

My Cross

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

After preaching the Word of God for many years, I realize that many marvelous messages, brought by different servants of God through the Holy Spirit, are effective only for a season. Though a message may support a need for a day or a week, it soon becomes something that we heard in the distant background of our lives, which temporarily released our emotions. There may even appear to have been a measure of healing in the soul, by God's grace. The message encouraged us, it stimulated us, but the effect was not lasting, strong, or eternal.

Picture a man—very strong, healthy, well built—bound by powerful chains of iron. With all of his strength, he cannot break the chains that hold him. That is a picture of the condition of many Christians today. As much as a person may desire to be released from the chains that keep him imprisoned, the chains are too powerful; he cannot break them. Someone could bring

unique, life-changing messages and build him up with Truth while he remains in his chains, temporarily encouraged and inspired, yet bound with chains of iron. Please understand that it does not have to be that way!

I call this message “My Cross.” Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, and because I believed, God saved me. Inner healing, inner victory, inner peace, inner power, inner fellowship, identification with Christ—the new creation has been given to us as a gift from God. But we must claim it personally. To possess the gift of the abundant life in inner healing, I must claim it—and I must have my cross.

Chapter One
GOING IN CIRCLES?

Thousands of professing believers are born again, and they will go to heaven, but their minds are functioning in bondage. Their chains affect the entire mentality of their soul: mind, emotions, conscience, self-consciousness, and volition. What happened? In Numbers 21, the Canaanites had defeated the army of Israel. In three major journeys, Israel experienced marvelous victories, but not so with the Canaanites—victory from the Red Sea to Sinai, from Sinai to Kadesh, and from Kadesh to Transjordan. They were marvelous victories, yet, in the midst of these journeys, something happened to reveal what was inside their souls.

Israel coming into Canaan represented the advanced life that God had given them as a gift—life in a land that He wanted them to inhabit forever! God said to Joshua, “Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that I

have given unto you” (Joshua 1:3). Canaan was a gift from God; yet He said, “The sole of your foot must touch it, or it will not be yours.”

Water Tests

Israel murmured as they had at the Meribah revolution (Numbers 20) when an entire nation of people made negative choices against the plan of God. Every time Israel was tested, they rebelled with negative volition. They were never promoted because they couldn't pass the test that they had just been through. God allowed the water test in Exodus 15, and Israel flunked it. They had the water test again in Exodus 17, and they flunked it. Forty years later, they had the water test, and forty years later they flunked it. Heavy chains were around their minds and emotions. The Israelites were unable to live beyond their feelings, sight, or natural provisions.

Why would a whole nation of people spend forty years in negative volition? In Exodus 15, God made the bitter waters sweet. In Exodus 16, He gave His people manna from heaven. In Exodus 17, He gave them water from the rock, even though Israel complained. In Numbers 9:13-22, God led them with the cloud by day and a fire by night. In Deuteronomy 8:4, He kept

their clothes and shoes perfectly sound for forty years. God was their provision in the wilderness and all the way through it.

Then, Israel said, "Lord, will You help us defeat the Canaanites?" God would give them the victory, but Israel had to destroy the enemy. It was a marvelous victory (Numbers 21), but again Israel began to murmur. They were in a negative volitional cycle. Every time they were tested by sight, they chose to panic with negative reaction. If they were not tested, they were fine. But when there was no water, they murmured against their leader—and they always blamed their leader!

Negative Cycles

People who always blame others are in a negative syndrome. Why? The Lord said in Hebrews 3:10b "...they have not known my ways." In the original language, *known* is the indicative aorist active of *ginosko*, which means "to know, perceive, understand, learn." In other words, God is saying, "They have not learned categories of doctrine; they do not have a system of thinking with me." When the plan of God brought a perfect trial, they were ignorant of God's plan and ignorant of how to respond in

the trial. So, they rationalized the situation by sight (they were only being “realistic and practical”) and blamed the man who led them!

