

Son Of God's Message of The Cross Gives Life (Through the Spirit)

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To understand the Message that Jesus Christ brought to this earth, is the most important thing any true Christian could ever come to understand in their lifetime on this earth. It is the only Pathway to Eternity!

We want to fully comprehend why Jesus came to this earth and set an example of living a 'sinless life' (even though He was tempted just as we are all tempted). Also, to live a life of 'faith and trust' in His Father, as an example by which we also (in faith) are to 'follow' Him, as He said.

And (just as importantly) we want to realize why Jesus shed His blood to pardon and cleanse us, as we repent and give up the efforts of the self-life (and the things that we have gotten via the self-life), when we 'come to Him' with a truly repentant heart.

Also, why He gave His lifeblood to purchase Life (eternal) for us, (even before we had repented of our sins), if we will accept His way and plan, and, accept what He has done for us.

It is only by the merciful love of God the Father, that His Son's blood was shed on the Cross for us, to pardon, cleanse, and pay the price for our forgiveness (as well as the price to purchase our salvation). That Grace extended to all who are found to be 'trusting' in the Son of God 'to the end of the age', is the vital part of the Message of the Cross that Jesus brought to us.

That is the Message He and His disciples taught to everyone else who will listen to His teaching, and follow Him in real obedient faith, depending on the power of His shed blood on the Cross, (which stands behind every promise given for us in the Scriptures). They are the ones who the Holy Spirit will enlighten to understand His Word, and will inspire them to obey and follow it, because the Holy Spirit is for 'believers' not for unbelievers.

Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit would be sent to the obedient in the faith (meaning

'believers', who will 'grow' through the Spirit), (John 14:15-16), "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be forever with you--the 'Spirit' of truth."

However, that Spirit was not sent for unbelievers, as Jesus explained (in verse 17), "That Spirit, 'the world' (unbelievers) cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him. You know Him because He remains by your side and is in you."

Jesus had already given the instructions, (John 14:1) "Trust in God: trust in me also." Now He was assuring all believers of His Father's blessing of the Holy Spirit (Who would help them learn to 'trust in Him and his Father.')

So, we can see that if a person is no longer trusting God for things in life, they will lose the vitally important guidance of the Holy Spirit, Who dwells in the hearts of true believers.

"John the Baptist made his appearance, proclaiming in the desert of Judea, 'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is now close at hand.'" (Matt. 3:1-2). John was saying, "Repent," (live a life of faith and trust, Jesus, your Savior and judge) is "close at hand" (to dwell in hearts of true believers. "Many things I have to speak and to judge concerning you." (Jesus said, John 8:26).

Is it any wonder, the apostle Paul, told the Corinthians, to "Test yourselves to discover whether you are true believers: put your own selves under examination. Or do you not know that Jesus Christ is within you unless you are insincere?" (2 Cor.13:5).

After telling a believing gentile man (Luke 17:19), "Rise and go: your 'faith' has cured you." Jesus explained to unbelieving Pharisees (vs.20-21), "The Kingdom of God does not come so that you can stealthily watch for it. Nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' for the Kingdom of God is within you."

The Kingdom of God (or the nature of Christ) grows within a believer who remains in the faith. It will grow like a mustard seed planted in the ground, (Matt.13:31-32) "The Kingdom of the Heavens," He said, "is like a mustard seed, which a man takes and sows in his ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, and yet when full-grown it is larger than any herb and forms a tree, so that the birds come and build in its branches." (or) Jesus said (vs.33), it "is like yeast which a woman takes and buries in a bushel of flour, for it to 'work' there till the whole mass has risen."

(Heb.12:14 admonishes us to), "Persistently strive for peace with all men, and for that growth in holiness apart from which no one will see the Lord." That means the growth of the Kingdom of the Heavens within you, that Jesus was speaking of in His parables about the mustard seed and the yeast (for those who surrender to live by the Spirit of Christ within themselves, so that they might see the Lord.)

When one gets moved away from God's Word, and away from doing God's will in their life, they will lose the guidance of the Holy Spirit (as Jesus explained). Their spiritual growth will stop at that point (be 'put on hold for the time being), until they are willing to repent and make corrections as God shows them. Get back to doing God's will in their life.

However, Jesus ascended to Heaven after His resurrection, to go before us to the Throne of Grace at God's right hand, to plead for us. His Throne of Grace is always open for us to return our heart and our life to His Father, through trusting in The Son, (and thus, get back to doing His will in our life). He is pleading for His Father to bring each one to repent and reconsecrate one's life to Him in real faith. "Draw near with sincerity and unfaltering faith." (Heb. 10:22).

