Lord was saying to speak of the good things that He does in our lives. To speak of His salvation, healings, miracles, and deliverance. But the message had a deeper meaning. We are to speak of the Cross of Jesus Christ. It is wonderful to testify of God's goodness in our lives, but the greatest thing that God has done for us is to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the Cross. Everything else that the Lord does is because of the Cross.

In the New Testament the power of the Holy Spirit was released as the church preached the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God's power will be released to us as we understand the provision of the Cross. God's power will be released through us as we speak of the work of the Cross to others.

“For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” **1 Corinthians 1:17-18**

*“To me... this grace was
given, to preach to the
Gentiles the
unsearchable riches of
Christ,”*

Ephesians 3:8

The provision of the Cross

So many people have no idea why Jesus died on the Cross. They think of Jesus as a dead man hanging on a crucifix on the wall of their room. The Cross for them is a religious object that has no practical connection with their life. Even Christians suffer needlessly because of their ignorance of what happened on the Cross.

It is like having a friend who deposited a million dollars into your bank account, but no one told you about the deposit. You are completely in the dark about the money. You have no idea that it is there. You think that you are broke and that there is nothing in your account. You feel miserable with all your money problems. If only you knew that the money was there you would go and draw on it. You would no longer be broke. Your needs would be met.

Everything that we need in the Christian life has been provided for on the Cross. There is nothing that you face, no challenge in life, that has not been dealt with by the Cross of Jesus.

Now through faith in Jesus, you can access the heavenly deposit that God has made on your behalf. In Jesus Christ you will discover that His riches to you are limitless. As Paul wrote:

“To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,”

Ephesians 3:8

*“But God shows his love
for us in that while we
were yet sinners Christ
died for us.”*

Romans 5:8

Love

The Cross is the greatest expression of God's love in the history of humanity. Jesus suffered being whipped, his hands and feet nailed, thorns planted into his scalp, pain, shame, and rejection, all because He loves you. The Father loves you so much that He sent His only Son to die for you.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

When people go through a crisis they sometimes say: “How can God love me and let this happen to me.” Through the Cross you can always access God's love. We only have to look at the Cross to know the extent of God's love for us. God so loved us that Christ died for us even while we were in rebellion against Him.

“While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:6-8

God's love for us is so great that His Son Jesus died for us while we were His enemies. He died for us who rejected Him and went our own way.

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Isaiah 53:6

Jesus, while He hung on the Cross, even asked the Father to forgive the people who mocked and crucified Him. On the Cross He loved and forgave His enemies.

“And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”

Luke 23:33-35

Every provision of the Cross is an expression of God's love. For example, through the Cross, God's love is released for healing from sickness and pain. God heals us because He loves us.

It is the Cross that is the constant reminder of God's love to us. We know He loves us because He died for us. Paul says:

“... and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20b

No crisis that comes our way can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We live in the Last Days with persecution, terrorism, wars, hurricanes, tsunamis, famine and plagues. But God's great promise of unfailing love remains steadfast.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded

as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:35-39

*"The Spirit of the Lord
GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has
anointed me to bring
good tidings to the
afflicted;"*

Isaiah 61:1

The divine exchange

A divine exchange took place on the Cross. Jesus took the negative to give us the positive. He took the problem to give us the answer.

He took our sin and gave us His righteousness, our spiritual death for abundant life, our curses for blessing, our condemnation for peace, our punishment for justification, our pain for relief, our sickness for healing, our weakness for strength, our faint spirit for praise, our rejection for acceptance, our guilt for forgiveness, our shame for glory, our mourning for joy, our emotional hurt for comfort, our bondage for freedom, our poverty for His riches, our oppression for deliverance, our hunger for divine bread, and our thirst for living water.

Many more are the blessings available to us through the Cross. Jesus read out Isaiah's prophecy of this divine exchange. He then sat down and declared that in Him it had been fulfilled. When we put our faith in Jesus, we can personally experience this divine exchange.

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me... to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified."

Isaiah 61:1 & 3

When we come to the Cross of Christ all these provisions are ours by faith. He takes our sin and all its consequences, and we receive all the blessings of heaven.

“Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Colossians 1:12-14

The more we as Christians identify with the Cross of Christ the more we will experience the divine exchange. As we bring our sin, curses and sickness to the Cross, we will experience God's mighty power. As we crucify the desires and works of the flesh we shall experience the resurrected life of Jesus Christ flowing through us.

*“For I am not ashamed
of the gospel: it is the
power of God for
salvation to every one
who has faith”*

Romans 1:16

The Power of God

One day while praying in the church I looked at the large wooden cross hanging on the wall. As I watched, its appearance changed. I saw the wind of the Spirit blowing powerfully around the cross. In the wind there was fire, like a fire ball in a bush fire.

The vision helped me to understand that the Holy Spirit comes in power to confirm the preaching of the Cross. The Holy Spirit applies the provisions of the Cross in our lives. He convicts sinners of their sin so that they can be saved. The Holy Spirit takes the Blood of Jesus and sanctifies the believer.

In fact every provision of the cross is made available through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will come mightily in the life of the believer who knows the Cross in his life.

It is through the preaching of the Cross that the wind and fire of the Holy Spirit is manifest. Wind symbolizes the power of the Holy Spirit, and fire His cleansing, sanctifying role. It is only through the cross that we come into the life, power and cleansing of the Holy Spirit.

So the power of God is actually manifest through the preaching of the Cross. The Holy Spirit comes to confirm with signs and wonders the message of the Cross.

Some people will preach about the Cross and not mention the Holy Spirit. Others talk about the Holy Spirit, but not the Cross. The work of the Holy Spirit is to apply the Cross to our lives. The Holy Spirit and the Cross of Christ are not to be separated.

The Gospel is in fact the Good News that Jesus Christ died for us and was resurrected in Glory. The power of the Holy Spirit is released as we preach the Gospel.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Romans 1:16

*“The water that I shall
give him will become in
him a spring of water
welling up to eternal
life.”*

John 4:14

Heavenly waters

When the Lord called me to pastor I was only seventeen. After finishing school I studied theology for eight years. After my studies I was placed in a very conservative church. I looked at the fruit of my ministry and I didn't see much. People weren't being saved or healed. I was fruitless because I was dry. A fruit tree will not produce good fruit without water. My problem was personal drought.

The Lord helped me to realize my need for the Holy Spirit. I was thirsty and began to seek God. I went to a charismatic conference. In one of the workshops I turned to the counsellor beside me and asked for prayer. I told the young man that I was thirsty for God.

As he prayed I felt the power of the Holy Spirit come on me. I said to the counsellor that I felt I was going to fall down. I had little understanding of the power of the Holy Spirit. As I lay on the carpet others prayed over me. I couldn't understand what they were saying. Their voices sounded like I was under water, and they were speaking to me from above.

I had been baptised into the waters of God. The Bible calls it the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was some time later that I realized I had experienced this great promise of God. John the Baptist said:

"After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I

have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Mark 1:7-8

The Holy Spirit had satisfied my deep thirst. I had received from the river of life that flows from heaven above. After this experience the Lord moved me to a Spirit-filled church. Here I learnt more about the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

I then began to see fruit in my life. As the Holy Spirit would come in meetings we saw mighty things happen. People became drunk in the Holy Spirit, laughing and speaking in other tongues. Demons were cast out and miracles happened. One woman left her walking frame and walked freely. The power of God came upon her so strongly that she said her hair curled. We give God all the praise.

To all who are thirsty we have this promise from God that there is a heavenly drink:

"When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water." **Isaiah 41:17-18**

"They shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall smite them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them."

Isaiah 49:10

When Jesus was thirsty He asked a Samaritan woman to draw water from a well. Then He said to her:

"Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." **John 4:13-14**

On the Cross Jesus was thirsty and unsatisfied. He experienced our dryness that we might drink from Him. When we are thirsty for God we can come to Jesus and be satisfied.

"After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), "I thirst." A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." **John 19:28-30**

The thirst that Jesus experienced was actually in fulfillment of prophecy. Hundreds of years prior to the crucifixion the psalmist prophesied:

"...and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

Psalm 69:20

Why was His thirst so important to be mentioned in this way? Because each of us have a spiritual thirst that can only be satisfied in Christ. Jesus died that we might be able to drink freely of His heavenly waters.

The Holy Spirit could not be poured out at Pentecost until Jesus had been glorified through His death, resurrection, and exaltation. It is only because of the death

of Christ that we can experience the baptism and infilling of the Holy Spirit.

*“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, “If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” **John 7:37-39***

Prayer for the baptism in the Holy Spirit

If you have not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit you are invited to pray this prayer:

“Heavenly Father I ask You to forgive me for my sins (name them....), and I renounce the sins of my ancestors. With Your help I forgive all those who have hurt me, and I ask that You bless them. Cleanse me by the blood of Jesus. Fill me with the power of Your Holy Spirit so that I might live a holy and pleasing life, share the Gospel with others and fulfill Your will in my life. Thank you, Father, that You are generous and You have promised in Your Word the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Now I receive it by faith. I thank You by faith for the gift of tongues. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.”