The children of Israel did not understand the doctrine of faith rest. No doctrine? No grace. No grace? No peace. No peace? No benefits. No benefits? No growing. God sowed trials, and they reaped negativity. Each time, God revealed to Moses why Israel could not hear Him; they were ignorant of how to think with God. Many marriages are like that, and many individuals act like that.

The power of the old sin nature takes over when, acting with free volition, you allow your ego, with its self-consciousness, to hook up with a lust pattern. In bondage to a program of sin, you have chains, or attachments, that are not only psychological but physiological, controlling your mind, emotions, and body.

The Facts about Attachments

In the central nervous system, millions of tiny motor fiber nerves receive stimuli and conduct impulses that control every function in a human being. The brain receives, interprets, and correlates these stimuli in processes of thinking, forming impulses that produce action. The en-

tire muscular-skeletal system operates according to information transmitted from the brain through these nerve fiber attachments.

This is why habits are seldom broken—why the adulterer doesn't give up adultery, why the alcoholic often goes back to drinking. Though a person may be encouraged by a message, has hope, and is believing God, here is the problem he faces—and he needs to face it honestly.

Motor fiber nerves are attached to that part of the brain that controls certain emotional impulses, and the body, mind, and emotions respond in concert to the attachment. Let's say that you believe God, and He has set you free in an area that was plaguing you. You thank God for the healing and for the insight you have received. You may go on for a month, encouraged, stimulated, and blessed with the presence of God. Faith comes in. But after a short time, here we go again! Those motor fiber nerves start dictating impulses to your emotions. Your ego says, "Come on! I'm alive. Connect me to self-consciousness, the essence of my existence." A connection is made. Then the old lust pattern says, "You are having problems with the details of life, so this week let's activate some problems for you in that area." Then sensual lust says, "You

know you have been that way ever since you were seven!" Chains are being formed as old attachments are reestablished. Finally, you give in, and you do not know why it is happening.

The problem with many Christians, dear friends, is not that we don't know how to diagnose ourselves—we are specialists on that today! If I were to counsel you, you could tell me everything wrong with you and why, and you could even tell me the solution. But too often, you cannot continue in the experience of your healing. Why? It is because of the truth about the attachment.

When the Word of God is not living in your mind (I said "living," not just passing through!), you will be ignorant of God's plan and provision for that moment. You will be ignorant of grace, and you will not know peace and victory. You will not know the call on your life or your purpose on earth. You will not know the provision from God in your heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1) and that He supports you and me in that call with all of heaven.

As a Man Thinks

So this is what happens. Many Christians have a conversion reaction—neurotic disorders

characterized by physical symptoms. They go to the doctor, take medicine, and worry up a storm. The physical symptoms are without identifiable, organic pathology.

For the Christian, there are multiple causes, organic causes, and genetic causes. But 85 percent of the time, the problem is because you do not have God's thoughts to answer the problem. The impulses through the motor fiber nerves are controlling your mind, emotions, body, and will, which are under the attack of this powerful frame of reference in your soul. You can hear a thousand messages, read books, get new friends, and have new beginnings, but you will not get victory—unless you do it God's way.

Before we get into it, I want you to notice something else. Another problem caused by the negative syndrome is anxiety neurosis. Anxiety neurosis, in some form, controls 75 percent of all businessmen and women, many housewives, and retired people. Anxiety is characterized by unfounded fears, dread, and worry. Often, free-floating anxiety and apprehension in the subjective mind is not even recognized in the Christian's objective thoughts. It drains the energy needed to function normally in our daily tasks.

Then there is self-consciousness. A self-conscious person is easily embarrassed and upset, overly sensitive, and cannot stand criticism. This person is always looking for affirmation, trying to build up his self-image, fearing that he does not measure up. Eventually, he enters into "operation criticism," tearing down others for the temporary satisfaction of feeling "better" than someone else; but the truth is, he has a terrible and inadequate self-image. All of this behavior comes from a negative syndrome that develops under tests and pressures.

God has a special answer, a special provision, special grace, but too often it is not utilized because people are ignorant of how to implement what is needed to face problems. They do not really know that the relief is in looking at the Savior and recognizing that the cross was not His, but ours.

