Devotion #263

**The Power of the Cross**

**Isaiah 53:5 (NASB)** *“He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.”*

Every morning I spend sometime asking God what He wants for me to write about that will hopefully be a blessing to you and give you truth to think about. This morning I was thinking about a few things that are going on in life and the song, “The Power of the Cross” by Stuart Townsend and Keith Getty popped into my head. If you don’t know the song I would encourage you to look it up and listen to it. The main body of the song goes like this, “*Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day: Christ on the road to Calvary. Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood. This, the power of the cross. Christ became sin for us, took the blame, bore the wrath, we stand forgiven at the cross.*”

That song resonates in my mind even as I type this because it has such powerful truth in it. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not only that He came to earth as God, but that He showed us His love and willingness to heal and forgive us of all our sins. I have often wondered where we would all be if it weren’t for the love of the Father who willingly sacrificed His own Son so that people like you and me, sinners at the core, could be forgiven of our many violations and atrocities against Him. It’s almost too much to comprehend. How and why God would give us such a wonderful gift? The answer is because He loves us. Listen to the verse that most people know, even people who don’t live their lives for God. **John 3:16 (NASB)** "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life*.” If there is a clearer statement from God about His love for each of us, I don’t know what it is.

As we approach the most wonderful Christian celebration of the year, Easter, or what I like to call “The Resurrection Celebration”, I pray that each of us will take to heart this amazing gift from God. A gift that says to all who will turn to Him, “No matter what you have done or are currently doing that violates Him and His Word, the cross has the power to forgive you.” To be clearer, the work of Jesus’s sacrifice of Himself is the power that gives the blessing of being forgiven. Jesus, sinless as He was, was willing to die for us to buy us out of sin and the hand of Satan, so we would have eternal life with God the Father. And all He asks is that we turn to Him for forgiveness and healing.

What are your struggles today? What sin or sins do you carry? What burdens are there that you can’t seem to get away from or out from under? What is weighing on you so heavily that you cannot rest and, you feel the entire world is against you? The cross of Christ is the answer for it all. Not that everything will go away that has been done. We still reap what we sow. (Galatians 6:7) We still have to pay the price for our sin here on earth. But God will give your heart freedom from the pain and pressure you face. He will give you a totally new reason to face each day knowing everything will be ok. Why? Because the cross is the symbol or display for His love and mercy for all who surrender to Him. It is in the power of Christ’s death and resurrection that we can face tomorrow and all its challenges. It is because of His death and resurrection we can keep going when there seems to be only darkness in front of us. I love how the Apostle Paul said it, “**2 Corinthians 4:8-11 (NASB)**  “*We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*” Praise God for His saving grace.