



# Bringing Many Sons to Glory Through Suffering.

*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings (Hebrews 2:10).*

*Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children (Isaiah 60:8).*

*Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress, have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer (Psalm 4:1).*

The seasons of suffering will always precede the seasons of honour and glory. Jesus is the captain of our salvation. He is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead (Revelation 1:5). Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it dies, it bringeth forth much fruit (John 12:24). This is a great mystery; it is true concerning the body of Christ and for all those who will come into the fullness of Christ in these last days.

It is only as we enter into, carry and appropriate His very cross that we are going to be of any profit to others in Ministry. Jesus was that corn of wheat that fell into the ground and was sown in death so that he could bring many sons to glory. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He was made perfect through suffering. He was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death before he was crowned with glory and honour. He paid the price, the ultimate price by tasting death for every man. By this singular act he became the captain of our salvation, he paved the way for us so that through his sufferings many sons will walk in perfection and be brought into glory. Jesus laid down a divine principle here for us to follow. Jesus said "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him" (John 13:16). It is sufficient for a servant to be like his master but a servant cannot be greater than his master.

## **Partakers of His sufferings**

In as much as Paul was able to appropriate this experience, therefore, he could testify: "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church" (Colossians 1:24). And again John the beloved declared: "He laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16). We cannot atone for the sins of the people, Christ alone can do this and He did it already: but as members of His body and Ministers of the Gospel we can share His suffering and His rejection, and in that way touch the lives of several others.

We can suffer for the truth when we refuse to compromise the truth, and in our sufferings for the truth, the truth shines forth in greater dimensions. We can enter and share in the pangs and the pains that Jesus went through at Gethsemane. In this dark hour of the church when Christ is being betrayed almost on a daily basis, we can stand for the truth without compromising our faith. Today, the gospel of Christ has been adulterated, people in the church are no longer able to endure sound doctrine, but they are driven by their lusts and have heaped unto themselves teachers and preachers having itching ears. Many have turned away their ears from the truth and have turned into fables. Preachers in the name of prosperity are living in opulence parading exotic and outlandish lifestyles that is devoid of the life, character and power of Christ. Many there are in the church who like Demas have forsaken Christ and have loved this present world.

No amount of fleshly striving can produce this death experience in us, except we learn to share his rejection, his betrayal, and his death, and learn to recognize his body, identify ourselves with the body, and minister to the body according to our God-given ability, and refuse to associate with anything that will injure another member of the body. If we do this, we will be partakers of Christ's sufferings and death in this day and hour of His betrayal.

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom **I have suffered the loss of all things**, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith; That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, **and the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead” ([Philippians 3:7-11](#)). Knowing him and the power of his resurrection goes side by side with knowing the fellowship of his suffering. To be found in him requires that we suffer the loss of all things, and count everything to be dung. It means we must totally deny ourselves. We must die to self.

“For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father. The spirit itself bear witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; **if so be that we suffer with him**, that we may be also glorified together. **For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.** For the earnest of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. **For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.** And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the spirit, **even we ourselves groan within ourselves**, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” ([Romans 8:14-23](#)).

### **The Fellowship of His Sufferings**

*“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, **and the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead” ([Philippians 3:10-11](#)).*

The scripture admonishes us to learn from the brethren and the prophets that have gone before us. We should learn from their sufferings, afflictions, and patience. We should learn from the way they endured all manner of pain and contradictions but they remained steadfast and unmovable abounding always in the work of the Lord. James had this to say to us “Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy” (James 5:10-11). We have seen the afflictions of job and his patience in walking through all the trials he went through, and how God turned his situation right around, and how God showed him great mercy. We too must hold fast unto him no matter what knowing fully well that our God is abundantly able to deliver us.

Jesus was never shy to teach his disciples on what they would suffer if they decided to follow him. Jesus said to his disciples “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33). He told them how much they would need to deny themselves, and take up their cross on a daily basis if they must follow him. He told them that anyone among them who would attempt to save his life would lose it, but whosoever would lose his life for his sake shall save it. Jesus was clear in his teachings to his disciples that he himself would suffer many things, he would be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, but that on the third day he would be raised unto glory. He taught his disciples what would it advantage a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul. He insisted that whosoever would shall be ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his glory (Luke 9:22-26).

Persecutions and tribulations are part of the gospel package, ...we must through much tribulations enter into the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). We cannot take the sweet side and leave the bitter side. We cannot pick and choose what we want. Jesus said to his disciples those who have forsaken their house, or their brethren, or sisters, or fathers, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my sake, and for the gospel sake (this in itself is hard and painful but this is what we must do) Mark 10:29. This is total denial of ourselves for the sake of the gospel but this is what Jesus expects of us today. There cannot be two standards. Jesus said further to his disciples that whoever does this shall receive hundredfold now in this time everything he or she forsook for the gospel’s sake “But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time (in this world), houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with PERSECUTIONS, and in the world to come eternal life” (Mark 10:30).

