



Day One: #2 You Were Crucified with Christ (6)

Over the last week, we've looked at the exciting truths that we are crucified with Christ and that means we are dead to our old identity, we are dead to sin and we are dead to judgment. But that's not where the good news stops! We are also dead to the natural realm.

We are Dead to the Natural Realm

Galatians 6:14 (TPT) *My only boast is in the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, our Messiah. In him I have been crucified to this natural realm; and the natural realm is dead to me and no longer dominates my life.*

What this means is that we no longer have to be dominated by our five senses! We are free from having to respond to what we see, hear, touch, feel and smell. We do not have to be moved by it and we do not have to consider it the final evidence for our lives! The only boast that we have is in the reality of Christ living within us. In fact, when we walk in the reality of our crucifixion with Christ, we can come to the place where we can look sickness, lack and even death in the face, and yet know that we know that it is not our reality but in fact, the promises of God are our reality.

After all, is this not how Jesus operated? If He was moved by what He saw with His natural eyes more than what He saw in His spiritual eyes, how could He ever have looked at a funeral procession and commanded the young man to arise (Luke 7:11 – 15)? Or how could He have looked at the weeping people around the tomb of Lazarus, and commanded him to come forth (John 11:32 – 44)? Or told the invalid to walk if He was dominated by the fact that he'd been lying on his mat for 38 years (John 5:1 – 9)? Or commanded the demon out of the boy if He was shaken by the boy's epileptic fits (Matt 17:14 – 20)?

Yet He gives us the same commission to drive out demons and lay hands on the sick and they will recover (Mark 16:17 – 18). He also said that we will do the works that He did and even greater things than He did (John 14:12), so we can know that He fully expects that we will raise the dead also.

The only way it is possible for us is the way it was possible for Jesus. He was dead to the natural realm and alive to the spiritual realm. Or in other words:



He was dead to the evidence satan continually put BEFORE Him, and was alive to the reality that God continually placed WITHIN Him!

The great news is that we too can live this way – totally dead to the natural realm and therefore unmoved by it in any way! We can live in the reality of the Word of God, the prophetic promises that have been spoken over us, and the secret whispers from Holy Spirit’s heart to ours, and continue to agree and decree this as our reality, even when everything around us appears in the natural to be the opposite! Sickness, lack, relational difficulties, children who have walked away from God – all are simply ‘evidence’ of natural facts, but are by no means spiritual reality.

If it’s not what God sees from the heavenly places, it’s not our truth.



Ask the Lord: “What do you see about me and my life, when you look from the heavenly places? I want to see what you see.” Close your eyes and trust Him to show you.



Day Two: #2 You Were Crucified with Christ (7)

We can learn so much about how God wants us to function by receiving His evidence as truth, from Ezekiel (Ezekiel 37). When he looked over the valley of dry bones, all he could see were disconnected, dry and lifeless bones.

Ezekiel 37:1 – 2 (AMP) *He...set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. And He caused me to pass round about among them, and behold, there were very many [human bones] in the open valley or plain, and behold, they were very dry.*

When God asked him if the bones could live, Ezekiel had the wisdom not to speak what he saw, but instead asked God what HE saw.

Ezekiel 37:3 (AMP) *And He said to me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, You know!*

God told Ezekiel what the spiritual reality of the situation was, and He told him to prophesy that the bones would live.

Ezekiel 37:4 – 6 (AMP) *Again He said to me, Prophecy to these bones and say to them, O you dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath and spirit to enter you, and you shall live; And I will lay sinews upon you and bring up flesh upon you and cover you with skin, and I will put breath and spirit in you, and you [dry bones] shall live; and you shall know, understand, and realize that I am the Lord...*

Yet when God spoke this to Ezekiel, the bones were still dry and lifeless! Absolutely nothing had changed in what Ezekiel could see with his natural eyes... but EVERYTHING had changed in what he could see with his spiritual eyes.

Just like Ezekiel did in the valley of dry bones, we can see with our natural eyes nothing but disconnected, dry and lifeless bones but we have to realise that the situations of our life are simply 'dead bones' that we have been called to prophesy into life. But we can't do that, while we're focused on the dead bones and make them our final evidence. We must be dead to the dead bones, and alive to the voice of God and when we see and hear His reality and make it our own, we'll see the bones come back to life and arise in the natural! What happened when Ezekiel did this?



