

THE REALITIES OF THE CROSS

God's Manifested Love in Jesus



The
Mustard
Seed
COLLECTION

Pastor Larry Folson

FAITH IN JESUS CHRISTIAN CENTER

www.fjcc.org

The Realities of the Cross: God's Manifested Love in Jesus

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Introduction

*Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:2, “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” We must keep the same focus. **The Cross is the heart of the gospel. When we move away from it, we lose the power of God that makes the gospel real in our lives.***

In 1 Corinthians 1:18 Paul also wrote, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” The Cross is not just a symbol; it is the power of God working in us.

The nine spiritual realities in this book are what Jesus accomplished for us at Calvary. To live an effective Christian life — to experience everything Jesus died to provide — we must understand what happened on the Cross and believe it with a faith-filled heart.

*Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **The Cross is proof of God’s love and the place where salvation was secured.***

When a person grasps these realities, they begin to walk in the fullness of life, forgiveness, righteousness, acceptance, freedom, blessing, healing, abundance, and sonship.

*Many Christians give their lives to Jesus and join a church, but they never gain a faith-filled heart that understands what Jesus has already accomplished. In this teaching, I will share these realities in a simple way — so you can apply them, build faith in your heart, and trust God to bring them to pass in your life. Because **Salvation is not about what we can do — it is all about what Jesus has already accomplished for us on the Cross.** The work is finished. Our part is to believe it, receive it, and walk in it.*

Section 1 (Realities 1–3)

Spiritual Reality #1 — Jesus Took Our Death Sentence to Give Us Eternal Life

Romans 6:23 says, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Sin produced death, spiritual separation from God, this spiritual death produced physical death. All because of what Adam did in the beginning. But Jesus came as the **last Adam** (1 Corinthians 15:45). He took the punishment of spiritual death upon Himself, uniting us back to God. That is the good news of the gospel.

Every person born into this world carries the death sentence because of Adam. As Scripture says, *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). Sin separates us from God, leaving us under judgment.

But Jesus stepped in. On the Cross, He took that sentence upon Himself. He died in our place so that we could receive eternal life and be restored to a right relationship with God — all as a free gift.

This reality changes how we live. Instead of living under fear, guilt, or uncertainty, we live with confidence that our future is settled. Eternal life and relationship with God begin the moment we believe in Jesus as our Savior and substitute on the Cross. John 5:24 confirms this: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”*

Spiritual Reality #2 — Jesus Was Punished So We Could Be Forgiven

Isaiah 53:6 declares, *“The Lord has laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all.”* Every sin, every failure, every wrong choice was placed upon Jesus. He carried the punishment so that we would never have to bear it

ourselves. This was His love and justice toward us, because of the fallen nature we inherited through Adam's transgression.

Romans 5:1 explains the result: *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Because Jesus took our punishment, we are declared righteous and blameless before God if we truly believe it. Forgiveness is not something we earn; it is something Jesus purchased with His own blood, and all we have to do is receive it by faith.

Ephesians 1:7: *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins"*. Receiving the forgiveness that Jesus has provided brings peace. No longer do we live under guilt or condemnation. Instead, we are reconciled to God and free to enjoy His presence. Psalm 103:12 says, *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."*

This is what happened for you and me on Calvary.

So when guilt or condemnation tries to weigh you down, remember that Jesus already took the punishment. Forgiveness is yours, and peace with God is settled. You don't have to carry shame or fear — you can walk in freedom, knowing you are forgiven and loved. Because of what Jesus has done.

Spiritual Reality #3 — Jesus Became Sin to Make Us Righteous

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Jesus never committed sin, yet **Jesus** became sin itself on our behalf. On the Cross, God placed the full weight of humanity’s sin upon **Jesus**. In that moment, **Jesus** bore the judgment that was meant for us. **Jesus** took the curse, the guilt, and the shame, so that we could be declared righteous.

Romans 3:22 confirms this truth: *“This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”* Righteousness is not earned by good works or religious effort. It is given freely to those who put their faith in **Jesus**.

Philippians 3:9 adds, *“Not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”* Paul understood that righteousness is not about keeping rules but about receiving what **Jesus** accomplished. Then the power of God would kick in and make it a reality in our life.

Because of **Jesus**, we can now approach God boldly. Hebrews 4:16 says, *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* We are accepted, not because of our performance, but because of **Jesus**’ sacrifice and God helps us and blesses us.

You don’t have to strive to be “good enough.” God already sees you as righteous because of **Jesus**. You can approach Him boldly, knowing you are accepted, forgiven, and placed in right standing with Him because of **Jesus**.

