

Realizing and Putting into Practice the Full Extent of Jesus' Sacrifice for You

February 2019

Dear Friend and Partner,

Isaiah 53:4,5 AMPC: **Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.**

Matthew 8:16,17AMPC: **When evening came, they brought to Him many who were under the power of demons, and He drove out the spirits with a word and restored to health all who were sick. And thus He fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, He Himself took [in order to carry away] our weaknesses and infirmities and bore away our diseases.**

1 Peter 2:24 AMPC: **He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.**

Oftentimes, the reason a person doesn't receive their healing is because they believe they're being punished for the sins they've committed. But not only did God put our sins on Jesus when He hung on the cross, **God also put the punishment for our sins on Jesus when He was crucified.**

What Jesus Went Through for Us: Isaiah 53 NLT:

1 Who has believed our message? To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm?

2 My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.

3 He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.

4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. **And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!**

5 **But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.**

6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. **Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.**

7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.

8 **Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people.**

9 He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.

10 But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when **his life is made an offering for sin**, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands.

11 When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. **And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.**

12 I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

Recently, I visited a man in his home who was sick, and he made the comment that he was just being punished for the sin he committed. Apparently, there was something he'd done wrong and he thought God was getting back at him.

A lot of us grew up attending church without being instructed to bring our Bibles with us. And many, if not most of those churches didn't teach us our New Covenant. We may have been taught that Jesus took our sins, but the majority of us were never taught that Jesus also took the punishment for our sins and that we became new creatures in Christ Jesus as soon as we received Jesus as our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:17,19,21 AMPC: **Therefore if any person is [engrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!**

It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor).

For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness].

Luke 2:14: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

When Jesus came, He made us right with God so that God now sees us right with Him, in Christ Jesus, right now, at this time: **But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.** Ephesians 2:13

We have to take our God-given faith and believe that because of Jesus,

- ***We're right with God,***
- ***Our Father God will never punish us when we sin,***
- ***God always sees as though we've never sinned,***
- ***God's not waiting for us to ask Him to forgive us because He's already forgiven us of everything.***

When we received Jesus as our Lord, we became new creatures in Christ Jesus and His blood is constantly cleansing us all the time. As Christians we had the idea that when God forgave us of our sins, it just had to do with our past sins. But these scriptures reveal that God has forgiven us of all our sins, past, present and future! The scriptures below do not say Jesus took our PAST sins; they reveal to us that Jesus took ALL our sins!

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

The Amplified says, ... **and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin [by erasing the stain of sin, keeping us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations].**

1 John 2:12: **I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.**

Colossians 2:13: **And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;**

Revelation 1:5,6: **And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

Ephesians 1:7: **In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;**

Hebrews 10:12: **But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;**

Our eyes need to be opened to all that Jesus did for us when He gave His life and took our sins. You don't want to allow yourself to think for one moment that you have to do something to qualify to receive your healing or your prosperity, or to receive anything from our Father God. Jesus' blood qualified you to receive everything God has.

So often, people think that the reason they didn't receive their healing is because of the sin they've committed or what they've done wrong. They try to think, *'Now, what did I do wrong to make that happen?'* When you sin, you're not to think you won't get your prayers answered or you won't receive from God. Instead, resist those thoughts and say, ***"I'm a new creature and I'm the righteousness of God in Christ."***

The sins you were committing didn't stop you from receiving salvation, so why would your sins keep you from receiving healing? So often we've had more faith in the power of sin to condemn us than we've had in the blood of Jesus that made us righteous!

As long as a believer thinks their sins disqualify them from receiving anything they need from their Father God, they'll be insecure and Satan will bully them with guilt and condemnation. Our right standing with God was never earned by something we did. It was freely given to us. In the same way, we can never earn our healing or any other blessing. So, when you make a mistake, don't think something bad is going to happen to you because of what you did.

When you miss God, immediately you want to say, *"I am the righteousness of God in Christ, and nothing bad is going to happen to me! I'm not going to be punished by God for what I did."* Our Father God is not punishing us for doing wrong. All a person has to do is receive Jesus as their Lord (Romans 10:9,10), and they'll never again have to be afraid they're displeasing to God, or that God is going to punish them.

Romans 5:9: **Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.**

1 Thessalonians 1:10: **And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

1 Thessalonians 5:9: **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Jesus took our judgment for sin on the cross. Your sins have already been paid for and forgiven, therefore you never have to be afraid of being punished for doing something wrong. How many times have you and I sinned, and with good intentions, we promised God we'd never do it again, but right after that, we fell into it again.

(Nowhere in the New Covenant were we ever taught to promise God anything!) The only way we're going to be free from guilt and condemnation and living a fear-free life is believing and knowing that God has forgiven us of all our sins: past, present and future. All our Father God wants us to do is freely receive all He's given to us (Romans 8:32, 2 Peter 1:3).

There was one time when I had been reading scriptures and building myself up in Christ to be free of guilt and condemnation, but because I didn't go to a friend's funeral, the devil began to bombard my mind with guilt, shaming me with thoughts like: *"You call yourself a Christian! You didn't even go to their funeral."*

I began to think of how bad I was, but thank God, the scriptures began to rise up from inside of me and come out of my mouth. I don't know exactly what I said, but I did say something like this: *"Satan, what I do and don't do is none of your business. Jesus is my Lord!"* And the power of God set me free from that guilt!

Guilt will make you feel that you deserve to be sick. Guilt comes to your mind in different ways:

"No wonder you have the flu -you didn't wear the right coat."

"-You don't eat right."

"-You don't exercise enough."

"-You don't pray enough."

"-You don't read the Bible enough."

"-You didn't walk in love."

You'll even tell yourself that the reason your back hurts is because you lifted the sofa yesterday... And right away you (like I always did), will think, *"That's the reason I have this problem."* So you give yourself excuses and reasons as to why you're suffering.

This is wrong! You want to immediately resist those thoughts and excuses and instantly decree and declare: *"By the stripes of Jesus, I am healed!"* But as long as you allow yourself to have a reason why you're suffering today, you're not focusing on what Jesus did on the cross. We're not blessed because of what we do or don't do; we're blessed because God's already given us all His blessings.

I want to encourage you to read these scriptures we shared today over and over again and read the epistle letters and practice saying all the time: ***"I'm a new creature in Christ Jesus and I'm the righteousness of God in Christ."***

And enjoy the abundant life, of our Lord Jesus Christ!

You're blessed!

Pastor Jesse Rich