

Why We Come to the Cross in Prayer

“For the message of the Cross ..to us who are being saved is the power of God.” (1 Cor.1:18)

We focus on Christ’s sufficiency. *Focusing on the finished, sufficient work of Jesus takes the focus off of ourselves and our insufficiency.*

- *We can do nothing apart from Christ (Jn. 15:5)*
- *We are only complete (competent) in Christ*
- *Christ lives in us (Jn. 14:20) and His resurrection power is released to accomplish the good work that He prepared for us to perform.*

We claim Christ’s victory. *As we come by faith in Christ’s completed work on the Cross, we believe that His overcoming obedience and sacrifice gives us access to that same victory in our own lives.*

- *Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us to approach the throne of grace with confidence because of the completed work of our high priest. For He was tested and tried just as we are (even in this moment) so He can truly understand.*
- *Let us approach “with confidence so that we can receive mercy (for our failures and sin) and grace to help in our time of need.”*

We are reassured of God’s love. *In the midst of a trial we all need the reassurance of God’s love and concern for us.*

- *The Cross is the eternal sign that God loves us so much that He gave His only Son Jesus. (Jn.3:16)*
- *1 John 4:10 tells us that “This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”*
- *Romans 8:31-39 tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. His sacrifice for us is proof that not even death can keep us from His love.*

We claim Christ’s forgiveness. *Many are overwhelmed by their own mistakes and failures which have hurt others. In the Cross we see Jesus, the One by Whom and through Whom all things were created and are held together (Col. 1:17) willingly give His life for us, even when we were still His enemies. (Rom.5:6-8) We can be assured of His willingness to forgive us and help us now. There is no condemnation in Christ. (Romans 8:1)*

We participate in the Great Exchange it provides. *All of us need to humbly ponder the Great Exchange that is ours at the Cross. Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12 is one place that gives us some of the clues as to the exchanges offered us. Here are a few suggestions.*

- *As we pray at the Cross there is always an exchange: our anxiety for His peace, our sinfulness for His righteousness, our doubts for His assurance, our shame and guilt for His forgiveness.*

- (53:3) *Jesus was despised and rejected so that we might be eternally accepted and valued. If we are feeling rejected, we need only go to the Cross, ask Him show us the true source of our pain, release those feelings to Jesus and accept His comfort and peace. We are always accepted in Christ.*
- (53:5) *“by His wounds we are healed”. Jesus was wounded physically and emotionally in every possible way. Since he already bore our sickness, weakness and brokenness, we can receive His health, wholeness and strength. We release our brokenness and receive by faith His perfect healing.*
- (53:7) *Jesus was oppressed and afflicted but did not open His mouth. Many people feel that they have lost their voices, their ability to speak out for themselves. We see that Jesus already bore that oppression and affliction for us, so that through Him we can speak out against injustice with the powerful voice of truth.*

We access restoring resurrection power. *When we come in our pain to the Cross we have access to the mighty resurrection power (Ephesians 1:19,20) that God freely releases to those who come by faith in Jesus. It is the very power we need to work in our lives and hearts, transforming them and bringing new life. (Jn. 10:10)*

We appropriate the blood of Christ. *Through the Cross of Jesus we may appropriate the precious and powerful blood of Christ poured out on our behalf. It protects us and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn. 1:9) The covering of that blood enables us to overcome all the power of the enemy. (Rev. 12:11) We pray to be covered with that blood daily.*

We look to Jesus for encouragement to persevere. *Hebrews 12:2 tells us to “Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter/completer of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” We are exhorted to look to Him so that we will not become weary and lose heart.*

We put our pain into eternal perspective. *Finally, at the Cross we put our hardships into eternal perspective. We realize that Father God allows pain and trials to accomplish His eternal plan and purpose. (Rom.8:28) We are given the opportunity to surrender that pain to God so that He might use it to accomplish that purpose for us, namely making us more like His Son Jesus, forming His character in us, so that we might glorify Him. (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:16-18)*

Lord Jesus, teach me how to come to Your Cross and access all the grace that is mine in You. Thank You for Your sacrifice. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who will guide me and empower me in prayer. Amen.