Ezekiel 37:7 (AMP) *So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a [thundering] noise and behold, a shaking and trembling and a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.*

We are called to live by faith. We don't have to receive ANY evidence through our natural eyes. We simply choose to see and hear with our spiritual eyes and ears, and live by the faith that Jesus has planted within us. It's not that we can't acknowledge what's going on in the natural realm. We accept that these are natural facts. But we also accept a higher reality in the promises of God and we focus on that. If we focus on what is happening in the natural realm as though it is the evidence of whether or not we've received the promises of God, it will look like it's evidence but in reality it's simply distraction and deception which aims to keep us from declaring the truth. We don't need to take our evidence from the world anymore. We can walk by faith and become...

UNSHAKEABLE, IMMOVABLE & UNOFFENDABLE

Anything whatsoever in the natural realm that does not line up with the promises and purposes of God, we have now died to. They cannot move us, they cannot shake us, and they cannot offend us – unless we let them, by choosing to see ourselves as separate from Jesus and forget that we've already died to these things!



Are there some dead bones in my life that I have been looking at?

What are the promises of God that He wants me to declare over these bones?



Day Three: #2 You Were Crucified with Christ (8)

It's so exciting to realise what our crucifixion with Christ has purchased for us! However, we have to be sure that we are not confusing this message with a works mentality that tells us that WE have to crucify our flesh. The predominant messages coming out of the church for many generations have told us that we have a sinful flesh and that it is up to us to crucify and deaden it, and usually the prescribed action is to deny ourselves anything we would consider to be a pleasure, delight or desire. However, this is simply an interpretation that has been made through the mindset of law and religion.

Any time we rely on what we think we have to do instead of what CHRIST HAS ALREADY DONE, we're functioning by works, not grace.

In fact, as with any of the promises of God and realities of the Kingdom of God, all we ever have to do is 'consider it so' (Rom 6:11).

If we think that we are responsible for crucifying our flesh, we essentially are saying that our flesh has not already been crucified. And as we've just seen over the past couple of weeks, the Scriptures clearly tell us that our flesh HAS already been crucified. It's a past tense, done deal – accomplished by Jesus (not us!) on the cross. And considering that Jesus was the lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8), that means WE have been crucified since the foundation of the world. Our flesh is well and truly dead!

When we believe that we still need to crucify our flesh, we're saying that Jesus has not already accomplished this. Either we think that it was never Jesus' responsibility to crucify our flesh and that it's what we're called to do, or we somehow think that we have to 'add' something to what Jesus has already done. What a slight on His sacrifice! That is tantamount to saying that what He began in the spirit, we have to finish in the flesh:

Galatians 3:3 (NLT) *How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?*

Certainly, if the grace of God can't accomplish something, our effort sure won't do it! But if we'll receive the grace of God that comes to us through our crucifixion with Christ as an already accomplished reality, we will receive the fact that our flesh HAS been crucified with Christ Jesus and we won't need to



waste another second trying to deaden ourselves. I would ask you: How can you make something which is dead, any more dead than dead? It's like taking an axe to a corpse. The end result will be messier, but it won't change the bottom line. Dead is dead!

If we don't think our old man is dead, we'll try to fix him up! We'll find ourselves digging around in the old man, endlessly trying to make improvements, trying to revive him. When we refuse to accept that our old identity is completely dead, we'll be there trying to give him mouth to mouth resuscitation. But the power of Jesus is not going to flow through us to resurrect someone who Jesus' blood was shed to crucify. We must simply accept that the old man is dead and bury him and leave him there for good! If we don't, what will happen? We will find ourselves continually looking at what is 'wrong' with us... instead of looking at what is right with Jesus!

Soak Time

Have I ever found myself doing these things: Thinking that I'm responsible for crucifying my own flesh?

Thinking I have to add something to Jesus' sacrifice?

Trying to fix myself up?



Day Four: #2 You Were Crucified with Christ (9)

So God set it up that Jesus would be responsible for crucifying our flesh. Why? Because He knew that if we had the responsibility of crucifying our own flesh, a) we'd never be able to do it; and b) we'd spend all of our time focusing on what is 'wrong' with us, instead of what is right with Jesus. And has humble as it might sound to 'keep an eye' on our shortcomings, it's actually an extremely dangerous activity.

