

The Power Of The Cross & Resurrection Of Jesus Christ

I. Introduction

A. Today is Easter Sunday

Do you know that more of us go to church during the Easter time than any other time of the year, even Christmas? At Christmas we go because of our families, but at Easter we go for ourselves. Why do we go? It's because we need to be touched by the symbols and images of Easter. Even though the story of Easter is 2000 years old, it has the power to touch us deep inside.

Symbols Of Easter

1. **Easter Lily (flower):** a) old widely found symbol of light; b) ancient regal symbol, can refer to the Trinity; c) when a lily is extending from the mouth of Jesus, a symbol of grace.
2. **Egg:** a) germ of life; b) potential life – it must first be fertilized from the outside; c) Christ, the Seed of Righteousness, the uncorrupted seed; d) hope; e) new life; f) resurrection – Christ broke free from the grave like a mature chick breaks free from the egg.
3. **Cross:** a) suffering and triumph, of perfect love, of Jesus Christ who laid His life down for mankind; b) ultimate sign of victory over death; c) sign of renewal and starting over again; d) current painful situation that is valuable in God's sight as a place of redemption.

B. Personal Experience

Story of what I experienced at our son's death, on March 26, 1980

- We sang Psalms 27, The Lord is my light & my salvation.
- I surrendered, let go.
- Peace of God entered the room, looked up and saw his breath leaving him.
- I experienced burst of fireworks in my spirit; my spirit exploded into a thousand rays of life & light.
- I consider what King David said at the loss of his son.
- I awoke praying in tongues with the interpretation: "You can say David died, but I want you to know that my own never die, I came and took Him, I always come and take my own. The word is exultation; I allowed you to experience David's spirit as it entered glory."
- God also said, "To not question what went wrong, keep your eyes on Me, do not turn to the right or left, and I will heal your heart."

A few weeks later, on Easter Sunday

While singing in church, I received a little picture: I saw David standing in a crowd of people praising our Lord Jesus Christ; David was radiant with life, alive and well.

What Easter means to me?

- Because of the resurrection power of our living Lord, I was not destroyed; and out of the death and loss I experienced, I have seen the Lord bring faith and hope and healing into others.
- The same indestructible power that brought Jesus out of his tomb is at work to bring me to fullness of life.
- Because Jesus lives I can face tomorrow. Because Jesus lives all fear is gone.

That your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God (I Corinthians 2:5)

C. What does the message of Easter mean to you?

1. Life comes out of death
2. Meaning and purpose comes out of chaos.

What is your favorite experience or image of Easter?

What touches you deeply on the inside? Any memories? How have you experienced God at Easter? Share them with your family & friends.

D. Review

In January focused on the idea that Christianity offers a new beginning, a new life. Through Jesus Christ—His life (the cross and resurrection), water baptism, the Holy Spirit, we can be born of the Spirit, and become a child of God, a new creature and learn to live in a new and living way.

In February I talked about what it means to live life God's way, a new and living way.

In March, we focused on this issue of life and death. God has given us a choice between the two, but do we know the difference between these two opposing forces. Do you know what brings you death? Brings you life? Can you recognize the difference?

E. Today's transmission

I want to focus our attention on Jesus Christ. What I find is that many of God's people have little revelation in their hearts about Jesus Christ and His work on the cross. They do not understand that the power of the indestructible life that bought Jesus out of the grave is in them who *believe*. They do not know how to break free from fears, lay hands on the sick, or how to use their spiritual authority as a believer.

Key Scriptures

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession (Hebrews 3:1-6).

Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us (Ephesians 3:20)

We must receive revelation of this in our hearts

If want to benefit from the work of Jesus on the cross, we must allow the Holy Spirit to bring us revelation in our hearts.

All that Jesus did for us is true, but we must have it revealed in our heart, because this is where faith is. God's truth must be seen and known in our heart as well as our mind if it will benefit us at all. The New Testament does not say that we shall know truth by keeping the rules.