*“Being justified freely by
His grace through the
redemption that is in
Christ Jesus...”*

Romans 3:23-24

Grace

As a young boy of 10 years, I received Jesus as my Saviour. I asked Him to forgive me my sins and come into my life. The next day when I woke I experienced the Father God. I knew that this Great Creator God who fills the universe and beyond, had become my personal Father. I knew that He loved me, and that I had become His child.

No longer was God distant to me. No longer did I feel separate from Him. My sin had been removed. I had been adopted into God's family. I knew that the Lord was with me, and He loved me as a Father loves His child. When I was 18 my father died and I went overseas to study. It was a lonely time away from family and friends, as well as grieving for my father. But I found that I was not alone. My Father in Heaven was with me, bringing me comfort.

We come into a loving relationship with our Heavenly Father, by grace. God's grace enables us to become beloved children of the Heavenly Father. We all need to know that we are accepted by our Father in heaven, and that His favor rests upon us. We don't deserve His love nor His favor, it's a gift called grace.

Most people are trying to earn their way into heaven by doing good works, or being religious. There is nothing we can do to make us acceptable before God. Jesus did it all on the Cross. When we repent and believe in Jesus, God's grace takes over.

Paul often greeted his readers with a reminder of the grace of God. By grace we come to the Father. By His grace we are enabled to live each day.

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.”

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

“To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2 Timothy 1:2

Beloved children

Through Jesus we have become the beloved sons and daughters of God. Our Father in heaven views us with favor and love.

“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see Him as he is.”

1 John 3:1-2

When Jesus came out of the baptismal waters, heaven opened and the Father God spoke these words: *“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*

Matthew 3:17

Now through Jesus we also are God’s beloved children, with whom He is pleased. This is God’s grace towards us.

Lift your eyes to heaven

When you lift your eyes to heaven, to the very throne of God, how does God respond to you? If you believe in Jesus, He looks upon you with pleasure and delight, with great love and mercy. His favor is upon you.

“Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, ‘The LORD bless you and keep you: The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace’.”

Numbers 6:23-26

If we are in Christ Jesus we are in God’s grace. God is not angry with us. We are not under His condemnation or judgment. Rather His face shines upon us. We are enveloped by His great goodness. Peace and joy fill our hearts. We experience His power welling up within us. A divine power and joy that enables us to overcome and conquer in life. All of this we call grace.

When God Almighty looks upon us, He sees us through the Cross. He see us through the atoning Blood of Jesus Christ. He sees the righteousness of Jesus. All our sins are washed away. Praise God.

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

God’s unmerited favor

This grace cannot be earned. We cannot merit God’s favor. It is available to all whose sins have been atoned for by the Blood of Jesus. A false gospel is one that

substitutes grace for rules. Observing religious rules and rituals is what characterizes all false religions and cults. For them, access to heaven is like climbing a ladder. Every rung of the ladder is a religious ritual that has to be observed.

The problem is that being religious will never take away one's sin, nor will it get one into heaven. Jesus has done it all on the Cross. We are saved from our sin by the grace of God.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast.” **Ephesians 2:4-9**

This grace is only available through the Cross of Jesus. The favor of God under the Old Covenant of Moses is no longer available. So many Christians are confused thinking that they have to fulfil Old Testament rules and traditions.

“And I took my staff Grace, and I broke it, annulling the covenant which I had made with all the peoples.”

Zechariah 11:10

What I am saying is that you cannot gain favor with God through religion. You cannot please God by obeying religious rules. The Latin root for the word religion is law. People who are religious are trying to earn God's favor by obeying rules. But God has chosen to pour out His grace upon those who repent and believe in Jesus.

“For the law came through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” **John 1:17**

On the Cross, Jesus Christ fulfilled the legal requirements of the Old Covenant.

"...blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross." **Colossians 2:14**

By His grace we stand

We stand in His Grace because we have repented of our sins, and have faith in Jesus Christ. We have been justified, just as if we had never sinned. We have been made right with God through the Blood of Jesus. We stand therefore in God's Presence by His grace, and not by our own goodness.

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God."

Romans 5:1-2

Once we were under God's condemnation and anger because of sin. But now God's abundant grace has been poured out upon us by faith in the Blood of Jesus. Through Jesus we receive this wonderful grace.

"... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..."

Romans 3:23-24

Grace is joy

The word grace comes from the Greek word meaning joy. There is great joy in having your sins forgiven. Heaven rejoices over the salvation of one sinner. Jesus endured the Cross knowing the joy that was soon to come. He knew that the Cross would release joy upon

repentant sinners. The Christian life is to be one of joyful service to our Lord.

"...looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:2

This grace or joy is what gives us strength for each day. Remember that this grace is in Jesus. In Him we find the strength to deal with every challenge that comes our way.

"Honor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!"

1 Chronicles 16:27-28

"...do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10

When we walk with the Lord we receive His strength. His grace makes us strong.

"You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus,"

2 Timothy 2:1

The sin of presumption

This grace is not to be taken for granted. Let's not think: "Oh well God is merciful and He will forgive my sins", and then continue on in our sin.

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?"

Romans 6:1-2

When you come to the Cross you die to sin, so that you may receive grace. You cannot expect God's grace, while choosing to live in sin!

Often times Christians deceive themselves into thinking that some sin in their life does not matter. They believe that God will still bless them. That which a man sows he will reap. If we sow in sin, we will reap its consequences.

We cannot say, "Well, I am trusting God to bless me", and at the same time choose not to walk in godliness. Grace always flows through submission to God. The key to God's grace is humble repentance.

"But he gives more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you."

James 4:6-10

Stay in the place of grace

The Scripture warns us not to wander off from our position of God's grace. God's grace flows through a total dependence upon Jesus Christ. Any teaching that tells us to rely upon something other than Jesus is false. Today there are many sects and false religions that would try to drag us away from the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents.”

Hebrews 13:8-9

So let's take care every day to be totally Christ centred, depending upon Him, quick to repent of sin, that we might know the riches and joy of walking by faith in Jesus.

“Take care, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end,” **Hebrews 3:12-14**

God's Plan

God's plan for the coming ages is to reveal to us the riches of His grace, favor and kindness to us. What an amazing thought! The coming ages refers not just to years or generations but immense time spans. This is God's purpose for you, to reveal His immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

“But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:4-8

*“For God sent the Son
into the world, not to
condemn the world, but
that the world might be
saved through Him.”*

John 3:17

Mercy & Justice

He carried our sins

When Jesus died on the Cross He took upon Himself every type of sin and evil. Every conceivable sin was laid upon Jesus: unforgiveness, witchcraft, hate, violence, murder, abortion, lust, sexual abuse, pride, slander, and so on. He took it all.

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Isaiah 53:6

His holiness and justice

God is holy and just. God will not compromise His holiness, nor his justice. Sin must therefore receive its just punishment. God is not going to overlook sin whether it be a savage murder, or an unkind word. Jesus although perfectly sinless, received the punishment of our sins by dying on the Cross. True justice means you can't turn a blind eye to sin. God's mercy will never compromise His justice.

We can't go before God's judgment seat and say: *“Well I haven't been too bad. God, let me into heaven.”* Justice demands a penalty for sin. So God laid His justice upon Jesus as He hung on the Cross with our sins. God's mercy came to us at an enormous price.

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.”

Isaiah 53:5

The price of sin

God’s justice is shown in two ways. First, God’s justice towards sin is revealed in the Cross. Jesus received the punishment that we deserve. God can forgive us because His Son paid the price of sin, which is death.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

The eternal judgment of sinners

Second, God’s justice is shown by His eternal judgment of sinners who do not accept the Gospel. Those who reject Jesus will be punished in hell. Hell is a real place of eternal torment.

“For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

John 3:17-18

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Matthew 10:28

God’s mercy

God’s mercy towards sinners is shown by offering forgiveness of sins. Everyone who by faith receives what Jesus did on the Cross is forgiven. The amazing thing about

the Cross is that it satisfies both God's justice (there must be punishment of sin), and His mercy (forgiveness to those who repent).

"But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

Ephesians 2:4-7

Injustice

What about when we experience injustice? When someone in the company who is less experienced and less qualified than us is promoted above us. Or when an estate is unfairly distributed amongst family members through the will. Or when someone has done a terrible crime and is acquitted by the courts. Who can understand and console us in such times?

Jesus was condemned and died on the Cross because of an accusation of treason against Caesar. He was accused of sedition and rebellion against the Roman Government. It was a crime he never committed. His death was a huge injustice. Although Jesus was completely innocent of the charges against Him, He was still sentenced to a horrible death.

"As a sheep led to the slaughter or a lamb before its shearer is dumb, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken up from the earth."

