

The Victory On The Cross

Jesus' Crucifixion: Is this not a matter for us to be sad or to mourn? Jesus was betrayed, ill-treated, abused and received injustice through the kind of death that He suffered. He was betrayed by His own people; He was handed over to the governor and requested to crucify Him. Governor Pilate was unwilling to do the people's plea because he did not find any ground to crucify Jesus; instead he wanted to release Him but finally he handed Him over to the soldiers to be crucified. Jesus suffered and died on the cross.

The Apostle Peter spoke the truth about the death and resurrection of Jesus: ***"Listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of the wicked men put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him."*** (Acts 2:22-24) ***"The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our Fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus. You handed Him over to be killed, and you disowned Him over to Pilate though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the holy and righteous one and ask that a murderer be released to you."*** (Acts 3:13-15)

Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave was a victorious event so we should rejoice. No one has died and raised from the dead like Jesus. As we accept the victory of Jesus on the cross and the power of His resurrection we are victorious as He is. Accepting Jesus as our personal Savior and following Him as Lord of our life, we also receive the same victories that Jesus had achieved:

1) **We have victory over ourselves:** Our own self is our first enemy; we bear bad habits, bad character, wrong attitudes and selfish ambitions. We are the enemy of ourselves. Many times our selfish motives are the source of harm to ourselves. Imagine a person who is always angry to someone. He sees others like his rival for everything. His heart is full of envy and jealousy. Imagine a good person who is always angry to people who gossip and slander and all evil doers. Or imagine a person who has vices like gambling, drinking, smoking, etc. Who are these people harming? Are not themselves?

We do evil things to ourselves, but through believing in Jesus' death on the cross in our behalf, we can be transformed because Jesus is God and He has the power to transform our lives. No more old self with all its evil deeds live inside us, but Jesus Christ whom we accepted as Lord is now controlling us to do good works. Jesus' death on the cross can give us the courage and the power to overcome all what is wrong in our personality. The Apostle Paul said: ***"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*** (Galatians 2:20)

2) **We have victory over sins:** When Jesus was hanging on the cross He prayed for those who crucified Him by saying, ***"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*** (Luke 23:34) Jesus hated sins but He loved the sinners. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price of our sins; ***"Having cancelled the written code, with its***

regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2:14) When we acknowledge the victorious act of Jesus on the cross, our old file and records of sins were already cancelled and we would no longer be judged for those sins. Sometimes we would receive the consequences of what we had done before, but no one could accuse us once we believed in Jesus and we committed our lives to Him. We would no longer be enslaved to sin: ***"For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."*** (Romans 6:14) Likewise, we will no longer continue to do sinful acts because, ***"No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God."*** (1 John 3:9)

3) **We have victory over diseases:** The reason the Son of God appeared is to destroy the devil's schemes. The work of the devil on the man's life even cause multiple sicknesses. But once we believe in Jesus and accept His victorious work on the cross, His blood that was shed for us has the healing power to cleanse us and heal all our diseases. ***"He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases"*** (Matthew 8:17) By His wounds we are healed. Through the victory of Jesus on the cross we have the victory over all kinds of diseases, and we no longer fear death. Jesus rose from the grave and we have the assurance that we too will rise and live a life eternal. Our place in heaven is secured; when we leave this temporary life on earth we have a place in the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4) **We have victory over the world:** The world is the craving of a sinful man – the pleasures of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, the greed for more and to have more material things, and the pride and boasting of what he has and what he does. This is the world of the worldly people that will soon end and all be burned by fire. After the Lord Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert. He was approached by the tempter who showed Him the world. (Matthew 4:1-11) If we believe in Jesus, we accept His sacrifice on the cross and we trust His victory from the grave, we can overcome all the temptations of this world. The word of God promised us this; ***"Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes Jesus is the Son of God."*** (1 John 5:5)

5) **We have victory over the devil:** The Lord Jesus had crushed the head of the serpent when He died willingly on the cross and rose up victoriously from the grave. Jesus had destroyed him who holds the power of death, the devil. We have the victory over Satan and his angels while we continue to submit unto God and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. ***"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*** (James 4:7)

My dear and beloved: We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have read so that we do not drift away. We are richly blessed by the message of the cross of Jesus. The cross of love and power that can transform us and give us the victory.

My prayer: "Father God in Heaven, I come to You in the name of Jesus who died on the cross to give me eternal life and victory. Thank You, Lord Jesus, that You give me victory over sins and diseases, and victory over the devil and my old self. I bless your Holy name, O Lord. Please enable me to do your will and to walk in your ways all the days of my life. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen."