



The Message of the Cross - The Flesh must Die!

Zechariah 17 v 7

7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd,
Against the Man who is My Companion,"
Says the Lord of hosts.

**"Strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep will be scattered;
Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.**

8 And it shall come to pass in all the land,"
Says the Lord,
"That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die,
But one-third shall be left in it:

**9 I will bring the one-third THROUGH THE FIRE,
Will REFINE THEM AS SILVER IS REFINED,
And TEST THEM AS GOLD IS TESTED.**

They will call on My name,
And I will answer them.

I will say, **'This is My people';**
And each one will say, **'The Lord is my God.'** "



Matthew 26:31

31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

**'I WILL STRIKE THE SHEPHERD,
AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK WILL BE SCATTERED.'**

32 But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

33 Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

35 Peter said to Him, **"Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"**

Only by His Spirit can we not deny him!



Flesh and Blood shall not inherit the Kingdom 1 Corinthians 15:50

Galatians 5 v17

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

THERE IS A WAR IN OUR MEMBERS....HOW ARE YOU OVERCOMING?

ROMANS 8

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can it be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

JOHN 10

17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

ROMANS 6

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**THE FLESH LUSTS AGAINST THE SPIRIT,
AND THE SPIRIT AGAINST THE FLESH;**



Victory or Defeat?

HAVE WE REALLY MADE A DECISION TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES DAILY...THAT CHRIST MAY RAISE US UP!!!



SELF MUST DIE... THAT CHRIST CAN REIGN



Take Up your Cross and Follow Him.

MATTHEW 16 V:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

BACK TO JOHN 10 VERSE 17 (PAGE 2)...THIS POWER IS GIVEN TO US WHEN WE ARE IN CHRIST & WE CHOOSE TO OBEY.

WE HAVE HIS AUTHORITY TO OVERCOME OUR FLESH BY HIS SPIRIT.

IT IS A COMMAND BY THE LORD!

WE MUST DECIDE....OF OUR OWN FREE WILL. IT'S A SACRIFICE... OUCH!

FOLLOW ME... MEANS YOU ARE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS, TO WALK AS HE WALKED! TAKE UP YOUR CROSS = DIE TO SELF, LAY DOWN OUR LIFE (THE CARNAL MIND, WILL AND EMOTIONS) AND BRING THEM INTO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST.

LUKE 14 V:33 So likewise, **whoever of you does not forsake all that he has** cannot be My disciple.

IF WE LOSE OUR LIVES NOW, WE WON'T LOSE OUR LIVES LATER & THAT MEANS OUR ETERNAL SALVATION !!!



SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE

1 PETER 2

19 For one is regarded favorably (is approved, acceptable, and thankworthy) if, as in the sight of God, he endures the pain of unjust suffering.

20 After all, what kind of glory is there in it... if, when you do wrong and are punished for it, you take it patiently? But if you bear patiently with suffering [which results] when you do right *and* that is undeserved, it is acceptable *and* pleasing to God.

This is an example of taking up our cross, Jesus being our example. Is it you that lives or is it Christ? Does the Flesh rule through the old man that refused to die or is it in the Power of God through the WORD producing the peace of God that passes all understanding in Christ.

2 TIMOTHY 3 V:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION.**

This is when the Flesh
is truly **CRUCIFIED !**





NO CROSS....NO CROWN!

1 PETER 2

21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you **should follow His steps**:

22 “Who committed no sin,
Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

23 who, **when He was reviled, did not revile in return**; when He suffered, **He did not threaten**, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.



If we lose our lives now we won't have to lose our lives later!!!

NO CROSS....NO CROWN!

SELF IS OUR ENEMY, THIS IS WHY WHEN WE LOOK IN THE MIRROR, WE NEED SEE CHRIST!



Crucify SELF before he crucifies You!



MATTHEW 5

9 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, **turn the other to him also.**

44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

45 **that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;**

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Even Jesus forgave them on His Cross, and so must we!

Do you see how self is the enemy lurking in the shadows....Crucify him before he crucifies You!



Discernment between the Flesh and the Spirit.