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness (locked out) to him and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually appraised (I Corinthians 2:14).

For to us God revealed them through the spirit. . .(I Corinthians 2:8-12)

Pray the following scriptures for yourself:

I encourage you to meditate on the scriptures given in this lesson, praying that the Lord will give you a spirit of revelation in God's truths, just as the Apostle Paul prayed for the people of God.

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the (true) knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come...(Ephesians 1:17-21). Amen.

II. Consider Jesus

A. What did Jesus do on the cross?

1. Substitutionary work—He took our place

Jesus Christ took the corrupted nature of flesh and blood and all of our sins upon Himself, so that He might be judged instead of us. Because of His Holy human nature, He could atone for sinful human beings through His death. He died as a substitute for us. He suffered all the penalties of our sins and transgressions, and offered his life as a ransom for us.

He was made sin for us, held under condemnation, locked in a prison house of death for three days and nights. He put away sin and our sin nature through the sacrifice of Himself.

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

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6).

We have been judged already, at the cross. This is fact. However we need the Holy Spirit to make this fact real in our experience, to give us revelation of this fact in our own hearts.

2. Jesus suffered in all ways – in His body, soul, & spirit

a. His soul suffered

A week before the Passover He was heard to mention: “Now is my soul troubled” (John 12:27 and “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death” (Matthew. 26:38). Also see Isaiah 53:3.

He suffered emotional pain

Jesus suffered emotional pain from His people, the religious leaders & His friends. He was mocked by the crowds, falsely accused, suffered unjustly & spit upon.

1. Despised & rejected – He was despised & rejected by men, a man of sorrows & acquainted with grief (Isaiah 53).
2. Rejection – He came to His own, & His own did not receive Him (John 1:11).
3. Religious abuse – The Pharisees went out & took counsel against Him, how they might destroy Him. But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there; & great multitudes followed Him, & He healed them all (Matthew 12:14).
4. Betrayal – Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'Whoever I kiss, He is the One, seize Him.' Then immediately he went up to Jesus & said, 'Greetings, *Rabbi!' & kissed Him (Matthew 26:48-49).
5. Shame – hanging on cross was used to execute runaway slaves. He took the place of a slave and was crucified, the servant. Nearly naked, His garments were taken by the soldiers (John 19:23; Psalms 89:45, 51; Hebrews 12:2).

b. His body suffered physical abuse

Jesus suffered physical abuse which is almost beyond our comprehension. He drank the cup of sufferings & said, 'It is finished'.

Never shrank back until it was done (John 19:28).

He refused wine & myrrh as a sedative to alleviate His pain; He was not willing to lose consciousness.

Brow, side, hands, feet, heart all pierced by men, pierced by sinful humanity and pierced for sinful humanity.

Him who they have pierced (Zechariah 12:10)

Hands & feet suffered: Pierced by hands and feet (Psalms 22:16)

Mouth & tongue suffered, experienced extreme thirst – My tongue cleaves to my jaws (Psalms 22:15; 69:21)

Brow crowned with thorns

High fever – His blood could not circulate.

c. His spirit suffered

His spirit was split asunder from God; experienced intense loneliness, desertion, separation from His Father.

Oh my God, why has thou forsaken me (Matthew 27:46);

Troubled in spirit (John 11:33, 13:21)

(Psalms 22:14-15)

3. He presented His blood as an eternal offering for our sins

He presented His blood as an eternal offering or sacrifice for our sins, to cover our sins and now there is no need to make any offering for our sins any longer.

And you know that He appeared in order to take away sins...(I John 3:5).

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:14).

Where there is forgiveness, there is no longer any offering for sin (Hebrews 10:18).

4. Jesus removed every barrier that keeps us separated from God

Jesus made it possible for us to receive the very life of God. One Christian author said it like this: "The cross of Jesus Christ bears our judgment, proclaims our worthlessness, crucifies us, and releases the life of the Lord Jesus." Thus anyone who accepts the cross shall be born anew by the Holy Spirit and receive the life of God.