Chapter Two
ONLY ONE WAY OUT

“And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way” (Numbers 21:4).

Israel was living in a negative syndrome. What did God do about it? He is a loving God, a God of compassion, a God of mercy. In Numbers 21, God sent a whole army of serpents! Is that loving? The devil didn't send them—God did!

You say, “I don't believe God would ever send serpents.” Well, He did. I understand that He has *all* power on earth. Therefore, because of the negative syndrome which led to the Israelites' bitterness, rebellion, and revolution, God finally said, “That's it!” and He sent serpents. One person after another became the victim of snakebites. Their bodies began to swell, and they began to cry out as poison filled their bodies. Once again, they went back to the man

they had blamed for the whole problem: Moses. God told Moses to form a brazen serpent and put it on a pole. He said that everyone who looked upon that serpent would be healed. Once again, God brought things to a critical, decisive point.

Eventually, we will have a crisis that will determine our existence on earth. For so many years, God gave mercy and patience. The time for crisis had come for the people of Israel; they could not accept the process, so God brought a crisis.

To get a victory in a process so you will not have to face the crisis, grasp what God is saying now. Do not allow your soul to be attached to negative decisions that caused the negative syndrome in the first place. Wrong decisions have caused the motor fiber nerves to be attached to specific areas of the cerebral hemisphere of your brain, from there controlling impulses that affect your mind, emotions, body, and will. How are you going to get out of it?

A Method for Overcoming

If you will listen and honor this message, you can break some of the most difficult habits in your life. Whatever church you go to, who-

ever your pastor is, or whatever pastor speaks the best message that relates to your need, buy the tape and listen to it ten times in ten weeks, all alone with no distractions. If tapes are not practical, there are many fine doctrinal booklets available.

Listen to one message ten times in ten weeks. The first time, it is encouraging; the second time, it is enjoyable; the third time, it is interesting; the fourth time, it is repetitious; the fifth time, it is repetitious. The sixth time, new things come out; the seventh time, it is encouraging; the eighth time, it is inspirational; the ninth time, something is happening; and the tenth time, for the average person, it is transforming.

The Word of God heals (Psalm 107:20) and delivers (Colossians 1:13). The Word is life (John 6:63) and power (Acts 1:8). The entrance of the Word of God breaks down attachments that developed through decisions in your negative volition; it takes care of the scars caused by the wrong decisions of others. The field of negative impulses that was attached through the motor fiber nerves is detached.

The Word brings in the mind of God, the love of God, and the grace of God. It is more

than encouragement, more than edification, more than stimulation, more than just a passing joy for a couple of days. By giving the Word of God entrance, you allow the mind of God to take over your soul! Now, instead of your ego having authority over your soul, the mind of God has authority. The Holy Spirit has authority. The grace of God has authority. You take in grace and truth, and you begin to reap grace and truth. By receiving the love of God with the Holy Spirit, you reap love and power. You invest your mind with the right attachments, and you will begin to reap the providential provision of God inside a man.

When you have completed this process in one area, then you get another tape or booklet and listen ten times. To break the old attachments, listening ten times works for most people. As you continue the process, you are breaking years of attachments between you, people, and the world system; and you end up with what I call a personal cross, where you can say, "It is my cross."

It is good to know that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. It is beautiful because it is true! But one day, Mary Magdalene looked at the cross and said, "He's my Savior. I'm going

back to the tomb." One day, Peter, as weak as he was, said, "I will follow you wherever you go!" and Jesus said, "You cannot follow Me now, but *afterward*, you will" (John 13:36-37)—after Peter came to know on the inside of his mind what a personal cross was like.

Thomas did not come to that first meeting on that first Sunday of the resurrection, and Jesus went to him directly on the second Sunday. We do not know what Thomas did with his hand when the Lord bade him to prove who He was, but we know that Thomas cried, "My Lord and my God." You see, Jesus became his personal deliverer, his personal healer, personally loving Thomas. You may think He is yours, but He isn't unless there is a personal cross.