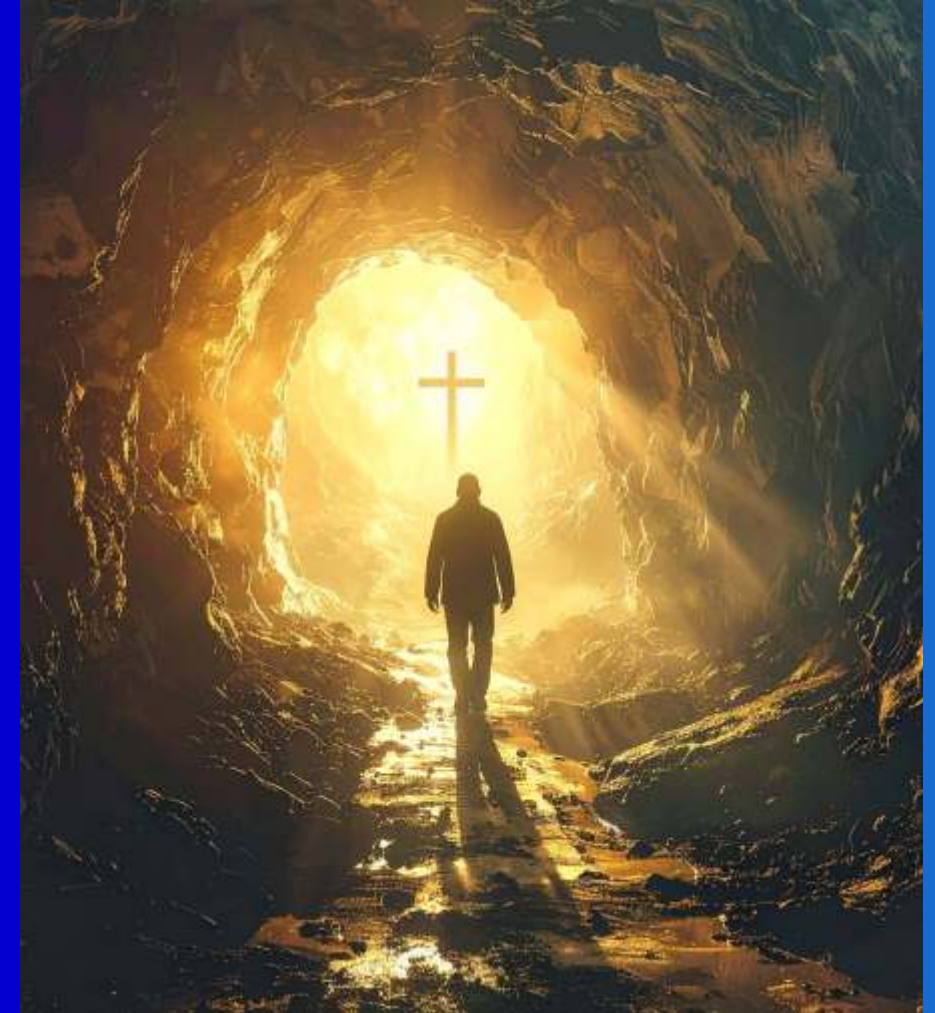
- Learn to discern evil, do I allow the flesh to agree with evil by argueing or getting angry **OR** do I align myself with the Spirit and resist the flesh and obey the Word Jesus!
- Allow the New Man to come forth, as Jesus called Lazarus from out of the tomb and caused the grave clothes to fall from him.
- You see this is abiding in Christ, this will cause the fruit to manifest in your spirit man.
- Beware that the Light that is in you is not darkness!
- How do we know we abide in Christ really?
- Only if we obey his Word, I know my sheep because they obey me and hear my Voice.
- The Cross brings forth Fruit, you deny your flesh and he will die!
- Don't feed him, he loves leaven (false doctrine) Anger, hatred, unforgiveness, contention etc.
- You see the Old man has been nailed to that Spiritual cross and it is our choice if we allow him to come down off that Cross and show himself as God!!!





Putting down the Flesh

- Putting to death the old Man with the **SWORD OF THE WORD**.
- The more you exercise this the more the Flesh will die.
- Sinful Flesh cannot stand in the presence of the Lord.
- You entered in through the veil into his Presence, only as long as that sinful flesh dies!!! (Baptism: type and shadow).
- Jesus went to the Cross with his own free will, when we are born again we have now, free will to choose between life & death.
- The Cross requires Obedience, Sacrifice, Death to the old life.
- Sinful Flesh cannot abide in his presence!
- Going to the Cross **NOW** is easier than facing what lies in wait for the Carnal minded, which is enmity with God.
- Fasting is an example of starving the Flesh & keeping him nailed to the Cross.
- Romans 12:21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.





WHERE IS YOUR FAITH? In the Law or Christ!

ROMANS 10

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and **seeking to establish their own righteousness**, have not submitted to **the righteousness of God**.

4 For Christ is the **END OF THE LAW** for **righteousness to everyone who believes**.

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

Romans 3: 21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,...

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF!





Conclusion.

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

If you wonder if you are ready to take up your cross, consider these questions:

- Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means losing some of your closest friends?
- Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means alienation from your family?
- Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means the loss of your reputation?
- Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means losing your job?
- Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means losing your life?

JOHN 20

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