Acts 8:32-33

We can come to Jesus and receive the grace and strength we need in times of bitter disappointment. Jesus through the cross enables us to forgive those who have wronged us, to console and comfort us, and give us strength to overcome.

*“For our sake he made
him to be sin who knew
no sin, so that in him we
might become the
righteousness of
God.”*

Romans 5:21

Righteousness

Jesus bore our sin on the Cross that we might become the righteousness of God. What an awesome thought. Jesus died not to improve us, but to make us righteous, like God. It is only those who have become the righteousness of God who will receive eternal life. Of course this is impossible for even the most religious person. But Christ offers His righteousness to us as a gift.

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

A doctor can set a broken arm. But no one in this world can take away our sin. Only Jesus Christ, the Saviour can remove sin. So righteousness is a gift from God.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God — not because of works, lest any man should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

The sin of Adam and Eve effected all of humanity. We are all born with a sinful nature. We are all sinners. *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”*

Romans 3:23

But Jesus Christ was perfectly obedient to the Father, and without sin. Through Him we are made righteous.

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

Romans 5:19

“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God,”

1 Peter 3:18

When we come before the judgment seat of God, we shall appear in the righteousness of Christ. God will see us in the purity of Jesus.

Only the righteous shall inherit eternal life. Only the perfect will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus alone is our perfection.

“...not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith;”

Philippians 3:9

*“Every one who believes
in Him receives
forgiveness of sins
through
His Name.”*

Acts 10:43

Forgiveness & Cleansing

Sin is the one thing that separates the sinner from God. By believing in Jesus we are now forgiven.

“To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through His Name.” **Acts 10:43**

God has completely removed our sin. It no longer stands between us and God. We can enter into His Presence with the confidence that we are accepted.

The Blood of Jesus shed on the Cross cleanses us from the stain of sin and brings forgiveness. There is no other way to be forgiven and to have peace with God. There is only one way into heaven, and that is through the Blood of Jesus.

“...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” **Hebrews 9:22**

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.” **1 Peter 2:24^a**

“And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” **Matthew 26:28**

Jesus shed His blood that we might be blameless and pure before God. Every Christian needs to know that Jesus on the Cross has taken away their guilt. Praise God!

“But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”
1 Corinthians 6:11

Our sins are completely removed from the Presence of God.

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”
Isaiah 1:18

“For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.”
Psalms 103:11-12

God promises us that if we confess our sins He will forgive and cleanse us. We can know with full assurance that our sins are forgiven and that we have peace with God. See the wonderful promises that God gives those who repent of their sin...

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:9

Here we have a two-fold promise. If someone has an addiction to sin, and asks God to forgive him, then he is forgiven. The Blood of Jesus also has the power to cleanse that person of his addiction. For example someone may be an addict to pornography. He asks the Lord to forgive him, but then finds he goes back to it. He needs to first make a sincere repentance of his sin (not just regret doing it). Then

secondly, believe not only that he is forgiven, but that he has been completely cleansed of it, by the Blood of Jesus.

Through the Cross we are both forgiven and cleansed of sin. If you are in bondage to sin, then believe the promise that you are both forgiven and cleansed. If we are cleansed of our sin, then the demons of addiction have nothing to hold on to. They must leave in Jesus Name.

Demons are like flies that buzz around the garbage. You can shoo them away, but they will come back as long as the garbage is there. To get rid of the flies you must get rid of the garbage. It's the same with demons. Once the sin has been cleansed away, the demons will leave. The keys are: to sincerely repent, confess your sin, simply believe the promise that you are cleansed, and then to take authority over the demonic powers.

If you are in bondage to sin, then believe the promise that you are both forgiven and cleansed. By faith claim the promise of cleansing until the sin addiction is broken.

*“There is therefore now
no condemnation for
those who are in Christ
Jesus.”*

Romans 8:1

Justification

Jesus received our punishment that we might be justified.

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.”

Romans 5:8-9

“And the free gift is not like the effect of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.”

Romans 5:16

Many Christians go around feeling that they just aren’t good enough for God. They feel condemned and defeated. They just don’t feel they measure up. This can have a terrible effect on a person’s relationship with God, and render them ineffective in prayer.

The Bible teaches that we are justified before God. When Satan seeks to accuse you and bring feelings of condemnation, you can declare that you are justified by the Blood of Jesus. To know that you are justified is one of the first steps towards walking in victory in Christ.

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who

walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Romans 8:1-4

We can therefore come boldly into the Presence of God knowing that our sins are forgiven. We enter not on the basis of how good we are. We enter because the Blood of Jesus has made the way open for us.

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16

Satan seeks to undermine the confidence of a believer through accusation. His aim is to make us feel unworthy and condemned before God so that we will lack the confidence to draw near to Him. Accusation is a primary form of attack against the believer.

“And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”

Revelations 12:10

We overcome accusations by declaring our faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ to justify us.

“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

Romans 12:11

“No weapon that is fashioned against you shall prosper, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, says the LORD.”

Isaiah 54:17

By the Blood of Jesus we confute every tongue that rises against us in accusation. We have this great promise from God that no weapon fashioned against us shall prosper. The Blood of Jesus has cleansed away our sins and we have been justified before God, by Jesus Christ. Praise God.

Satan may accuse us of our past sins, or accuse us of things that we haven't done. But we overcome these accusations by faith in the Blood of Jesus that justifies us before God.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:15-16

Eternal life

Jesus died our death that we might live with Him for all eternity in heaven. This is the great hope of every born again Christian. One day we shall be with Him forever in His heavenly Kingdom.

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:15-16

Through the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ we have been given this precious gift of eternal life. When we receive the Lord's supper and eat the bread and drink the cup we are reminded that we are inheritors of eternal life.

“So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day... It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

John 6:53-54,63

The life that the world offers is nothing compared with the true life that we find in Jesus. When the Spirit of Jesus fills our hearts we experience the riches and glory of heaven above. We are filled with divine confidence, faith, joy and peace. In Christ there is abundant Life.

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give

life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.” **Romans 8:11**

Those who die in Christ shall be resurrected with a new body at His Second Coming. This body will be similar to the angels in that we will never die.

“Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality.”

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” **1 Corinthians 15:51-57**

We will be called the sons of God, and the sons of the resurrection. Jesus destroyed the power of death giving us hope of an eternal, resurrected life.

“...but those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die any more, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.” **Luke 20:35-36**

*“Surely He has born our
sicknesses and carried
our pains;”*

Isaiah 53:4

Healing

Healing is part of our salvation provided for on the Cross. Just as we believe for our eternal salvation, so we can believe for our healing.

“When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” **Matthew 8:16-17**

Jesus healed the sick and cast out the demons as a demonstration of the power of the Cross. The Bible says that:

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.” **Hebrews 13:8**

Today this same Jesus continues to demonstrate the power of the Cross through healing and deliverance.

On the cross there was a divine exchange. Jesus took our sickness and pain, and gives us His healing.

“Surely He has born our sicknesses and carried our pains;” **Isaiah 53:4**

The cross is healing to the whole person: body, soul, mind, emotions, and relationships. The wounds of Jesus' crucified body have released God's healing power to every area of sickness in our lives.

“By his wounds you have been healed.” **1 Peter 2:24b**

Our healing was provided for 2000 years ago on the Cross. What Jesus did on the Cross is still available today.

Healing is there in Heaven for each of us. The fact is that you may be sick. The truth is that “By His wounds you have been healed.” Your healing is already there in Heaven. That is the truth.

When the Israelites were in the wilderness they failed to trust God for food and water. Instead they rebelled and complained against Him. The Lord sent snakes which bit the people and many of them died. Then the people confessed their sin and asked for the Lord to take away the snakes.

So the Lord instructed Moses to make a bronze snake and set it up on a pole. When the people were bitten by a snake they were to look up to the bronze snake and they would be healed.

“And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent, and set it on a pole; and if a serpent bit any man, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.”

Numbers 21:5-9

The bronze snake was a symbol of the Cross. When with faith we look up to the Cross we are saved and healed. *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”* **John 3:14-15**

If you are sick surrender your sickness and pain to Him. By faith receive your healing. It is yours by the mercy of God. The Cross is God's mercy to those in sickness and pain.

God's promise of healing is real. Numerous times I have faced situations of sickness, and have seen God's healing power released to myself or others.

The power of God's Word is released through faith. This is why we must examine our hearts as to whether we are actually believing. The promises of God are not only to be declared with our lips, but also believed in our hearts.

“If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” **Romans 10:9**

*"He has sent me to bind
up the brokenhearted, to
proclaim liberty to the
captives, and the
opening of the prison to
those who are bound;"*

Isaiah 61:1

Comfort

One day I was speaking at a Bible College in Indonesia. The Lord directed me to speak to a young man. I asked him the question: "Did your parents reject you?" He said yes and then began to weep deeply as the Holy Spirit began to heal the deep emotional wounding of rejection.