B. We can receive God's life

It is through the death and resurrection of the Lord that the Holy Spirit of God is able to impart God's uncreated life to us.

Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God who raised Him from the dead. And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, giving forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross (Colossians 2:12-14).

Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. For he who has died is free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him (Romans 6:6-8).

...having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter (Romans 7:6).

III. Need Regeneration, New Birth Experience

A. Our spirit is cut off from God

Before the fall, Adam was very aware of the Presence of God; he sensed Him intuitively, he recognized His voice, and he communed with Him. After his fall, Adam was no longer able to do this, because his spirit had become dead to God. Thus Adam could not be aware of God anymore.

Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because we all sinned (Romans 5:12).

Before regeneration or a new birth experience, our human spirit is not able to know the presence of God. We cannot not sense His presence or know His thoughts toward us. Our spirit has lost its primary function toward God, for it is dead to God. The scriptures say that we are dead in our trespasses and sins; i.e., our spirit is separated from God's life until regeneration or the new birth. At regeneration, our spirit is quickened, made alive again.

Remember that God is a Spirit, and we can only know Him through our spirit. Jesus said that God seeks for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. God has ordained that He will deal with us through our spirit alone and that by our spirit we can know Him and receive His very life.

Jesus can't be known through our intellect, our emotions, or our will. He can't be known by us trying hard to be good, to change ourselves, but it is only through our spirit by His Spirit can we know the things of God. St. Paul knew this; "For to us God revealed them through the spirit..." He had a revelation of Jesus Christ; He knew him after the spirit and not after the flesh any more.

Exercise faith

To receive the benefits of the cross, we must exercise faith in committing ourselves – spirit, soul and body – into union with the Lord Jesus.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together (*in*) with Christ, and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast (Ephesians 2:1-9).

He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life (John 5:24, also see v. 26).

We must reckon the death of the Lord Jesus as our own death and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus as our own resurrection. This is the meaning of the words of Jesus in John 3:16. We must exercise faith and a believing *into* the Lord Jesus. By so doing, we are united with Him in His death and resurrection and receive eternal life (God's very own uncreated life) (John 17:3) – which is spiritual life – unto regeneration.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection (Romans 6:3-5).

We have been *born anew* to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (I Peter 1:3).

In believing in our hearts, we are united with the Lord, in His death and in His resurrection!

Vision of Jesus on the Cross

Some years ago, a friend had a vision of seeing Jesus on the cross. We don't talk much about visions or dreams today. Most people are ignorant and afraid of these things. And if someone should receive a vision from God, we want to elevate them to a high position. However I believe these experiences ought to be part of the normal Christian experience. Here is my friend's account, in his own words:

"I am standing there in church praising God with all the rest, but all of a sudden everything disappears and I'm not in the church anymore. I'm standing out in the middle of a violent storm, pitch black out there, lightning is flashing all over, wind is blowing, and rain is coming down hard, hard, and I mean it's a violent storm going on. I'm wondering what in the world happened to me? Because a moment before I was in this church full of people, and the next moment I was in the middle of this storm,... and I mean it was real, like you are, as real as could be, of being in that storm.

Then, off to my left a little bit, the lightning flashed and on a hill off in front of me some distance away, I could see some crosses on it. The lightning flashed behind the hill, and I could see these crosses sticking up on the hill.

As I'm looking at them, all of a sudden, the center cross just began to be illuminated and filled with light. That radiance came up through that cross and it flowed right up into the sky, like it penetrated... It's just hard to describe... It came out from the cross, the light did, right in the midst of that storm, and all of that light came right out... and it's like it... like... like it impacted me... like all the sudden that light from the cross hit me here, and all of a sudden I knew something... I remember exactly what I said, because I said, "*My God, it's all for real!*" And the reality of Jesus Christ and the cross entered my heart at that point... see... that's what happened, the reality of Jesus Christ...

