

The Cross: The Power of God

Pastor John Carmichael

[1Co 1:17-18 NASB95] 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void. 18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- As a new Christian I wore a huge cross around my neck. It served as a reminder to me of what Jesus did for me and of how I should live.
- The Apostle Paul said that the preaching of the Cross is the power of God to us who are being saved.

How is the message of the Cross the power of God as we are being saved?

Here are five messages (reminders) of the Cross that help tap into the power of God.

- I. **Child of God: The message of the cross reminds us that we are children of God.**
 - a. Jesus' death on the cross, allowed us to be adopted as children of God.
 - b. [Gal 3:26-27 NASB95] 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
 - c. [Jhn 1:12 NASB95] 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, [even] to those who believe in His name,
 - d. You are a child of God.
- II. **Redeemed: The message of the cross reminds us that we are redeemed from the curse.**
 - a. The source of the curse was dealt with at the cross of Christ.
 - b. [Isa 53:4-5 NASB95] 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But 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.
 - c. [Gal 3:13-14 NASB95] 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE" 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
 - d. [1Jo 2:1-2 NASB95] 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for [those of] the whole world.
 - e. Sin caused the curse, you are forgiven and cleansed from sin, therefore the curse has no right to operate in your life.
- III. **Overcome: The message of the cross reminds us we are overcomers concerning Satan and the demonic realm.**
 - a. Jesus' death on the cross have us victory over Satan.
 - b. [Col 2:15 NASB95] 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
 - c. [Heb 2:14 NASB95] 14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,
 - d. God wants you to live in victory.
- IV. **Separated: The message of the cross reminds us that we are to live separated from the world and the flesh.**
 - a. The cross of Christ showed Jesus refusing to indulge in the world and His flesh.

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- b. Jesus said this is a “must.” [Luk 9:23 NASB95] 23 And He was saying to [them] all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.
- c. We live for Christ. [Gal 2:20 NASB95] 20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- d. [1Jo 2:15-17 NASB95] 15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 The world is passing away, and [also] its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
- e. [Gal 6:14 NASB95] 14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
- f. [1Pe 2:24 NASB95] 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.
- g. We are not to live friendship with the world's system. This friendship involves embracing the world's attitudes, values, practices, ungodly pleasures and corrupt ways. [Jas 4:4 NASB95] 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

V. Sacrificial: The message of the cross reminds us that we are called to live a sacrificial life for God and others.

- a. Jesus lived for the Father and others.
 - b. Jesus endured the Cross for in obedience to the Father. [Heb 12:2 NASB95] 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - c. Jesus went to the Cross to serve others. [Phl 2:5-8 NASB95] 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
 - d. Let the Cross of Jesus serve as a reminder to serve God and others.
- **The message of Cross preaches to us that we are children of God, redeemed from the curse, overcoming Satan and demons, separated from the world and we live sacrificial lives for God and others.**