God (Who wants no one to perish) has said to everyone who will listen, "return to me, and I will return to you." (Malachi 3:7). So, Jesus is saying (from His throne of Grace), come to Me with a repentant heart, and sincerely confess your mistakes, for I have already paid the price for your forgiveness. You do not have to bring any payment with you; the price has been paid. Accept the mercy and grace that I am extending to you, as I am pleading for my Father to bring you to Me. (Heb.7:25) says, "Hence too He is able to save to the uttermost, those who come to God through Him, seeing that He ever lives to plead for them." "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jesus said John 14:6).

As confessions are sincerely made to God (and apologies to others if needed), God can graft one onto the vine again, to once again be guided by the Holy Spirit. One's spiritual growth will no longer be put on hold, as one returns to obeying God's Word, and trusting in God's Son, for (as Jesus explained), the Holy Spirit is for believers, not for unbelievers.

The Holy Scriptures will again take on real meaning to the learning Christian, who is willing to follow Christ's teachings, and be guided by His Spirit to make Scriptural decisions, and correct choices in every circumstance of life, thus, returning to a life of faith, and a life of trusting in the Son of God.

(Heb.3:18-19) reminds us, "And to whom did He swear that they should not be admitted to His rest, if it was not to those who were disobedient? And so, we see that it was owing to lack of faith that they could not be admitted." (And vs.4:1-2) warns, "Therefore let us be on our guard, lest perhaps, while He still leaves us a promise of being admitted to His rest, some one of you should be found to have fallen short of it. For Good News has been brought to us as truly as to them; but the message they heard failed to benefit them, because they were not one in faith with those who gave heed to it."

Again, the Message that Jesus gave about Himself, is a Message that gives Life, to those who believe (get back to) trusting on Jesus for things in this life, AS JESUS DID HIMSELF! in setting an example for us to follow. Jesus not only set the example that He wants everyone to follow, but He is also the Judge of everyone's soul in this life on earth (and after this life). (Acts 10:42 says), "And He has commanded us to preach to the people and solemnly declare that this is He Who has been appointed by God to be the Judge of the 'living and the dead.'"

And (John 5:21-23) tells us, "For just as the Father awakens the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to whom He wills. The Father indeed does not judge anyone, but He has entrusted all judgement to the Son, that all may honor the Son even as they honor the Father."

We can see from these verses, that Jesus is the Judge of the very soul of everyone. Neither God, nor His Son, Jesus Christ, gives anyone else the right to judge where one's soul will go, when they pass from this life. When a minister would try to preach a person's soul into heaven after they pass away, that minister is overstepping their boundaries as a minister of God's Word. Scriptures tell us (quote) "He has entrusted all judgment to the Son," and "solemnly declare that this is He who has been appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead."

Our assurance should come (as always) from God's Word, and His promise in His Scriptures, to 'reward those who are faithful to the end' with the crown of life, and, as well, from knowing from the Scriptures of God's great and never-ending mercy and love for us. It is simply not anyone's place to make that judgment about one's soul, rather, to simply put our trust on God's Faithfulness and Mercy, and, to take comfort in that.

Christ's message gives Life to those who will believe on what He has done for them on the Cross, to purchase Salvation for all believers in the faith. (Acts 10:43 says), "To Him all the Prophets bear witness, and testify that through His name all who believe in Him, receive the forgiveness of their sins."

The apostle Paul was inspired by the Spirit to say, (1 Cor.1:18) "For the Message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are on the way to perdition but is the power of God to those whom He is saving." (NKJ says), "to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Those who are being saved are those who are believing (or trusting) in God, and who are making spiritual progress and growth in their life, while being prepared by the Lord to meet Jesus on His return, to take His believers with Him.

Jesus believed what His Father in Heaven told Him, and He obeyed His Father's instructions (in faith that He would be true to 'His' Word) and that is what Jesus expects of us (to believe Him and obey His Word, and so, to be true to Him). He explained in detail to His followers (John 8:26-32) "Many things I have to speak and to judge concerning you. But He who sent me is true, and the things which I have heard from Him are those which I have come into the world to speak."

They did not perceive that He was speaking to them of the Father. So, Jesus added, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He. Of myself I do nothing; but as the Father has taught me, so I speak. And He who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone: for I do always what is pleasing to Him."