God is not unaware of our need to be blessed, he is a God of blessing, and he will continually bless his people. He will bless us with both spiritual and material things, for he thinks of us constantly, and his thoughts towards us are of peace always not of evil, to give us a future and a hope and to bring us to an expected end (Jeremiah 29:11). He will supply all our needs according to his riches in glory, but we must get our priorities right. For our heavenly father knows our needs, he knows that we need even the things that the gentiles seek after, but we must seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and this will usually come with a price, and then the things which the gentiles seek after will be added unto us and even more (Mathew 6:32-33).

### **The Crucified Life**

Most of us in the church today will prefer that we simply talk about how wonderful our God is, and how wonderful it is to be on our way to heaven, and how nice it is to be able to talk in tongues and enjoy the blessings of the God that we serve. Most of us will prefer the positive and

motivational sermons encouraging us to be positive all the times and to maintain positive confessions about everything. This may have its place, but it becomes totally wrong if this is all we focus on; we cannot be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might if this is the only thing we know and have as our foundation. Christ died on the cross to give us life. He came to give us life and that life abundantly, and this is not life in the material alone. The truth is that He saved us not just so we can have the good life but to make us become like Christ in all areas of our life. His goal in our lives is to bring us to the stature of the fullness of Christ.

It is sad that much of Christendom is compromising with worldly values in many respects promoting personal gain over godliness. It would appear that no one is prepared to talk about the crucified life, no one is prepared to talk about the need for us to deny ourselves and carry our cross daily and follow Christ, no one is talking about the need to die to self. This may be a difficult message to preach, but we must preach the truth and call the church back to repentance, for this is the only path to the restoration of the church and the deliverance of our nation. Hence there is an inward spiritual urge in us to sound this alarm, to blow the trumpet in mount Zion, and to sound the alarm on the holy mountain. It is a clarion call for the church to return to the old landmarks. The church in this country has left her first love, we must remember from where we have fallen, and repent, and begin to do the first works; or else the Lord will come quickly and remove our candlestick totally from its place, except we repent ([Revelation 2:4-5](#)).

We must emphasize here that living a crucified life is not easy. In fact, it will be the most challenging thing you will ever face. The cost will be high, the path will be rough, it will be lonely, but the reward you will gain of knowing God in intimate fellowship is the key that will see us through our Christian journey. This is the only path; this is the path trodden by those who have gone before us. Our Lord himself trod the same path. AW Tozer once wrote from personal experience in an editorial titled "The Saints Walks Alone", he said in that editorial "it is easy to go with the crowd, but the one who is committed to living the crucified life will always lean hard into the wind of opposition and misunderstanding"

Too many believers today are satisfied with being thirtyfold Christians (outer court Christians), but the desire of the Lord is for us to press on to become hundredfold Christians, to press into the Holy of Holies and become one with Christ. The path to accomplish this is living the crucified life. There is no other way. Most Christians today are at the level of the thirtyfold Christians, some are at the sixtyfold level of Christians, but we must not settle for anything less than the hundredfold level of walk with God. Paul said I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us us therefore, as would be perfect, be thus minded ([Philippians 3:13-15](#)).

To live the crucified life is to wholly give oneself over to the Lord in absolute humility and obedience: a sacrifice pleasing to the Lord. The word "crucified" takes us back to what Christ did on the cross and all the sacrifice he made on our behalf. The key verse here is [Galatians 2:20](#) "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me". The crucified life is unconditional commitment to follow Christ, to be like Him, to think like Him, to act like Him, to love like Him unconditionally.

The whole essence of spiritual perfection has everything to do with Our Lord Jesus Christ. Not with our denominations, our doctrines, or our traditions. We are not to look or talk like our pastors or Bishops, or even look like each other; but rather we are to look like Christ. We can easily get caught

up in the nuances of religion, and totally miss the glorious point of looking unto Jesus alone who is the author and finisher of our faith. Whatever slows us down or hinders us in this journey to be like Christ must be removed and discarded.

Living the crucified life is a journey not for the faint at heart. The journey may be rough, sometimes filled with contradictions, dangers and difficulties, and it does not end until we see Christ. For now, we may see through a glass, darkly; but then we shall see him face to face if we endure and hold on to him. “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

Our outward man may seem weak and may be perishing, yet our inward man is strengthened and renewed day by day. Whatever difficulties or affliction we may be going through at the moment is momentary and transient so we shouldn't be deterred by them. Whatever we may be going through at the moment pales into insignificance when compared to the far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory that is being worked in us. This is the reason we are not moved by what we see, experience or feel. We look beyond whatever we may see or feel now. We look unto Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith. We know in our hearts that everything that we feel or see is temporary and subject to change, they are not real. Christ is our reality. He is our refuge and our fortress, and in Him alone we will trust, under his wings shall we trust.

Although the fig tree some time may not blossom, and we may not know why, and the fruits may not be in the vines; the labour of the olive may sometimes fail, and the fields may yield no meat; and the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there may be no heard in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. For the LORD God shall continue to be my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and will make me to walk upon mine high places (Hab. 3:17-19). Our faith and commitment to the Lord must remain at this level if we are to see the restoration and the glory of this later house in our time.

**Source:**

[www.eveningtime.org](http://www.eveningtime.org)

March 2020 Newsletter Edition