He told us he had been regularly beaten by his father. His parents had told him that he was a nobody and they didn't want him. He then enrolled at the Bible College to escape his parents. He said that he hated his parents.

After the time of emotional healing and divine comfort, he began vomiting. Spirits of rejection and emotional pain left him in the mighty Name of Jesus. After his deliverance he shared how he had now forgiven his parents.

Emotional pain and mental illness are a form of sickness. One can be emotionally sick in the same way that one can be physically sick. Emotional pain and sickness is real.

The Cross provides for the healing of damaged emotions just like physical healing. We can believe in Jesus for emotional healing in the same way as we believe for physical healing.

Comfort to damaged emotions is part of God's healing provision for us. Jesus bore our sorrows on the Cross that we might know His comfort. Such was the grief

and sorrow that Jesus experienced on the Cross, that He was called “a Man of Sorrows”.

“A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.” **Isaiah 53:3**

“The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” **Isaiah 53:b**

On the Cross Jesus was rejected, scorned, ridiculed and shamed. There was a divine exchange of emotional sickness for divine comfort. Now Jesus comes to us as the “God of all comfort”. Where there was emotional turmoil, He now brings peace.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Nothing can compare to the wonderful comfort of the Holy Spirit. Praise God for the Holy Spirit who comes and applies this healing provision of the Cross. How wonderful to see people being healed in this way by the power of the Holy Spirit. How marvellous it is to see people who have been deeply hurt (rape, sexual abuse, rejection, etc), being healed, delivered, and filled with the love of God.

One of the reasons Jesus came was to heal up the broken hearted, to comfort those who mourn, to anoint

them with the oil of gladness, and put a song of praise in their mouth.

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit...”

Isaiah 61:1-3

The word sorrows in Isaiah 53:3 is used not only for physical pain but also mental pain. “Sorrows” is the same Hebrew word used to describe the anguish of the Israelites as slaves to the Egyptians.

“Then the LORD said, “I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings,” **Exodus 3:7**

On the Cross Jesus took our mental illness, fears, stress, depression, grief, rejection, and sorrows.

“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

Isaiah 53:3

In order to receive emotional healing it is so important that we completely forgive those who have hurt us. Holding unforgiveness is a denial of the Cross. Jesus died on the Cross so that we may be forgiven. If we hold unforgiveness we deny the Cross, and the Gospel. If you

have been raped, sexually abused, slandered or rejected you must forgive from the heart.

Forgiveness is something that you may have to do repeatedly. Every time you think of the person who wronged you, forgive them. Forgiveness is a choice we make with our will. Forgiveness does not normally arise from our feelings. We choose to align ourselves to God's Word, and to forgive.

I was in a church where a person began to falsely accuse me. The slander spread through the church. I was devastated and went into depression. For three days I lay in a darkened room. The Senior Pastor sent me away for rest. But the sense of pain and depression remained. Whenever I thought of the people involved I would forgive, bless and pray for them.

However, I continued to be depressed for about six months. Then one day the Lord showed me a picture of a knife in my chest. It was a spirit of emotional pain that was causing me so much grief. That day I wept before the Lord. I was completely and instantly delivered.

My inner healing and deliverance happened after months of choosing to forgive, bless and love. Choosing to forgive not because I felt like it, but because God's Word told me to. Forgiving others puts us in a position to receive divine inner healing.

Many times people who have been deeply hurt are afflicted by evil spirits. This was my own experience after

being slandered. These spirits include: demons of emotional pain, grief, bitterness, rejection, trauma, and sexual spirits. For example, young boys that have been raped are often afflicted by a homosexual spirit. They may grow up to become homosexuals or even paedophiles themselves.

It is worth mentioning that there are spirits of emotional sickness and pain, just as there are spirits of physical sickness. In emotional healing there is normally a need for deliverance from such spirits as trauma, grief, emotional pain, sexual abuse, hate, and unforgiveness.

It is my experience that spirits of emotional pain, self-pity, or rejection can seek to find entry and attack us, robbing us of peace. They often seek entry through misunderstandings with others, or some offence. Instead of giving in to feelings of hurt and resentment, we need to rebuke these spirits, claiming the Blood of Jesus to protect us.

We are all involved in spiritual warfare. Emotional offence, feelings of rejection and grief are a common form of spiritual attack. If you have been scarred by deep emotional pain, you need to be aware that spirits of emotional pain and rejection may seek opportunity against you. Satan seeks to attack our weaknesses. Stand your ground in the Name of Jesus against these evil spirits. Choose to walk in love and forgiveness.

*“He disarmed the
principalities and powers
and made a public
example of them,
triumphing over them
in Him.”*

Colossians 2:15

Victory

While a missionary in Paraguay I was invited to go over to the neighbours to pray for their daughter. The young lady suffered from demon possession. When I arrived she was restless, walking from place to place. She had lost her mind, was irrational and muttering to herself. I was unable to talk with her.

The parents thought that someone had cursed their daughter. They were not Christians. In their ignorance they had gone to witches seeking spiritual deliverance (“white magic”). When this failed I was asked to come. I was unable to pray or talk with the young lady as she was in such a terrible state. So I prayed with the parents a simple prayer of faith in the Name of Jesus. I commanded the demon to leave, and thanked God for her complete deliverance by faith in Jesus. I then returned home.

A couple of days later I received word that this girl was completely healed and in her right mind. It was the most amazing miracle in deliverance. Praise God. Provision for that girl’s deliverance was made 2000 years ago on the Cross. We can all access that victory through the prayer of faith.

On the Cross Jesus totally defeated Satan. We have no need to be afraid of Satan or his demons. By faith in Jesus we can walk in the victory of the Cross.

The reasons why some Christians are afraid of demons is that they do not realize the total victory that Jesus

won on the Cross. The powers of darkness have been disarmed, humiliated, and conquered by Jesus.

“having forgiven us all our trespasses, having cancelled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him.” **Colossians 2:13b-15**

This total victory over the enemy was achieved by Jesus on our behalf. We don't overcome Satan by our own efforts. The battle has already been won. This is why Scripture says that we overcome him by the Blood of the Lamb.

“And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

Revelations 12:10-11

In spiritual warfare we must maintain a total confidence in the already completed victory of the Cross. In Christ we have the victory. The key to victory is faith in Jesus, and His shed Blood.

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood.”

1 John 5:4-6

Our strength in the battle is in Christ. It is He who clothes us with power from heaven to do battle. It is He who stands in our midst as the Anointed One driving out demons.

“The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”
Zephaniah 3:17

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Ephesians 6:10-13

One of the keys to walking in the victory of Jesus is total submission to Him. You cannot walk in disobedience to God and have victory in spiritual warfare. Eventually your sin will be your undoing. But if we submit to God, and resist the devil, then we have this wonderful promise that he will flee from us.

“But he gives more grace; therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
James 4:6-7

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. The works of the devil are many, but specifically Jesus dealt with sickness and demonisation. When you pray for the sick

or the demonised you are directly confronting the powers of darkness. Healing is a form of spiritual warfare.

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” **1 John 3:8b**

Almost wherever Jesus went He healed the sick and cast out demons. Physical and emotional healing often go hand in hand with deliverance ministry. By faith in Jesus we have authority and victory over all types of evil spirits.

“That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered together about the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.” **Mark 1:32-34**

Addiction

Jesus was bound in order that we might be set free. He was bound by the soldiers in the garden before He was led away for trial. Jesus surrendered His freedom, in order that He might break off our bondages. These bondages may be thoughts, emotions, &/or demons.

“So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him.” **John 18:12**

A friend of mine was addicted to hard drugs for many years. When he came to Jesus in 1995 he repented of his sins. Jesus completely delivered him from all drug addiction. That is the miraculous power of the Blood of Christ.

Are you struggling with an addiction and can't get free of it? The Blood of Jesus has the power to completely cleanse us from addiction and to break the demonic power behind that sin. For example through the Blood of Jesus a person can not only be forgiven for gambling, but also be cleansed and delivered from the spirit of gambling.

By faith we take hold of both promises: forgiveness and cleansing. We can be forgiven for a sin, but we need to be cleansed so as not to go back into it. The Blood of Jesus cleanses us from the demonic powers behind sin that draw people back into addiction.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

1 John 1:7

*“If we walk in the light,
as he is in the light, we
have fellowship with one
another, and the blood of
Jesus his Son cleanses us
from all sin.”*

1 John 1:7

The power of the Blood

Victory over the devil

When Jesus died on the Cross He shed His precious Blood. Every Christian must know and believe that there is power in the Blood. We need to be completely convinced that through the Blood of Jesus we have total victory over the powers of darkness. We as Christians are involved in a very real spiritual battle. On the Cross Jesus defeated Satan that we might walk in victory.

There must be no wavering in doubt, but total faith in the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus by His death on the Cross has destroyed the devil. The devil and his demons are totally defeated by the Blood of Jesus. This victory is released to us by faith in that Blood.