Section Two (Realities 4–6)

Spiritual Reality #4 — Jesus Was Rejected So We Could Be Accepted

Matthew 27:46 says, *“About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’”*

In that moment, **Jesus** experienced the deepest rejection and separation. He bore the loneliness, the abandonment, and the pain of being cut off from the Father so that we would never have to. On the Cross, **Jesus** took upon Himself the rejection that belonged to us, and in exchange He gave us God’s acceptance.

Ephesians 1:6 declares that we are *“accepted in the Beloved.”* Because of **Jesus**, we are no longer outsiders or strangers to God. We are welcomed into His family, embraced as His children, and given a place of belonging. Colossians 1:22 adds, *“Yet now He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ in His physical body. As a result, He has brought you into His own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault.”*

This acceptance is not based on our performance, background, or worthiness. It is based entirely on what **Jesus** accomplished at Calvary. Where rejection once defined us, now acceptance in Christ defines us.

Because **Jesus** was forsaken, you are now accepted. You don’t have to live under rejection, fear of being unwanted, or the pain of abandonment. Through **Jesus**, you belong to God and are fully embraced as His child. You can walk in confidence, knowing that your identity is secure in Him.

Spiritual Reality #5 — Jesus Took Our Shame to Free Us from Shame

Hebrews 12:2 says, *“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

On the Cross, **Jesus** endured shame so that we could be free from it. He was mocked, ridiculed, stripped, and humiliated before the world. Yet **Jesus** looked beyond the shame to the joy of our salvation. He carried the disgrace so that we would never have to live under it again.

Shame is a heavy burden. It whispers that we are unworthy, unwanted, and unforgivable. But **Jesus** broke the power of shame. Isaiah 61:7 promises, *“Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion.”* Through **Jesus**, shame is replaced with honor, rejection is replaced with joy, and disgrace is replaced with dignity. **(Thank you JESUS!)**

Psalms 34:5 declares, *“They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed.”* When we look to **Jesus**, shame is lifted, and His light shines upon us.

So don't you ever carry shame from your past and don't let people try to remind you of bringing you into condemnation. **Jesus** already bore it. He has given you dignity, freedom, and joy. You can walk with confidence, knowing you are loved, honored, and accepted by God because of **Jesus**.

Spiritual Reality #6 — Jesus Became a Curse So God Could Bless Us

Galatians 3:13–14 says, *“Christ has 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’—that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”*

On the Cross, **Jesus** took the curse that was against us. The curse of the law demanded punishment for every failure and disobedience. Instead of us bearing that curse, **Jesus** bore it in His own body. He hung on the tree, becoming the curse, so that we could inherit God’s blessing.

Colossians 2:14–15 explains further: *“He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross.”* Through His sacrifice, **Jesus** removed every accusation and broke the power of sin and death. **(Thank you JESUS!)**

Because **Jesus** became a curse, the blessing of Abraham now belongs to us. That blessing includes God’s favor, provision, protection, and the gift of His Spirit. Deuteronomy 28 lists the blessings of obedience, and through **Jesus**, those blessings are now ours by faith in Jesus.

You don’t have to live under the weight of curses, hopelessness, or fear. Because of faith **Jesus**, you are blessed. You can expect God’s goodness, provision, and favor in your life. The curse has been broken, and the blessing has been released.

Section Three (Realities 7–9)

Spiritual Reality #7 — Jesus Was Wounded to Heal Us in Every Area of Life

1 Peter 2:24 says, *“He 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.”*

On the Cross, **Jesus** was wounded so that we could be healed. His suffering was not only for our sins but also for our wholeness. Every stripe, every wound, every piercing carried meaning — it was the price of our healing. **Jesus** bore pain in His body so that we could experience restoration in ours.

Psalm 103:3 declares, *“He forgives all your iniquities; He heals all your diseases.”* Forgiveness and healing flow together through the sacrifice of **Jesus**. He not only removes the guilt of sin but also brings healing to the broken places of our lives.

Psalm 147:3 adds, *“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”* The healing of **Jesus** is not limited to physical sickness. It reaches into the deepest parts of our soul — our emotions, our memories, our hurts. **Jesus** heals the heart as well as the body.

Isaiah 53:5 prophesied this long before Calvary: *“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”* The wounds of **Jesus** purchased peace, forgiveness, and healing for every area of life.

Applied truth: Because of **Jesus**, healing is available for your spirit, soul, and body. You don’t have to remain broken, defeated, or bound by sickness and pain. Wholeness belongs to you through the wounds of **Jesus**. When condemnation, sickness, or despair try to weigh you down, remember that **Jesus** already carried it. You can live in freedom, peace, and strength because of His sacrifice.