"As He thus spoke, many became believers in Him. Jesus therefore said to those of the Jews who had now believed in Him, "As for you, if you hold fast to my teaching, then you are truly my disciples; and you shall know the Truth,

and the Truth will make you free."

Jesus shed His own blood and died for us, to pay the price for us to be cleansed of our sin, pardoned for those sins, and forgiven for those sins. As we come to know and understand His Word (the Truth), (as Jesus chose to call it), we should come to know that there is only one Truth. So, as we come to know His Word, the Truth (or His teaching), we will be able to recognize what sin is, and by surrendering to be under the control of the Holy Spirit, we will be able to "do always what is pleasing to Him." "Trust in God, Trust in Me also" (Jesus said, John 14:1). That is what is pleasing to Christ.

Again, Jesus said, "As for you, if you hold fast to my teaching, then you are truly my disciples; and you shall know the Truth, and the Truth will make you free."

We can see that Jesus meant that those who are believing in His message, will come to know the Truth. Jesus Message of the Cross has set true believers free from sin, for because they believe, the Holy Spirit is dwelling within them, to 'guide them into all Truth', (which does away with sin in one's heart).

The Jews argued that they were already free because they were descendants of Abraham, but Jesus replied (vs.34), "In most solemn Truth I tell you, that everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin." And (vs 43-44) "How is it you do not understand me when I speak? It is because you cannot bear to listen to my words. The father whose sons you are is the Devil; and you desire to do what gives him pleasure. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand firm in the Truth--for there is no truth in him. Whenever he utters his lie, he utters it out of his own store; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. But because I speak the Truth, you do not believe me."

Jesus explained, further, that it is only the obedient who are to be envied (Luke 11:28), Jesus replied, "Nay rather, they are blessed who hear God's Message and carefully keep it."

After explaining (Matt.7:21), that real obedience is the only pathway to Heaven, Jesus explained even further (to conclude His Sermon on the Mount), that, a mere profession of faith, is utter uselessness. (Matt 7:24-27) "Everyone who hears these my teachings and acts upon them will be found to resemble a wise man who builds his

house upon rock; and the heavy rain falls, the swollen torrents come, and the winds blow and beat against the house; yet it does not fall, for its foundation is on rock.” (meaning on Jesus' teachings) “And everyone who hears these my teachings and does not act upon them, will be found to resemble a fool who builds his house upon sand. The heavy rain descends, the swollen torrents come, and the winds blow and burst upon the house, and it falls; and disastrous is the fall.”

Jesus had explained further and warned professed believers (those who only profess to obey Christ' teachings, and profess to 'live by faith') (vs. 22-23), “Many will say to me on that day, 'Master, Master, have we not prophesied in Thy name, and in Thy name expelled demons, and in Thy name performed many mighty works?' And then I will tell them plainly (Jesus said) 'I never knew you: begone from me, you doers of wickedness.'” When Jesus had concluded this discourse, the crowds were filled with amazement at His teaching.” (vs. 28)

Jesus had explained to the crowds, that many who are saying they are Christians, and who are trying to live an outwardly decent and honest life, even proclaiming His Name for others to hear, and who are donating to the cause of His Truth, but, who are not living a life of faith and trust for things in this life (as well as not trusting Him for their salvation, they are not true followers of His. Thus, Jesus will say to them, “I never knew you: begone from me.”

So, we want to fully comprehend the Message of the Cross, and why Jesus came to this earth to set an example of a sinless life, and example of a life of faith and trust (as His teaching emphasized). And why He shed His blood to pardon and cleanse everyone who will sincerely repent (of the self-life) and be willing to follow Him as guided by His Spirit within oneself. Also, why He gave His life-blood to purchase Eternal Life for those who will truly trust in Him, and remain trusting in Him to the end, to receive that promised Crown of Eternal Life.

It is only by faith that you stand and are not cut off from the vine (apostle Paul explained (Romans 11:20). It is when one remains trusting (remains in the faith), then they are in Christ, and they will not be “condemned along with the world.” (Romans 8:1).

“For the message of the cross is

foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor. 1:18). Those being saved are those who are not just professing to believe, but who are truly believing on the Son of God, for that is the one condition (or requirement) that God places on true followers of Christ. (John 6:29).

So, to be a believer, is to be found trusting in the Son of God and believing on what His shed blood on the Cross has done to pardon, cleanse, and pay for our forgiveness (the price paid for our salvation). It is the 'Message of the Cross', that 'Gives Life' to all those who Believe on the Son of God to the end to receive the Crown of Life!!



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