*“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage.” **Hebrews 2:14-15***

Through the Blood of Jesus we have protection from harm. The Lord commanded the Israelites to take the blood of the Passover lamb and place it on the doorposts. When the destroyer came through the land of Egypt it passed by the Israelite houses. The blood atoned for their sins and gave them protection from death.

“Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood which is in the basin; and none of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. For the

LORD will pass through to slay the Egyptians; and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to slay you.

Exodus 12:22-24

Jesus Christ is our Passover lamb. We take the precious Blood of the Lamb of God and apply it to lives. By faith we believe that His Blood will protect us from the destruction of the enemy.

“For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”

1 Corinthians 5:7b (NKJV)

Victory over condemnation

Satan is the accuser of the Brethren. His aim is to make us feel condemned and guilty before God. This false sense of guilt is different from the true conviction of the Holy Spirit. If Satan can make us feel unworthy before God, he can rob our confidence to come into God's Presence.

“Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.”

Hebrews 10:35

This false sense of unworthiness and guilt can be very destructive to our intimacy with God, making us ineffective in prayer, and fruitless in the ministry. Confidence before God comes through the knowledge that our righteousness is not our own, but through the Blood of Jesus.

False guilt is countered by confessing the power of the Blood of Jesus to completely remove our sins from the Presence of God. You are invited to say this declaration:

“By the Blood of Jesus of Jesus I am cleansed, forgiven, justified, and accepted by the Father. By the Blood I may enter before the throne of God with full confidence.”

“Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Hebrews 10:19-22

”If one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

Colossians 3:13

Grace to forgive

One day I was hurt by someone who spread a lie about me. I felt awful. Then the Lord showed me a vision of Himself hanging on the Cross. I heard the words of Jesus, “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*” I realized that on the Cross Jesus has given to me the power to forgive. Right then I prayed and the Lord enabled me to immediately forgive the person.

Imagine how on the Cross Jesus freely forgave the very people who had just driven nails into His hands and feet. By forgiving His enemies Jesus releases to us the grace to forgive others.

“And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.” **Luke 23:33-34**

On the Cross Jesus was the object of scorn and ridicule. He took upon Himself every form of verbal abuse that we may experience. In exchange He gives us the grace to forgive, to let go of offence, and to love. Dealing with offensive and provocative people can be very draining and discouraging. Through the Cross we receive a heavenly love that overcomes enabling us to press on.

“Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” **Hebrews 12:3**

When I have been hurt by someone I find this a helpful prayer:

“Lord I forgive _____. I love him, bless him, pray for him, and release him from all negative feelings and unforgiveness.”

In this way our own spiritual life is not polluted by unforgiveness, resentment and bitterness. We can move forward in our life in Christ, unhindered by resentment.

As we walk in love and forgiveness we will find that our own emotional healing will come speedily from heaven. The damage done to us by hurtful words will be soothed by the comfort of the Holy Spirit. But if we continue in unforgiveness we will block the healing love of Christ.

How important is it to forgive others? To hold unforgiveness is to deny the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news of God's love and forgiveness towards sinners. God in His great mercy has forgiven us all our sins, shouldn't we show this same mercy to those who sin against us?

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

Colossians 3:12-15

Jesus told the parable of a lord who forgave a servant a great debt. This same servant then went out and grabbed one of his own servants who owed an insignificant amount of money. Without mercy he threw him into goal. Think how much Jesus has forgiven us! We are the same as the unforgiving servant when we fail to forgive others.

Jesus sternly warned us that if we do not forgive our brother from the heart neither will our Heavenly Father forgive us.

“Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Matthew 18:32-35

So when you come to the Cross in need of God’s forgiveness and mercy towards yourself, remember to forgive those who have wronged you.

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Matthew 5:23-24

How easy it is to say that we have forgiven someone and yet our heart is still cold and unloving towards that person. We think “Just because I have forgiven doesn’t mean I have to like them. I’ve forgiven but I’m not going to talk to them.” We keep a cold distance from the person.

This is not forgiveness, it is probably resentment and bitterness. We are to forgive and love people from the heart. Through the Cross we receive a divine love and power to forgive our enemies.

*“Come to him, to that living
stone, rejected by men but in
God’s sight chosen and precious;”*

1 Peter 2:4

Acceptance

The need for acceptance is one of the most critical needs in our society. No one likes to be the one left out. Like teenagers who so often crave acceptance by their peers.

Although some may not recognize it, our deepest need is for acceptance by our Heavenly Father. When we know that we are accepted by the Father God, we no longer crave everyone else's approval. The longing in our heart to be loved and included has been satisfied.

Paul wasn't concerned if other people criticized him because He knew that God had accepted him. I'm not saying that we should arrogantly ignore input from others. But our sense of worth comes from God, not from approval by others. Paul says:

"But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself."

1 Corinthians 4:3

In fact our esteem and value doesn't even come from ourselves! Self-esteem is a concept which is contrary to the Gospel. Our value and esteem comes from knowing that the Father loves us. We are to die to self and live in Christ.

On the Cross Jesus was rejected that we might be accepted by the Father. Think of the rejection that Jesus experienced. Jesus had poured out His life for the people. He loved them, taught them, delivered those with demons, and healed their sick. He fed the multitudes when they were

hungry. After all this the crowds still shouted for His death, and nailed Him to a Cross.

“He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

Isaiah 53:3

Yet, because of Christ's rejection we are loved, chosen, and precious to God our Father.

“Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious;”

1 Peter 2:4

“Have you not read this scripture: ‘The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes’?”

Mark 12:10

Although you may experience rejection by people, at the same time you can know that you are precious to God. One of the greatest revelations that we can have is that we are loved by our heavenly Father. That's the reason why Jesus died for us, that we might enjoy a wonderful loving relationship with our Heavenly Father.

“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his own possession, out of all the peoples that are on the face of the earth.”

Deuteronomy 14:2

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were no people but now you

are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy." **1 Peter 2:9-10**

*“But now in Christ Jesus you
who once were far off have been
brought near in the blood of
Christ.”*

Ephesians 2:13

Peace

Jesus experienced hostility and anger from others on the Cross. He took upon Himself our broken, hostile relationships. On the Cross He provided the way for us to have loving, harmonious relationships. He took our hostility to give us His peace. The door is open for us to be both reconciled with God, and with each other.

The Cross is the answer to marriage breakdown, family problems, work tensions, and so on. All that hostility and anger that we have experienced we can lay at the feet of the Cross. At the Cross we find the grace to forgive, healing for broken relationships, peace that overcomes hostility, and the love that overcomes grievances.

The Cross is where God reconciles us to Himself, and restores our relationships with others. Truly the Cross is where we find heavenly unity. Through the Blood of Jesus divisions are destroyed, a husband and wife become one, family hostilities are healed, racial divisions cease, the Church experiences unity, and we are reconciled to God.

“And you, who once were estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel which you heard,” **Colossians 1:21-23**

One of the things that causes hostility between people is legalism in relationships. A legalistic attitude is the basis for accusation and condemnation of one another. The

opposite to a legalistic attitude is a loving and forgiving attitude.

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end.”

Ephesians 2:13-16

I remember a woman asking for prayer for her broken marriage. She and her husband had hired lawyers and were fighting it out in court over the custody of their children. It seemed like an impossible situation. The children were suffering from bad asthma as a result of the stress.

We prayed the prayer of faith, believing that God was reconciling the relationship. We continued in faith for over one year. Then the Lord did a miracle. He reconciled the marriage, and healed the children of their asthma. There is power in the Cross of Christ to bring reconciliation.

*“For the LORD God is a sun and
shield; he bestows favor and
honor.”*

Psalms 84:11

Favor

Favor through the Blood

God's favor comes to us through the Cross. God looks upon us with favor because He sees that our sins are atoned for by the Blood of Jesus. Confession of sin and repentance is the door that opens into the favor of God.

"Toward the scorers he is scornful, but to the humble he shows favor."

Proverbs 3:34

God's favor is a New Covenant promise that we can take hold of by faith. Divine favor is available only to the righteous. By the Blood of Jesus Christ we have become the righteousness of God, and therefore we believe that His divine favor is upon us.

God has always shown His favor to the righteous. He showed favor to Noah, because he was a righteous man. God saved Noah and his sons from the flood, while destroying the wicked.

"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD... Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God."

Genesis 6:8-9

Through the Blood of Jesus, God sees us as righteous and therefore by faith we believe in our hearts that His favor is upon us.

"God scorns the wicked, but the upright enjoy his favor."

Proverbs 14:9

"For thou dost bless the righteous, O LORD; thou dost cover him with favor as with a shield."

Psalms 5:12

Jesus read from Isaiah 61 and proclaimed that this is the year of God's favor. All who believe in Jesus can enter His favor. This favor is still available to us today.

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor...”

