

The Cross of Christ

The Blood of Christ is the power to heal and deliver from evil.

The Cross of Christ is the power to transform us from death to life

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A few months back I heard from The Lord that the power of the cross was different from the power of the blood, and that the power of the cross was much more powerful and desirable. I was so struck by this statement, that I leaned into it so that I could understand it. What I discovered is that the power of the cross is THE POWER to transform us. It is so awesome that I struggle to find the words to contain it.

I am so taken by the power of the cross as a gate between here and the eternal, it is the point of transformation for us from death to life. And, human words are so inadequate and pedestrian for this description that I struggle to translate this glorious exchange into common human language. I feel like I am saying things that have been said before, and the words feel stale in my mouth. But, I am going to try to come close to this exchange, and, you, reader, will need to implore the Holy One to bring to life this Rhema truth in your heart, so that you can feel the passion of this exchange, and the gratitude for trials that allow to buy from Him gold that is refined by fire. This purchase is made with your very life here on earth, and that refined gold is YOU.

When Paul, in Galatians, says, *6: 14 But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, **through which** the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* This says that we literally must pass through the gate of the cross, and in crossing through, we pass from death into life. I have always viewed this passage through, from death to life, like stepping through a door, and that crossing happens all at once at the point of salvation. But it is not like that much at all. Certainly, a small part of us passes through the gate, at the point that we confess that we are sinners needing a savior. And that small part is transformed from death to life. But the process of transformation is much more like the passing of a camel through the eye of a needle. When Jesus said that it is impossible for a rich man to be saved, and that it is like a camel going through the eye of a needle, he was not talking about the little door in the wall that camels routinely squeezed through. There was no such door, and that story repeated by preachers, but it never existed. Jesus is talking about a literal camel passing through the eye of a literal needle. It is impossible, no matter how willing the camel might be, it is only possible if God transforms the camel and makes that transition possible. The miracle power of God is needed for us to pass through the cross gate, and it is easier for God to transform a camel, (who doesn't resist) than us cantankerous humans.

It takes the power of God to bring us to humility of spirit, so that we can squeeze through the gate of the cross. Isaiah tells us that there is not one who is righteous, no, not one. Jesus told us in Revelation 3:17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. And in the beatitudes Luke 6:20 "Looking at his disciples, he said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom . The rich that Jesus is referring to are those of us who do not think that we need him; because we think that we are rich in our knowledge, rich in our own righteousness, rich in our emotional strength. At every place in our lives where we are not humble we can not pass through that gate. This is the spiritual passing through the eye of the needle, which is tiny, like the cross gate. We must humble ourselves in order to pass through.

I propose that we are squeezing ourselves through the gate of the cross for our entire life, and this act of going through this tiny gate requires humility and pain. It hurts to die to ourselves! Some people, Enoch and probably Elijah, managed to make it all the way through that gate during their lifetime, when they completed the process, they were fully transformed and simply stepped from time to eternity. But most of us do not make the entire transition during our lifetime. I propose that as we pass from death into life, it is the part of us that is brought alive that goes into eternal life. It is not that the part of us that doesn't make it through doesn't come, it is that the part that doesn't come through the gate is already dead and was not made alive. This is why Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15:41-42 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. Our own transformation, here, is what determines that brightness of our glory. Some will walk into eternity with the brightness of stars, and others with the brightness of the sun. We make our own exchange through our willingness to receive trials and be transformed by them into the likeness of Christ. It is the trials that make us glorious.

The cross is where the great exchange takes place. The cross is where we transform from death into life!! Crucifixion is death. From the view of the person standing on this side of the cross, whatever passes through that gate becomes dead to this world. From the view of the person standing on the other side of the gate, entering into life; everything on the former side is death. The world is dead to me, and I am dead to the world.

Here's the thing, this transformation is the most valuable thing that can be accomplished in this life. The value of the transformation, means that every inch of our being that is drug through that cross gate, that exchange, is YOUR DEATH, INTO YOUR ETERNAL LIFE, it renders the cost of the exchange incalculably valuable. That is why Paul says that this exchange is filthy rags not to be compared with the heavy weight of glory. This is your glorious exchange. The blood of Jesus bought your right to pass

through the cross, it bought our ability to exchange our death for life. His blood opened that gate for any who will pass through it, without payment for entry. But, passage through the gate requires the exchange of death for life. It is the power of the cross gate itself that is the treasure beyond anything we could hope or imagine. This is why we should count every opportunity to die to ourselves as a great opportunity and a joy. The exchange is immeasurably in our favor.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that life is only worth extending if there are trials that will transform me. And to legitimately wonder who has the better life, one who lives in luxury without trouble, or the one who walks with trouble and sorrow. If this exchange is real, then this becomes a real question. Of course, sorrow is only valuable if an exchange is made for life!

Galatians 6:14 But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

James 1:2 **2** Consider it nothing but joy, my **b**rothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials.

Matt 19: **24** Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man [who places his faith in wealth and status] to enter the kingdom of God."

2 Cor 4:17 For our momentary, light distress [this passing trouble] is producing for us an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendor and an endless blessedness]!