I'd heard the story all my life growing up as a Catholic ...Jesus and the cross and everything, but this was when the reality entered my heart. It was not just a story anymore, this was a reality, and it happened... and I am somehow there seeing this violent storm that it talked about in the Scriptures... there was a violent storm, and I am somehow there seeing this happen... and then I started weeping, I simply started weeping and sobbing... and the next instant I am back in that church again standing there weeping.

Later, while listening to our friend's vision of Jesus on the cross on a CD, my husband Gerald suddenly experienced the reality of the cross entering into his heart too. And he began to weep and cry with joy. It is interesting how the testimony or witness of our experiences with the Lord can touch others and cause faith to be quickened in their hearts too.

IV. Why Do We Have To Start With Jesus?

Consider these thoughts as you answer why we need to start with Jesus:

1. Because of the indestructible life that is in Jesus: life is in Jesus; He is the life.
2. Because Jesus gave us a new and better covenant, on the basis of an indestructible life.
3. Jesus is the high priest of a new covenant — on the "*basis of the power of an indestructible life*" (Hebrews 7:16)
4. Truth is in Jesus; He is the Truth; "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" (Ephesians 4:21).
5. The Way is in Jesus; He is the way. "I am the way, the truth, the life, no one comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6)
6. He puts His life within us. "Emmanuel."
7. He is the only one who can change our heart, give us a new heart. Change our hearts of stone into a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19, 20).
8. He is the only one who can cleanse us from consciousness of sin, failure, shortcomings, and resentments. "If I do not wash you... (John 13:8); Clean you...(John 15:3)
9. God sent forth His Son--that we might become sons and heirs of God.

A. What Did Jesus Free Us From?

1. Satan's Power

The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8). See Acts 10:37-39.

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil (Acts 10:38).

Jesus healed every kind of disease and every kind of sickness (possessed with devils); lunatics (moonstruck); palsy (feeble, paralyzed); divers diseases (maladies) and torments; and healed those oppressed by the devil (Matthew 4:24).

Through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death (Hebrews 2:14-15).

I have the keys of death and of Hades (Revelation 1:18).

These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:19-23).

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 before our God day and night (Revelations 12:10). Colossians 1:13.

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Colossians 2:13-15).

2. The fear of death

...that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives (Hebrews 2:14,15).

3. The law and its curse

Knowing that we can never keep all of the laws, Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law for us and enable us to receive the free gift of grace and the free gift of righteousness. In His work on the cross, His death and resurrection, He liberated us from the curse of the law and made it possible for us to walk in the Kingdom of God, His righteousness, peace, joy and power.

Therefore my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God (Romans 7:4).

...remember that you were at that time separate from Christ...now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ..... by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances...having put to death the enmity (Ephesians 2:12-16).

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree (Galatians 3:13).

But now, we have been released (freed) from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter (Romans 7:5-7).

For you are not under law, but under grace (Romans 6:14).

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God (Hebrews 9:14).

Now that faith has come we are no longer under a tutor, for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ...(Galatians 3:23).

Many of God's people are still following the Old Covenant based on the Law of Moses and have not fully realized that Jesus fulfilled that Law for us and gave us a new law: the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. The Law of Moses, even though it is righteous, has no power to transform us or to free us in any way. When we are being led by the Law of Moses, we try so hard to perfect ourselves, to be righteous, and it never works. A law is something that is laid and fixed. It is rules of conduct established and enforced by some authority. It is a limiting device.

4. The law of sin and death inherent in our Adamic nature

We are of flesh, sold into bondage to sin (Romans 7:14).

But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness (Romans 6:1-23).

Now he who has died is freed from sin (Romans 6:7)

...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit...(Romans 8:2-4).

He took away our sins (I John 3:5).

Because of the nature of His work on the cross Jesus brought about a new covenant, a change in how we are to function. And He gave us a new law, the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, written on tablets of the human heart, not on stone. This higher law enables us to break free from the law of sin and death operating in our flesh (II Corinthians 3:3).