Isaiah 61:1-3

Divine Favor is a promise

Divine favor on our lives is a promise of God to His children. Like any promise it is released upon us by simply accepting it by faith. We claim it by faith. You may like to say a simple prayer like this: *“Thankyou Father for your favor on my life, I receive it by faith, in the Name of Jesus.”*

You may be going through a difficult time, but when we walk by faith we look forward to the new morning. There are times of sadness, but faith declares that joy comes in the morning.

“For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”

Psalms 30:5

“For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.”

Psalms 84:11

“Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish thou the work of our hands upon us, yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.”

Psalms 90:17

Favor with God and man

When we are under the favor of God, we will also experience favor with man.

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.”

Luke 2:52

The early church experienced extraordinary favor with God. The Lord did signs and wonders testifying to the Gospel, thousands came to Christ. In this season of great favor with God, the church also experienced favor with man.

“And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:43-47

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich.”

2 Corinthians 8:9

Riches

Jesus Christ on the Cross took our poverty in order to give us His riches.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.”

2 Corinthians 8:9

On the Cross Jesus suffered total poverty. He was naked, without shelter, had no money, and without food or water. Poverty like sickness is not a blessing. Jesus does not want us to be sick or poor, that's why He took these curses upon Himself. Jesus took our curses in order to give us His blessings.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree"-- that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

Galatians 3:13-14

Jesus took our poverty in order to give us His riches. When you come to Jesus you come into the riches of His heavenly Kingdom. Financial provision is only one of the treasures of heaven. True prosperity is when you realize your full spiritual inheritance in Christ.

In Christ we are all rich, which includes not only financial provision but also such treasures as God's grace, forgiveness, love, acceptance, joy, peace, hope and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ...” **Ephesians 3:8**

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace which he lavished upon us.” **Ephesians 1:7-8**

When I preach the Gospel I feel truly rich and blessed. I am preaching out of an overflow of God's riches. I am inviting the poor, the sick, the lonely and needy to come to the riches of Christ. In the Name of Jesus there is living bread, heavenly water, complete healing, and provision for our every need. Every believer is rich in Christ.

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:19**

This is all ours because of the Cross. Christ became poor that we who believe might be rich in Him. But let's not confuse true prosperity with selfishness and greed. Jesus did not die a cruel death to fulfill our greed for more and more money and possessions. If we put Christ and His Kingdom first in our life, He will supply all our needs to do His will.

A friend of mine called me to ask for prayer. He was in a desperate financial situation. He was in debt and unable to pay his rent. Immediately I had a vision of money falling from heaven.

The vision was a symbol that the riches of heaven were being poured down from heaven to supply his need.

Shortly after the vision he had a complete turn around in his situation. The Lord enabled him to buy a house, a car, and supplied his needs to go on an overseas mission.

A similar thing happened to me recently. My family van was falling apart. As I was praying I had a picture of a van coming down from heaven. I believed the vision and went out to look for a van. The very first caryard I went to had the exact type of van I was looking for. The Lord had provided. Praise God.

Through the Blood of Jesus we have come into a new covenant with God the Father. Through this covenant we now receive our promised inheritance of the riches of heaven. This inheritance is ours by faith.

“Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

Hebrews 9:15

Heaven's riches are limitless. They are more than sufficient to cover any earthly need that we may face. The riches of heaven include everything necessary for the Christian life: love, forgiveness, comfort, healing, joy, peace, courage, boldness, and our physical needs.

*“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and
where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.”*

2 Corinthians 3:17

Freedom

When we believe in Jesus we enter into a personal relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. By the Blood of Jesus we pass the veil of religion and enter into the very Presence of God. The word religion comes from the Latin word, law. Religion is about exterior things of what you can and cannot do, rules, outward rituals and traditions.

This is what Paul means when he speaks of the removing of the veil. Rules are like a veil or a closed door, that stops us from entering the Presence of God. We cannot enter the Presence of God by obeying religious rules. If we could enter by rules, why was it necessary for Jesus to die on a cross?

“Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds; but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 3:15-18

Only through the shed Blood of Jesus do we have access to God. There is a wonderful freedom when people realize that they don't need to be religious to be loved and accepted by God.

Paul talks about the Jewish ritual of circumcision as a yoke of slavery. You cannot both try to fulfill religious

rules and be under God's grace. You are either under grace or Law. If under grace then you are free from the Law.

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Now I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who receives circumcision that he is bound to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.”

Galatians 4:1-4

On the Cross Jesus set us free from the bondage of religion. Jesus Christ now indwells the heart of the believer. We experience true freedom and joy in the Holy Spirit.

“For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit;”

Romans 14:17

*“He has delivered us from the
dominion of darkness and
transferred us to the kingdom of
His beloved Son,”*

Colossians 1:13

Light

Jesus specifically came as Light to bring us out of darkness.

"I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."

John 12:46

Every sinner is held captive in Satan's realm of darkness. It is a realm of darkness because the God of Light is absent. People prefer darkness to Light, because they do not want the Light to expose their sin.

"And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."

John 3:19-20

Light represents holiness, darkness represents sin. Every sinner is held captive in darkness by his sin. By removing our sin Jesus frees us from the power of the Kingdom of Darkness. On the Cross, Jesus transfers the believer from spiritual darkness into His Kingdom of Light.

"He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,"

Colossians 1:13

On the Cross Jesus experienced our darkness in order to give us His Light. The Father God turned away from Jesus because He bore our sin, curse and spiritual darkness.

"It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two."

Luke 23:44-45

Truly, Jesus is the Light of the world. Many times when people have an experience of Jesus they see Him clothed in Light, or they see a bright Light. This is a normal occurrence in our healing meetings.

Recently I heard a lady testify how she had been operated on six times for an abdomen tumour. For five years she had been sick. But in the meeting she saw Jesus come to her in a great Light. She felt Him lay His hand upon her head. Immediately she was healed of her sickness and all the pain gone. Praise God.

When you come to Jesus, you come into His Light. To follow Jesus means that we do not walk in the darkness of our old sins. To walk in the Light is to walk in godliness.

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

*“And those whom He predestined
He also called; and those whom
He called He also justified; and
those whom He justified He also
glorified.”*

Romans 8:30

Glory

The divine exchange on the Cross is that Jesus took our shame in order to give us His glory. The Bible portrays being naked in public as shame. Jesus died naked on the Cross. He despised the shame of the Cross, and is now seated in glory at the right hand of the Father.

“looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2

Jesus takes our shame and clothes us with His righteousness. We now glory in Him. He has made us a people of praise.

“I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.”

Zephaniah 3:19

“And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

Romans 8:30

Carnal people glory in nudity, to their shame. So much of the entertainment and advertising industry glories in shameful acts, instead of despising it.. Whether it be adultery, homosexuality, pornography, or nudity.

Jesus took our shame, clothes us with white garments, and gives us His true riches.

“Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, that you may be rich, and white garments to clothe you

and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.”

Revelations 3:18

“ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him.”

Romans 10:11-12

Many people live with a sense of shame over their past lives. They have skeletons in their closet of things that they have done and are ashamed of. They often try to cover it up. They try to make a good impression on others. They may get very angry if mention is made of their past life in front of others. Shame is so often a sign of pride.

The Christian acknowledges that he was a sinner, and by God's grace has been forgiven. His past sins become part of his testimony. His sins instead of being a motive for shame, become an opportunity to glorify God who is merciful and forgiving to those who repent.

Shame is removed when we realize that we are all equally sinners before God. But now through faith in Jesus Christ our sins have been atoned for, we are washed clean, and forgiven. People who carry shame have not fully accepted that God has forgiven them.

*“Come to me, all who labour and
are heavy laden, and I will give
you rest.”*

Matthew 11:28-30

Rest

When Jesus died on the Cross he took our strivings to give us His rest. He invites us to come to Him, in order to enter that rest.

"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

This is so important for every Christian and especially if you are involved in any type of ministry. Ministry is to flow out of a sense of peace and rest in the Lord, and not out of our striving. There is a world of difference between the two. Those on the receiving end of our ministry will experience the difference.

In Jesus we find divine rest. One of the names that Jesus called Himself was the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath was the day of rest. Jesus is the God of Rest.

"Or have you not read in the law how on the sabbath the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of man is Lord of the sabbath." **Matthew 12:5-8**

Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of the old covenant Law and traditions. The Old Testament sabbath day was a symbol of the true rest that all believers find in Christ.

The promised land of Canaan is another symbol of rest. It was to be a place of rest for the Jewish people. They had been enslaved in Egypt for 400 years. Soon they would be emancipated from their hard labour going into a land of freedom and rest. Canaan like the sabbath day, is a symbol of the eternal heavenly rest that we find in Christ Jesus.

Paul shows us that the Israelites were unable to enter the promised land because of their unbelief. Instead they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. They sinned because they did not believe God for food and water. They did not trust God to defeat their enemies and enable them to possess the land. Where there is unbelief there is always human striving. When we walk by faith in the promises of God, we rest and God works on our behalf.

In the same way, all those who do not trust in the work of the Cross for salvation will not enter the promised rest of heaven.