Spiritual Reality #8 — Jesus Became Poor to Make Us Rich with Abundance

2 Corinthians 8:9 says, *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”*

Jesus left the riches of heaven and entered the poverty of earth so that we could inherit covenant wealth and favor. Just as the children of Israel were promised abundance in the land flowing with milk and honey, so we, through **Jesus**, are heirs of God’s covenant blessings.

Deuteronomy 8:18 reminds us, *“And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers.”* The wealth and favor given to Israel was not accidental — it was covenantal. In Christ, we are grafted into that same covenant, receiving the blessings of Abraham by faith.

Galatians 3:14 declares, *“That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”* Because of **Jesus**, the covenant blessings of Abraham — favor, provision, increase, and inheritance — are now ours.

Ephesians 1:3 confirms this: *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”* The riches of heaven are already released to us through **Jesus**.

Because of **Jesus**, you are part of God’s covenant family. Just as Israel inherited favor and wealth through God’s promises, you now inherit spiritual and natural abundance through Christ. You don’t have to live in lack or fear. The covenant blessings of favor, provision, and riches are yours in **Jesus**. Walk in confidence, knowing that you are blessed and empowered to prosper as part of God’s covenant people.

Spiritual Reality #9 — Faith in Jesus Makes Us Children of God

John 1:12 says, *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”*

Through faith in **Jesus**, we are no longer outsiders or slaves — we are sons and daughters of God. This is not just a title; it is a covenant reality. Just as the children of Israel were chosen and set apart as God’s people, so we, through **Jesus**, are adopted into His family and given full rights as heirs.

Romans 8:15–16 declares, *“You received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”* This means that the Spirit of God Himself confirms our identity. We are not distant servants; we are beloved children who can call God our Father.

Galatians 3:26 says, *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”* And verse 29 adds, *“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”* Because of **Jesus**, we are grafted into the covenant promises given to Abraham — blessings, inheritance, and favor.

1 John 3:1 celebrates this truth: *“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are.”* This is not symbolic language — it is the reality of our covenant relationship through **Jesus**.

Because of **Jesus**, you are part of God’s covenant family. You are loved, accepted, and secure as His child. Just as Israel inherited covenant blessings, you now inherit them through Christ. Your identity is no longer defined by sin, shame, or rejection, but by your relationship with the Father through **Jesus**. You can live boldly, knowing you are an heir of God’s promises and a child of the King.

Closing Exhortation

All that we have shared — every Spiritual Reality of the Cross — points to one truth: **Jesus**.

On Calvary, **Jesus** took our death sentence, our punishment, our sin, our rejection, our shame, and our curse. In exchange, **Jesus** gave us eternal life, forgiveness, righteousness, acceptance, freedom, blessing, healing, abundance, and sonship. These are not abstract ideas; they are covenant realities purchased by the blood of **Jesus**.

The gospel — the good news — is that what **Jesus** accomplished on the Cross belongs to you. It is not distant, symbolic, or unreachable. These spiritual realities become natural realities when you truly believe them in your heart and expect God to do what He has promised. Faith makes them alive in your life.

Romans 10:9–10 declares, *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* Belief in your heart and confession with your mouth activate the realities of the Cross.

Never forget: **Jesus** is the manifested love of God. His sacrifice is the ultimate demonstration of God’s love for you. Through **Jesus**, every benefit of salvation has been provided — forgiveness, healing, peace, provision, and eternal life.

These realities are yours. They were purchased for you by the blood of **Jesus**. They are the fabric of the gospel, the foundation of your faith, and the inheritance of every believer. Walk in them boldly, expect them daily, and live in the fullness of what **Jesus** has done for you.

Prayer Declaration

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of Your Son, **Jesus Christ**. On the Cross, **Jesus** took my death sentence and gave me eternal life. **Jesus** was punished so I could be forgiven. **Jesus** became sin so I could be made righteous. **Jesus** was rejected so I could be accepted. **Jesus** carried my shame so I could walk free. **Jesus** became a curse so I could inherit the blessing. **Jesus** was wounded so I could be healed. **Jesus** became poor so I could live in abundance. And through faith in **Jesus**, I am now Your child, loved and secure in Your family.

I declare today that these spiritual realities are my natural realities. They belong to me because of the blood of **Jesus**. I receive them by faith, and I expect to see them manifested in my life.

I believe the gospel — the good news — that **Jesus** is the manifested love of God. Through His sacrifice, every benefit of salvation has been provided for me. I walk in forgiveness, healing, peace, provision, blessing, and sonship because of **Jesus**.

Thank You, Lord, for the Cross. Thank You for **Jesus**. I choose to live boldly in the fullness of what He has done for me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.