

## FREEDOM BY THE POWER OF THE CROSS

(Moerewa CF – 27/3/99 – EKB)

Jesus did many wonderful things for us on the Cross, which is at the heart and the centre of Christianity. These are fully described for us in No 118 and No 152. Tonight I want to focus on one major aspect of the Cross, and that is **how it operates in our daily lives.**

### A. Victory over the old nature and habits of sin

The Word of God clearly tells us that we have been **united with Christ in His death on the Cross**, as well as in His burial and resurrection, *Gal 2:20, Rom 6:6, Rom 6:3-5, Col 2:12,13, Col 3:1-3*. We need to grasp what this means to us and how it benefits us.

God's Word declares that **we have been crucified with Christ**, we have **died with Christ**, we have been **buried with Christ**, and **raised with Christ**. Therefore we can **know full freedom from the old self life of sin**, and experience **the fulness of Christ** living His resurrection life in us. *Gal 2:20, Rom 6:11, Rom 6:14, Rom 6:22*.

**Water baptism is an outward confession** and declaration of this truth, *Rom 6:3,4, Gal 3:27, Col 2:12,13*. **Baptism with the Spirit, and the Spirit's fulness is what makes these truths alive to us, and powerful.**

As we **embrace the Cross**, by faith confession into our lives, the old life of sinful selfishness is brought to an end, and the new life of Christ replaces it, *Gal 2:20*.

**The Cross becomes our charter of freedom from sinful habits, Rom 8:2, by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

For example, for fourteen years I was a slave to anger. One day someone showed me the truths of *Rom 6:6,11*. I made faith confession of these verses for two weeks and by the end of that time I was 90% free from all anger. What a blessing! I want more of that!

Well anger is not the only sin of the old self life. There may be pride, fear, doubt, lust, judging others, bitterness, lying, stealing, swearing, hate, drugs, worry, despair, negativity, self pity and so on, *Gal 5:19-21, Col 3:5-8, 1Cor 6:9-11*. All of these and many others were crucified to death with Christ on the Cross. **The Living Bible puts it this way in Rom 6:1-3**, "...shall we keep on sinning? ...Of course not! Should we keep on sinning when we don't have to? For sin's power over us was broken when we became Christians and were baptised to become a part of Jesus Christ; **through His death the power of your sinful nature was shattered.**" Praise God everybody!

So **EMBRACE THE CROSS** and be free from sinful habits **by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Believe for, and receive the fulness of Christ living His life in you.** *Col 1:27, Gal 2:20, Col 3:3, Gal 3:27*.

**The fulness of Christ is in us,** *Col 2:9,10(NIV), Jn 1:16*.

Christ is living in us in all the fulness of His:

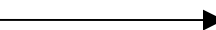
- a. **Love, joy, peace**, etc. *Gal 5:22,23*.  
Humility, servanthood, obedience to God, *Mat 20:28, Jn 4:34*.
- b. **Righteousness and justice**, *2Cor 5:21, Phil 3:9, 1Cor 1:30*.  
Integrity, reliability faithfulness, honesty.
- c. **Authority, boldness**, witness, confidence, *Mat 7:28,29, Ac 1:8, Pro 14:26, Pro 28:1*.  
**Power**, ability, might, strength, *Jn 14:12, 2Tim 1:7, Lk 7:22*, healing the sick, casting out demons, working miracles, preaching the Gospel.
- d. **Truth**, *Jn 14:6, Jn 16:13, 1Jn 2:27*.  
Wisdom, *1Cor 1:30*, knowledge, *Eph 1:17,18*, understanding, *Col 2:2*, revelation,

*Eph 1:17*, prophecy, word of knowledge, discernment of spirits, word of wisdom, tongues and interpretation.

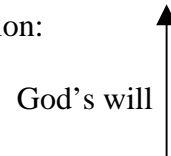
**B. The Cross enables us to walk in God's will.**

Because we have embraced the Cross of death with Christ into our lives, it brings to an end our old sinful nature. We also need to embrace the Cross **into our decision making and choices.**

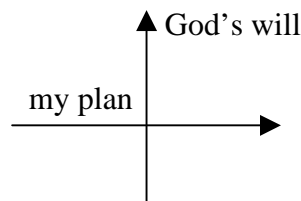
Jesus made this clear in *Lk 9:23*, "If anyone will come after Me, let Him deny Himself, take up His Cross daily, and follow Me."

Suppose my plan and desire is to go in this direction: my plan 

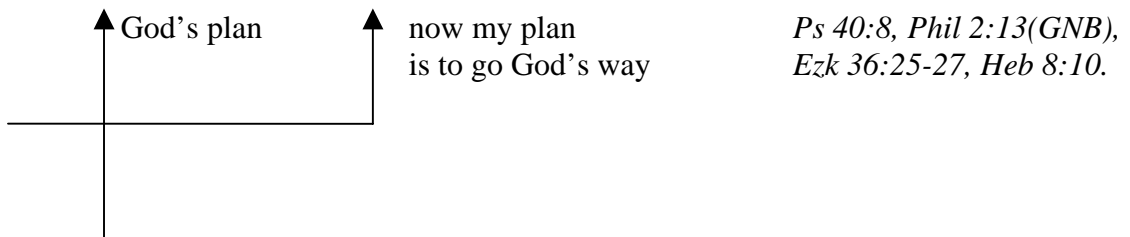
but the Holy Spirit makes it clear that God's will for me is in a different direction:



At this point I am confronted with the Cross:



**Because I have embraced the Cross, and by the power and enabling of the Holy Spirit, I say, "Lord, not my will, but Your's be done."** So I choose God's will and turn to go His way, *Mk 14:36*.



*Ps 40:8, Phil 2:13(GNB),  
Ezk 36:25-27, Heb 8:10.*

**C. The way of the Cross releases Holy Spirit revelation.**

**As followers of Christ we can never go beyond the Cross,** no matter how far we go in the Christian life. The Cross is the **basic operating principle of following Jesus.**

One day we were in a hospital ward with a very sick child. As we were praying for healing and crying out to God, we both looked up at the same time and saw a vision of the Cross. The Lord was saying to us to choose His will before your own desire. So we went home, knelt down by our bed and handed the child over to God. At that moment He spoke to us and said, "The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up," *Jam 5:15*. We had been praying and crying out to God from our own human desires and these had to be taken to the Cross, before God-given faith and revelation could be given by God and received by us. The child was rapidly healed. **Praise God everybody!**

**D. The Cross is God's way of release from, and victory over, the world System and its influences.** In *Gal 6:14*, God's Word says that by the Cross we are crucified to the world and the world is crucified to us.

As a young man of 19years, I was challenged at a Christian Easter camp, to give my life totally to God. After the camp, back at my home, I lay on the floor and surrendered myself totally to God and all I had hoped to be. From this point on, the pull and control of the world, *1Jn 2:16*, ceased from being a controlling force in my life. From that time forward I made more forward steady progress in following Christ than previously.