“And to whom did he swear that they should never enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.”

Hebrews 3:18-19

By faith in Jesus' death on the Cross we who believe will enter that heavenly rest.

“For we who have believed enter that rest,” **Hebrews 4:3**

“So then, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God; for whoever enters God's rest also ceases from his labours as God did from his.” **Hebrews 4:9-10**

In what way do we “cease from our labours”? Where there is unbelief there is always human striving. This may be the striving to be acceptable to God through religious efforts. It may be the worry and anxiety that we experience when we do not hand over our problems to God.

“Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you.”

1 Peter 5:7

When I had finished high school I needed a temporary job for a few months before I went to university. I got up early in the morning to look for work. Several weeks went by and I still had no work. The economy was in recession and it seemed impossible that I would get a job.

I realized that through my own efforts I had been unsuccessful in finding work. So I decided to do nothing and just trust God for one day. I chose to walk by faith and rest in Him. The very next day the Lord gave me a job working in a hospital only about one block from my house. Praise God. Here was an important lesson. God wants us to stop our own striving and by faith simply rest in Him.

We can find it difficult to rest in the Lord because we believe the saying: “God helps those who help themselves. You have to do your part and God will add His.” People struggle with the idea that God will give them something without them doing anything. But this is the what it means to have faith. To trust in God and not in our own works.

“And without faith it is impossible to please him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” **Hebrews 11:6**

Now in the process of trusting God, if the Lord says to do something then do it. The difference between obedience to the Lord and human striving is the attitude of the heart. One is that of trust in our own efforts. The other is to trust in God to cooperate with His leading. One is self-reliance, the other is faith.

We trust in God's mercy for salvation, why not do the same with the rest of our lives? Why not believe that God is a good and merciful God, who loves to bless His children with good things that we haven't worked for?

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God-- not because of works, lest any man should boast." **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Relying on ourselves robs us of the joys of walking by faith. Our part is to trust God's Word, and obey the leading of the Holy Spirit. When we step out in faith, we have a supernatural confidence that God is going to act on our behalf. We are simply cooperating with Him. To trust God is to rest in Him.

Recently I felt the Lord say to take my wife on a mission trip to Indonesia. I didn't have the money for her ticket. However, I trusted God to provide and booked the ticket by faith. A few days later her fare was completely provided for. It was a financial miracle. Praise God. God helps those who rest from their labours, and put their trust in Him.

"So then, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God; for whoever enters God's rest also ceases from his labours as God did from his." **Hebrews 4:9-10**

*“I have been crucified with
Christ; it is no longer I who live,
but Christ who lives in me;”*

Galatians 2:20

Crucified with Christ

A vision of my cross

I want to share a vision of the Cross that I had some years ago. But before I do so I'd like to explain the importance of visions. Visions can help us to understand the Word of God.

A Holy Spirit imparted vision is as much a reality as the physical world we live in. The Bible is filled with accounts of people who had visions. The transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain is one such example.

Peter, James and John accompanied Jesus to go up to a high mountain. There Jesus was transfigured before them:

"... his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light."

Matthew 17:1

Moses and Elijah appeared before them, and God the Father spoke audibly from a bright cloud. The disciples were so overcome with fear that they fell on their faces.

After this awesome experience Jesus says to His disciples:

"Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

Matthew 17: 9

Heaven had come down upon earth. The whole thing was real. But it was also a vision. Visions aren't just imaginations of the mind. They are heavenly realities which may or may not be seen by the physical human eye.

Heavenly revelations are shared to help one another understand the Bible and how it applies to us. I want to share a vision or revelation of the Cross I had some years ago.

One day I was resting on my bed. As I lay there I had a vision. From the ceiling a large wooden cross was lowered on top of me. In the Spirit I heard the sound of nails being hammered in. At the same moment I heard the words of the Apostle Paul:

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20

I knew that Jesus had been crucified for me. Now the Lord was also teaching me that I must be crucified. Through this vision I was learning something absolutely fundamental in the Christian life. If He is to live in me, I must die to myself.

Religious Masks

Some years ago I was associate pastor of a church in Victoria, Australia. In the 1990's they had the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit ever witnessed in the history of the state with some 35 000 people visiting the church over an 18 month period.

Prior to this mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit there was a prophecy that the Lord called us to remove our religious masks of hypocrisy. Christians put on a mask to

impress others at church, but underneath there is another face, another life.

Over the years I have found how true this is. Church people can say the religious jargon, and do the religious stuff, but they have their own secret life. A life that they work very hard to cover up and keep secret.

Our rebellious will

What people don't want to acknowledge is the secret life of our will. Here we find sheer rebellion and pride. It is that area of our lives that we refuse to yield to God. When our own rebellious will is uncovered, people say such things as:

"I will do what I want to do and no one is going to tell me otherwise. I don't care what anyone thinks. This is my life, and I'll do what I want. Mind your own business"

We find the same thing in our "spiritual life". We say, "God told me to do this, and that's what I'm going to do", when in fact God did not speak to us. We prophesy our own fleshly desires. We use God's Name as an excuse to refuse to listen and submit to others in the Body of Christ. How easy it is to justify ourselves with the words; "God told me."

When the will is confronted with God's standards, there can be a lot of anger and denial. People deny there is a problem. They go to great lengths to justify themselves. People say things like: "there is nothing wrong with it. Everyone does it. Its not as bad as what some people do."

Here we find self-deception combined with self-righteousness. We justify our sin and deceive ourselves. The Bible says:

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." **1 John 1:6-10**

The bottom line is the refusal to surrender to Christ. People want to keep control, and in order to do so will lie, deceive, deny, accuse, manipulate, pretend to be confused and not understand, go into a rage of anger, or run. Some seem to be willing to do anything and suffer any consequence rather than yield control to Christ.

The story of the rich young ruler is an example of this.

"And behold, one came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away

sorrowful; for he had great possessions.”

Matthew 19:16-22

This young man saw himself as a godly person. He told Jesus that he had kept the commandments. He probably faithfully attended the synagogue, and kept all their religious rituals. But he still felt that he lacked something. This young man is like many people today. We go so far, but we know there is more. There is something lacking in our lives.

This something is the complete surrender of our will to Christ. It is taking up our cross and dying to those things that we hold dear. How we can resist the Lord in order to hold on to them!

For the rich young man it was his worship of money, his greed. He was bound to his money and possessions. This bondage kept him from following Jesus. When Jesus identified the idol of his life, rather than let go of it, the young man turned his back on the Saviour. What is holding us back from a full surrender to the Lord? What have we yet to surrender to Christ?

Satan's invitation: 'Come down'

Satan and his demonic hosts always work closely with the flesh. Satan takes the side of man against God. Satan wants you to be comfortable in doing what you want and at the same time be in rebellion to God. See how Satan tempted Jesus to take the easy path and avoid the Cross.

“And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three

days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter, and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men."

Mark 8:31-33

Even when Jesus hung on the Cross, we hear Satan's call to come down from the Cross:

"And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." **Matthew 27:39-40**

Satan calls us to come down from our cross, to be comfortable, to do that which is convenient to us. In his book, Healing the Wounded Spirit, John Sanford writes:

"At the core of us is something so evil it cannot be healed, only slain. There is a spirit which is us, determined to be like God. There is a ruling centre so devious as to allow us to role-play all the actions of surrender to God, or service and love to others, without ever allowing itself to be detected, much less brought to death. Counselling, and our progress in the Lord, can be described as a gradual peeling of onion, skin by skin, not to uncover the sweet heart but to find rottenness, roaring defiance, within, unbowed and unsundered."¹

How easy it is to deceive ourselves thinking that we are spiritual when in fact we are carnal. John Sanford writes:

"Paula and I have watched the "pilgrim's progress' of a brother as he became what seemed to him saintlier and

¹ Healing the Wounded Spirit, John Sanford Pg.364

saintlier. We knew, as we observed, that there would come a time, when he was ready, that Christ would uncover the last shrouds of deceit to discover sheer sin, untouched by goodness! There is great risk at that time. Even the Lord cannot force us to choose rightly. The way of life and death lies starkly before us at that moment. A choice must be made.”²

A daily death

The choice to be made is simple: to humble ourselves, repent, and accept the Lord’s correction. How many are like the fool who at the end of his life who cries out:

“How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof! I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors.”

Proverbs 5:12

The self-centred will within us must die daily.

“And he said to all, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”

Luke 9:23-25

True confidence is in Christ

When our will is alive and well, our confidence is not in Christ but in ourselves. Our confidence is in our decisions, our capabilities, our achievements, and in what others think of us.

² Sanford, pg 364

But when we die to ourselves, our confidence is in Christ who reigns within us. We come to a place of peace in Him. Of trusting in Him. Christ becomes all in all. Then we can say with Paul:

“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.” **2 Corinthians 2:14**

“But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” **Galatians 6:14**

True repentance

The self tries to resurrect itself, and every day we must die to it. How do we do this? First by recognizing that at the core of ourselves we have a rebellious will that refuses to yield to Jesus. Half the battle is to actually recognize and confess our sin.