Judgment

Jesus did not do a thing to merit death on the cross. He knew no sin, yet He hung there for you and for me, identifying with us, as a sinner. So what happened? In Genesis 3, the serpent beguiled Eve and she became negative in her volition toward the prohibition of God. From that time on, God declared to the serpent, "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon

thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life” (Genesis 3:14). God cursed the serpent. The Israelites were covered with snakebites. Do you know what that was? It was the judgment of God.

Deuteronomy 28:23 says the serpent that Moses fashioned for Israel’s healing was brass. God declared that the heavens above Israel would be brass—which in this case meant judgment—because of their disobedience. It was a brazen serpent because Jesus was not a real sinner. He *became* sin, but He wasn’t a real sinner. He was like unto sinful flesh, but he did not have sinful flesh (Romans 8:3), so the brazen serpent was a perfect type. Why did they lift up the brazen serpent? Jesus Christ would bear our judgment on the cross, and He would be lifted up. When Jesus was talking with Nicodemus in John 3:3, He said, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” In verse 14 He said, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.”

The Perfect Substitute

Here is the serpent, lifted up. Now it is Jesus Christ on the cross. All of a sudden, as many

times as we have heard it, the Holy Spirit begins to teach us something through a simple, illuminating revelation. Here it is, so listen carefully: He is my Savior. Yes, every one of my sins was placed upon Him. Yes! He died for my sins. Yes, I am saved. Oh, glory to God! Forgiven. Cleansed. Purged. It is *my* cross because He didn't do anything to merit it. He was on it, but it is my cross.

Suddenly, just as I know that He saved me on His cross (that was really my cross), I realize that I am crucified with Christ. Everyone in the world who realizes that and receives what was done in their stead is saved.

Now I can see it! I have quoted it for years: "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. I do not frustrate the grace of God" (Galatians 2:20-21a).

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:6). My old man is dead! This is a revelation of my cross, breaking the attachments of the old sin nature—a process that breaks the motor fiber attachments that came from wrong

decisions and controls my mind and emotions and the muscular-skeletal functions of my body. It also breaks the supernatural negative effects of the world system, which is controlled by Satan through demons.

Personal Resurrection

Do you see it, friends? When we deny ourselves and take up our personal cross daily, we live in His personal resurrection. We have His power, character, and divine nature through His Word and through the filling of His Spirit. It is possible. It does work! Taking up my cross brings more than encouragement, hope, stimulation, or brief deliverance with no lasting results. The inner man is delivered, and I am free from bondage—psychologically, physiologically, and emotionally.

No wonder Jesus said, in John 8:31*b*, “If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.” You will be disciples, disciplined learners. And He said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (verse 32). You will know *the* truth, not *a* truth. The truth will set you free. Jesus was not giving an emotional plea. He was saying, “If you continue in the Word and the Spirit, it will take over your soul, con-

trol your emotions and your mind, give understanding to your will, rule your self-consciousness with heaven and your conscience with grace and love. The truth will set you free to know the Son, and the Son will make you free.”

It is *my* cross. It is my salvation. It is my grace. It is my love and my mercy. Psychologically, physiologically, and emotionally, it is mine; and it is yours; and it is true! It is the cross.

Chapter Three

A THANKSGIVING FEAST

I thank God that the Lord did not say, "Pray toward the serpent." I believe in prayer, but He did not say that. I thank God He did not say, "You ought to love people." Yes, we ought to, and we will, but He did not say that. I thank God that He did not say, "You must give Me something for your healing." He did not say that I have to do something to earn it. He did not instruct people to manufacture an ointment. That would have been a system of works. Oh, I thank God He did not require that.

I thank God that He told Israel to look away from themselves and their terrible condition and to look at His provision. Imagine looking at yourself and your children, seeing the swelling from the snakebites, and knowing that death was coming at any moment. You would look at others screaming and crying because of their pain and sorrow. But He did not say to look at

others or to look at yourself. He said, "If they will just look at My provision for their condition—if they will look to the extent of believing—they will be healed!"

Here is a precious verse. Isaiah 42:18, "Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see." The blind looked, and they could see. How could a blind man look? That speaks of one who is helpless, having no strength, no power, no inward possibility. If the worst homosexual, the worst alcoholic, the worst drug addict, the worst liar, the worst thief, the worst gossip, the worst person in the world—though they are blind, if they will look, they will be healed.

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:22). Look, and you will be saved. Eve's first sin was that she looked, and then she evaluated the very thing she was not supposed to have (Genesis 3:6). Because of that, the first Adam sinned, and all men became sinners. Therefore, the answer of the second Adam, Jesus Christ, was to look! By Him, we are made righteous and set free from the curse.

Look Away from Your Self

We talk about ourselves and about every-

thing that has happened. We talk about how people have treated us and how tough life is. But, that is all self-orientation. It may be true, but it is not the issue! The Bible says, "Look away from the wrong thing and be fully occupied with Christ" (see Hebrews 12:2). The grammar implies that we are to keep right on producing the action of looking at Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith, and be occupied with Him. Keep on looking!

Temptation comes, and I am human. I have an old sin nature. But I have heard and received the message of the Word of God. It is *my* cross, *my* provision, *my* grace. He loves me! I am crucified, buried, and resurrected in my positional identification. I have ascended. I am seated in heaven. I look, by prayer and by singing, staying "near to the heart of God." I look, and healing takes place instantly. I am looking, but I am not looking at me. I have done bad things, but I am not looking at that. My sins were paid for. It is my cross, and it takes care of everything.

"Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin reign in your mortal body..." (Romans 6:11-12). The motor fiber nerves that came from negative decisions and all

kinds of attachments, old lines, and processes in the frame of reference—those lines are broken, released, and free. That is God’s healing, in Jeremiah 17:14: “Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed.”

In 3 John 2, we read: “I wish that you would prosper and be in good health, even as your soul prospers.” It is not by jumping up and down, by getting emotional, nor by operating in some kind of push-button, subjective Christianity. Having a soul that prospers is knowing how to think with God. It is having a soul that can say, “It is my cross, and these are *my* promises. It is my doctrine and my Holy Spirit. It is for me, and it is for others.” Then, the soul prospers and the old attachments are broken.

Absolutely Free

Finally, I become free indeed. It is genuine. It is real. It is not just encouragement or stimulation. It’s not just for a weekend, then back to the same old thing. It is God Almighty healing His redeemed soul that He loves.

Do not look within. I get so weary of people trying to discuss what’s going on inside. You will never be satisfied with what you find because the old sin nature has not been eradicated.

You may say you are just being “real,” but I read in my Book that we are to look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

This message is for deliverance. Do not look within; do not look at the swelling. Instead, look at the brazen serpent and see the One who loved you enough to die in your place (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Do you see the possibility of having absolute spiritual freedom God’s way? Go on from here with a personal cross—personal faith, grace, love, and healing. Let it all be personal. Real healing comes from trusting in the Word and looking, not doing.

CONCLUSION

This is the truth that *makes* us free. It doesn't merely suggest it. One subject, ten times, and attachments of the motor fiber nervous system over certain emotional impulses can be broken. That is what the Bible calls having the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). The next time temptation knocks, it must face the mind of Christ and no longer take advantage of your old historical record with all those attachments.

One thing Satan cannot deal with is Calvary's cross. The cross is the answer! The cross is not a burden—it is the only place of victory. You were saved there, and you will get healed there. Now do you see what Jesus meant when He said, "Take up your cross daily"? He did not say, "Take up your burden." It is not that He gets glory out of you having some disease. He said, "Take up your cross, and you will be free indeed." You know it is right. Stand fast in the liberty wherein the Son of God has made you free.

The cross separates you from the world, the flesh, and the devil. But if you try to go around it, you are not separated from those forces. No matter how much you go to church, no matter how much you give and shout and pray, you will not be delivered unless it is the cross—having a personal cross in every single area, every time.