5. The debt we owe for our failure to keep the righteous Law of Moses

And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (Colossians 2:13-15).

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derived your fruit—sanctification and eternal life (Romans 6:18, 22).

Where there is forgiveness, there is no longer any offering for sin (Hebrews 10:18).

6. Our identity as a slave

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem (free) those who are under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God (Galatians 4:5-7)

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba Father (Romans 8:15).

7. Being downtrodden and oppressed

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives...to set free those who are downtrodden . . . (Luke 4:18).

8. Separated from God and His Love

For I convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35-39).

9. A spirit of fear

Christ hated fear; fear makes us slaves. He showed us that we were born to live by faith. He came to set us free from fear, and to show us a higher way of living.

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba Father (Romans 8:15).

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (II Timothy. 1:7).

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love (I John 4:16, 18).

B. What is Jesus Doing Now?

1. The High Priest of a New Covenant

Jesus died a lamb but arose as the Lord High Priest of good things to come. He is seeking the presence and the hearing of God on the behalf of others. When we come through Christ, we have a guarantee to get the ear of God. Jesus is now the high priest of a new covenant, on the basis of the power of an *indestructible life*" (Hebrews 7:16). He is the only one who has the power of an indestructible life; this is why He is the only one who can give us eternal life. He is the only One who has risen from the dead. .

Seeing then that we have a great high priest . . . we may come boldly into the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need (Hebrews 4:14).

...But according to the power of an indestructible life (Hebrews 7:16).

For the law made nothing perfect, and now there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God (Hebrews 7:19).

Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant (Hebrews 7:22).

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest...who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as he is also the mediator of a *better covenant*, which *has been enacted on better promises* (Hebrews 7:26—8:6).

This is the covenant I will make...I will put my laws into their minds, and I will write them upon their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be my people (Hebrews 8:10).

Who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life (II Corinthians 3:6).

2. Our Advocate

Jesus speaks to the Father in our defense; He pleads our cause:

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father (I John 2:1)

He abides forever...hence he is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:24-25)

C. Invites Us to Enter Into His Rest from Our Labor

The full legal demand of the law "of sin and death" was fulfilled in pain upon the body of Jesus in anguish in the heart and soul and spirit of our Lord upon the cross. Because of this we can find rest for our souls. We do not have to strive to fulfill the Law of Moses, but we can be led by the Spirit, and keep our hearts full of faith.

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls (Matthew 11:28-29).

Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience ...There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His (Hebrews 4:9-11).

...I was angry with this generation, and said, They always go astray in their heart, and they did not know My ways...Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day...for we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end (Hebrews 3:10-14).

D. Rely Upon the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth

Jesus said it was better that He go away, but promised to send back the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit of Truth, to be with us and in us. The work of the Holy Spirit will be to guide us into all truth.

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him, because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you...(John 14:16-18).

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you (John 14:26).

When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth...He will bear witness of me (John 15:26).

When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come (John 16:14).

I will put my Spirit within you, and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land (Ezekiel 37:6,9,10,14).

E. Go To Jesus, He Is Your Only Hope

The work of Jesus on the cross is real. We can enter into the reality of it. Jesus came to give us fullness of life, a new life, a new relationship of love and union with the Father through the Holy Spirit. Do you really believe Jesus has come to free and transform us? He has the power to transform us, but can you let Him do it for you? How free do you want to be?

The work of Jesus Christ on the cross made it possible for us to have a sense of righteousness. He forgives us, and cleanses us. He makes it possible for us to stand in the presence of God without a consciousness of sins. Jesus cleanses us from that sin consciousness or spiritual inferiority complex that would keep us from coming to God.

It is only by appropriating the finished work of Jesus Christ and co-operating with the Holy Spirit within us that we can come into more freedom.

You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life (John 5:39-40).