Second, we are to die to that old proud and rebellious nature, and choose to follow Christ. Repentance is not only saying we are sorry to the Lord. Repentance is leaving sin and choosing what is right. Godliness is the fruit of true repentance.

*"But if we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live
with him."*

Romans 6:8

Resurrected in Christ

As we crucify that old nature then we will see the glorious Life of Jesus Christ flowing through us. Then we will begin to walk in the Spirit and not gratify our flesh.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Galatians 5:22-25

It is only through death that we will experience that glorious resurrected life in Christ now. When sin is alive in us we can not know the Spirit-filled life in Christ Jesus. But when we are dead to sin then we shall walk in Him. Then we become fruitful for His Glory. We become instruments of His righteousness.

Jesus is calling us to a life of absolute surrender to Him. We yield our will to His will, until there remains no part of our lives that we call our own and everything has been surrendered to Him.

See here how the Bible again and again links our death in Christ with being alive in Him.

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For he who has died is freed from sin.

But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but yield yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

Romans 6:3-13

There is nothing like being resurrected and alive in Christ. We were created to be a house for God to dwell in. We find ourselves when we find Him. Life is miserable without Jesus. Nothing can compare with living in Him, and knowing the power of Jesus Christ.

“For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that

the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.”

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

*“If we say we have no sin, we
deceive ourselves, and the truth is
not in us.”*

1 John 1:8-9

Sin & Occult list

This sin & occult list is adapted from Bill Subritzky's literature (see website, Dove Ministries).

Recognizing our Sin is Half the Battle

Often people don't recognize their sins because no one ever told them it was sin. This list of sins and occult is meant to be a blessing and help to people. As we identify our sins we can then confess them to God and receive forgiveness and peace. A real barrier in recognizing sin is the way that we justify what we do.

For example, some justify their anger by blaming the other person – “It's their fault that I'm angry because they.....”. Others justify pornography as “a personal diversion which doesn't harm anyone”. Men may justify violence in marriage “because it is the only way she will learn”. White lies are said to be “necessary and useful”.

There is no end to the reasons we give to justify our sins. Such arguments become demonic fortresses of the mind that must be identified as unbiblical deceptions. True repentance begins when we stop justifying our sin, and call it what it is: sin. Then the cleansing work of the Blood of Jesus can begin in us.

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Sin is sin, and we are guilty before God for our rebellion. Sin brings condemnation, curses, demons, eternal death, guilt before God. God requires humility in repentance so that there might be forgiveness and peace with Him. While we defend our sins, we have not truly repented, and therefore are not forgiven by God. Through repentance you can receive peace and forgiveness from God.

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:8-9

The greatest sin

Not believing in Jesus Christ as the only Saviour.

Sins of the tongue:

Lies

Anger, shouting

Making fun of others in their need

Coarse language, swearing

Slander

Criticism

Judging others

Gossip

Self curses (e.g. "I am worthless,
I will never succeed.")

Cursing others (e.g. "He will always
be sick.")

Grumbling/criticism against
the leadership of the church.

Unfulfilled promises and good intentions.

Using God's Name in vain

Blasphemy

Sins in the family:

Neglect of children

Lack of discipline and order in the family.

Not teaching the Bible to one's
children.

Lack of respect for your partner

Putting down your spouse in front of others.

Lack of love and mistreatment of one's wife

Not honouring & obeying the husband.

Violence and anger in the marriage.

Violence towards children.
Disobeying parents
Lack of respect of parents

Sins of the heart:

Unforgiveness
Resentment
Bitterness
Holding grudges
Hate
Lust
Greed
Envy and covetousness
Pride
Selfishness
Jealousy
Double mindedness
Lack of faith, doubt
Anxiety, worry, not trusting God.
Racism and bigotry

Various sins:

Lack of love towards God and others.
Religiosity and legalism
Persecution of Christians
Religious pride
Lack of daily prayer and Bible reading
Lack of respect and support of church leaders and pastors.
Causing division in the body of Christ.
Rebellion and disrespect towards authority.
Laziness
Stealing

Addictions

Taking advantage of others unjustly

Violence

Impatience

Manipulation

Deceit

Not visiting the sick and prisoners

Mistreating the poor and needy

Murder

Vengeance

Abortion

Drunkenness

Bribes

Attending worldly parties with drinking & dancing.

Videos or films of violence, horror, swearing, pornography.

Inappropriate TV watching

Not listening to others

Sins of the use of resources:

Dressing luxuriously as an expression of pride & vanity.

Buying things out of vanity.

Gambling

Using our time wastefully

Not obeying God with our finances (tithing and offerings)

Lack of compassion and generosity to the poor

Using our resources selfishly

Not offering hospitality

Financial irresponsibility

Not paying taxes

Not declaring income in order to receive government assistance.

Not paying child maintenance

Sins against the Holy Spirit:

Resisting or grieving the Holy Spirit

Criticizing and belittling the work and manifestations of the Holy Spirit

Mistreating and persecuting those who are used by God in the Anointing

Speaking against the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Sins in the work place

Laziness or sloppiness at work

Taking advantage of and mistreating employees.

Not paying or withholding appropriate wages.

Borrowing and not returning is stealing.

Unjust or illegal contracts

Corruption

Not paying taxes

Sexual sins:

Perverse sexual acts – oral, anal, or sex with an animal.

Violent or forced sex (including in the marriage).

Rape

Prostitution

Fornication

Adultery

Masturbation

Homosexuality

Lesbianism

Sex between family members – incest

Sex with children

Pornography

Lustful thinking

Obsessions & addictions

Addiction to smoking, alcohol, novels, TV, the internet, computer games, video games, or play stations.

NB. Watching TV, reading novels, using the internet and games are not necessarily sins, but lack of self-control in these areas is.

Occult and witchcraft sins:

Acupuncture

Amulets (good luck objects, etc)

Ancestral worship

Ankh (a cross with a ring top used in satanic rites).

Apparitions – occult

Astral travelling

Astrology

Automatic writing

Birth signs

Black arts

Black mass

Blood pacts

Casting of spells and curses

Chain letters

Colour therapy

Conjuration (summoning up a spirit)

Consulting medium, spiritists,
witchdoctors or psychic healers.

Contact with spirits

Control of objects by mental power (Tk or Pk).

Coven of witches

Crystal ball gazing

Crystals & stones

Demon worship

Divining rod, twig or pendulum
Dungeons and dragons
Eastern meditation
ESP
Fire walking
Fortune telling
Halloween
Hallucinogenic drugs
Hard rock & heavy metal
 secular music
Harry Potter novels, toys & movies
Horoscopes
Hypnosis
Idols and images used in worship
Incantations
Iridology (eye diagnosis)
Jonathan Livingstone Seagull
(reincarnation).
Judo
Karate
Kung-fu
Levitation
Listening to demonic voices (including voices of deceased).
Magic (not sleight of hand but supernatural power)
Manipulation and cursing of others
Mantras
Martial arts
Mental suggestion, telepathy, therapy
Mesmerism
Mind control, dynamics, mediumship, mind reading.
Necromancy (conjuring up spirits of the dead)
New Age (in all its diverse forms)
Numerology
Occult games

Ouiji boards
Occult novels, magazines, music, or movies
Pagan rites, religious objects, artefacts and relics
Palmistry
Pokemon Cards
Satanism
Secret society oaths
Sorcery
Soul travelling
Spells
Spirit guides or friends
Spiritism
Star signs
Superstitions
Tarot Cards
Tea-leaf reading
The Lodge (Free Masonry)
TM – transcendental meditation
Videos and movies of violence, horror, pornography, occult.
White magic
Witchcraft
Yoga
Zodiac signs

Sects, World Religions & Philosophies:

It is important to renounce all oaths, pacts and baptisms made with any sect or secret society, destroy their religious objects, and destroy any books that are not in accord with Scripture.

A sect is a religious group that has one or more of the following characteristics:

- Denies the full divinity of Jesus Christ.

- Doesn't recognize the full authority of the Bible as the basis of faith and conduct.
- Accepts prophecies, traditions, and other books as fundamental to belief and practice, and equal to the Scriptures.
- Denies the Trinity, that of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Emphasizes traditions and rules to gain salvation.

All religions that deny that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour and way to God are to be renounced.

To pray to, to use as a mediator, to show religious respect, or to worship idols and images.

To burn candles to them, to prostrate or bow before an idol or image.

Seventh Day Adventists
Amanda Marga Yoga Society
Baha'i
Buddhism
Catholicism
Christadelphians
Christian Science
Communism
Confucianism
Divine Light Mission
EST
Hare Krishna
Hinduism
Islam
Jehovah's witnesses
Marxism
Materialism

Mormons

The International Way

The New Age (in all its diverse forms)

Unification Church (Moonies)

Universal Church of God