Any time we look at our sin, we are keeping our eyes on ourselves and in our hearts we are seeing ourselves as separate to Jesus, because of course He is free from sin. And we always become what we behold! If we continue to behold what is essentially our old man and try to force him to change, we are actually taking ourselves out from under grace, and putting ourselves under law.

1 Corinthians 15:56 (KJV) ...the strength of sin is the law.

The Bible says that what STRENGTHENS sin in our life is the law. So if we're continually doing an assessment of where we're going wrong, we're looking at that (instead of keeping our eyes on our true strength, which is Jesus), and sin just becomes stronger and bigger in our lives. Whatever we focus on consumes us.

On the other hand, if we'll do it the way God says to and consider the old man as dead and our new man alive in Christ Jesus, and just keep our eyes continually on Jesus, what will happen?

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

We will automatically walk in the glory of His image! We will be transformed and it will be not because of anything we have done, but because we kept our eyes on what He has already done for us!

The only thing we've ever been asked to do is to put off the old man and put on the new (resurrected) man (more on that tomorrow) by considering it so. That's it! That's our full and total responsibility in this situation! And then we simply trust that Jesus who started this work in us, will finish it.



Philippians 1:6 (NLT) *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

Do you notice that it says this work is HIS work? It's not ours! Our work is, 'Consider it so'.

You are already crucified. You don't have to kill your flesh. You simply align with what Jesus has already done and when your flesh rises up, you simply remind it, "No, I'm dead to that." And go on about your life with your eyes focused on Jesus, walking in the power and the fullness of the resurrection life that Jesus died to give you. What a way to live!

Soak Time

My tendency in life has been to:

- Behold my sins and where I've fallen short, in an effort to live holy.
OR
- Behold my Jesus, trust in my righteousness in Him, and allow Him to transform me.

Which is true of me and why have I approached it in this manner?



Day Five: #3 You Were Resurrected with Christ (1)

So we've been looking at the ten ways in which our identity was changed by Jesus' complete work on the cross. The first is that 'We are Spirit, Soul and Body', and the second is that 'We have been crucified with Christ.' Praise God, where there was death has given way to glorious life and just as we have been crucified with Christ, we have also been resurrected with Him!

Colossians 3:1 - 2 (TPT) Christ's resurrection from the dead is your resurrection too...

Ephesians 2:4 - 5 (NLT) But God is so rich in mercy and He loved us so much that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised us from the dead...

Wow, we've heard so many scriptures about how God raised Jesus from the dead, but here's one that talks about when He raised US from the dead! We have already gone from death to life! His resurrection is His victory and His victory is our victory, too! Not only are we dead to the things He died to, but we're also alive to everything Jesus is alive to – alive to God, alive to Holy Spirit, alive to victory, alive to healing, alive to abundance, alive to wisdom, and the list could go endlessly on.

The life comes with the resurrection and as we come to a realization and acceptance of our resurrection, we will live as the resurrected ones. The truly alive ones!

This understanding has been relatively missing from the church. Think back over your time as a Christian and ask yourself how many times you would have heard references to us being crucified in proportion to the times that you have heard about us being resurrected? If your experience has been anything like mine, virtually every reference to being crucified has been about our need to crucify our own flesh (which as we've seen is not what the Bible says... it says we've already been crucified and all we have to do is consider it so). We have virtually heard nothing about the fact that we were also resurrected with Him!



Yet His true, real life comes to us through His resurrection. Consider what Jesus says in John 5 about the two resurrections that will happen for God's people. The second is described as the resurrection from the dead when Jesus comes again. However, the first is described to happen before then. It says:

John 5:25 - 26 (TPT) *I speak to you eternal truth: Soon the dead will hear the voice for the Son of God, and those who listen will arise with Life! For the Father has given the Son the power to impart life, even as the Father imparts life.*

Just as the sins have been paid for the entire world but not all will accept it, resurrection life has been provided for the entire world but not all will walk in it. Or, as many Christians do, they will walk in a minute proportion of the resurrection life of Christ by claiming their 'ticket to heaven', yet continuing to walk as an 'un-resurrected one' on this earth! We weren't told only to consider ourselves as dead to sin, but also as alive to God (Rom 6:11).

We will walk in the fullness of the life of Christ within us, only when we both die AND live!

Soak Time

Do I see myself as a crucified one? Why or why not?

Do I see myself as a resurrected one? Why or why not?