I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me (John

Prayer Time: Doing Business With God

A. Draw Close To Jesus

We must come to place where we realize that nobody else is responsible but me. I must have a direct relationship, an individual relationship between me and God, this is the freeing agent. If you have not made a decision to invite Jesus Christ into your heart, you need to do this. It is key to the transformation and healing of your broken heart and life.

1. "Go To Jesus"

You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life (John 5:39-40).

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls (Matthew 11:28).

Have you really experienced Jesus? If not, you need to repent and turn to Him. Jesus Christ is the only answer! Jesus Christ is the only way, He is the uncorrupted seed, He is righteous, and He brings fullness of life. Acknowledge that it is solely on the basis of what Jesus has done on your behalf that you are receiving your righteousness now.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame' (Rom. 10:9-11).

As a result of a genuine conversion or born again experience, you have access to the Kingdom of Heaven which is right within you. You need to seek the truth and walk in it. Then you will gradually become free, feel free. Christianity is the only way to be totally free.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days... (Deuteronomy 30:19, 20).

Spiritual Realm Does Not Work By Magic

The spiritual realm of God *does not* work through "magic," but through faith that resides in an honest heart. There are no magical words that will make God become real to you—but only an honest heart that recognizes its need and a tiny bit of faith *that God cannot lie, that what He said is true.*

God Himself said that He sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can have newness of life. Did God lie when He said this? Can you trust what He says? It is faith in God Himself and in the power of God, revealed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that brings about changes within us.

Use The Key: Apply Your Faith In A God Who Cannot Lie!

Now simply go to God, praying from an *honest* heart. Begin your journey to God by praying something that is honest to you, such as...

God, I don't know if you are real, and if you are really there for me, but if you are, I need You in my life. I don't understand everything, but I know that I need a power greater than myself. I need You. Please come into my life. Thank you.

Here is the prayer I prayed thirty-five years ago:

God, I ask for your help. I want to know You. I need Your son Jesus. I place my faith in His work on the cross, His burial and His resurrection. I accept the blood He shed as enough for my sins and the sins of others against me. Jesus, I ask You to come live inside of me. I invite You to come into my life. And I thank you. Amen.

Two examples of the "Sinner's Prayer"

God I am a sinner. I cannot save myself. I know according to your Word that I cannot make myself righteous, but I thank You because You love me and sent the Lord Jesus to die for me. And through His righteousness, redemption is made available to me. I believe that He died for my sins according to the scripture. I believe that He was raised from the dead and is my justification. I confess Him now and take Him as my Savior.

Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son,

Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.” (taken from <http://www.gotquestions.org/sinners-prayer.html>)

Now, Where Is Jesus?

If I ask you where is Jesus, can you say with confidence: “He is in my heart. I asked Him to come in, and I know He did, because God cannot lie.” Do not base your answer on your feelings or any goose pimples you feel, but go only by the truth that God cannot lie.

Make Jesus Christ Lord

Some people, who have experienced conversion or regeneration, may need to make a decision to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their lives, that they will follow Him in faith and obedience.

Decide to lay down your rebellion, surrender, and make Jesus Christ Lord of your life. Decide to do all that the Lord Your God asks of you. You may want to pray something like this:

Lord Jesus, I want to know You better, to come closer to You. Please cause me to see more clearly who You are and what You have done for me. Please reveal Christ in me. I thank you. Lord, I make a decision to follow You, in faith and obedience. I will do what You ask me to do. I choose to lay down any rebellion and to surrender to You Lord. I choose to make You Lord of my life. Amen

Learn to place your trust in Him and His power

This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent (John 6:29).

Affirm God as your Father

I encourage you to affirm the presence of God in you every day. I encourage you to make the following affirmation aloud several times every day.

Abba Father, I belong to you.

Please note that my program notes are not a treatise or doctrinal position on salvation, faith or the Holy Spirit. They simply reflect my understanding at this time. I encourage you to go to God, asking Him to bring revelation to your own heart. He will not fail an honest heart.