

“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.”

1 Corinthians 1:18



What is the purpose, and how is the power of the message of the cross revealed in the life of a believer?

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

1 Peter 2:24, “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness”

The reason Jesus clearly said:

Mark 8:34, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Matthew 10:38-39, “He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”

Why?

Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ; 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 for me.”

What’s more?

Galatians 6:14, “God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

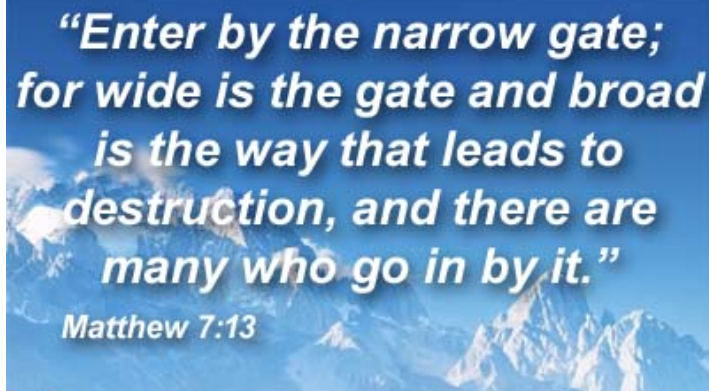
Therefore:

Ephesians 5:1-2, “Be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.”

How deep-rooted is the cross of Christ in my life right now?

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Where does the narrow gate leading to eternal life stand?

In Jesus' own words:

John 3:16, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 5:24, “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.”

As such:

John 20:31, “Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Why?

Romans 10:10, “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

What then is our one and only secure source of belief?

2 Timothy 3:16-17, “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

The reason why:

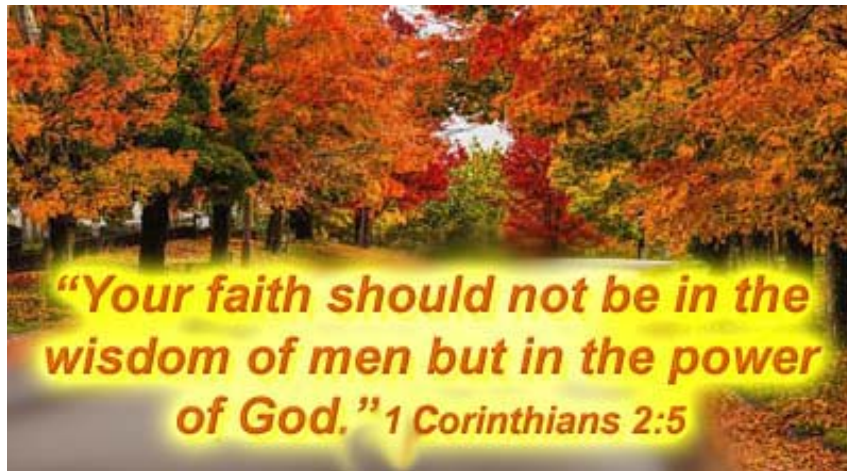
Romans 10:17, “Faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

Therefore:

Matthew 4:4, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

Have I entered the narrow gate, Christ Himself, and truly believe in Him from the heart to follow Him at His Word?

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Why as believers in Christ, must we truly and wholeheartedly surrender our lives to follow Him as Lord?

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

2 Peter 1:4, "That you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust."

As such:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

What's more?

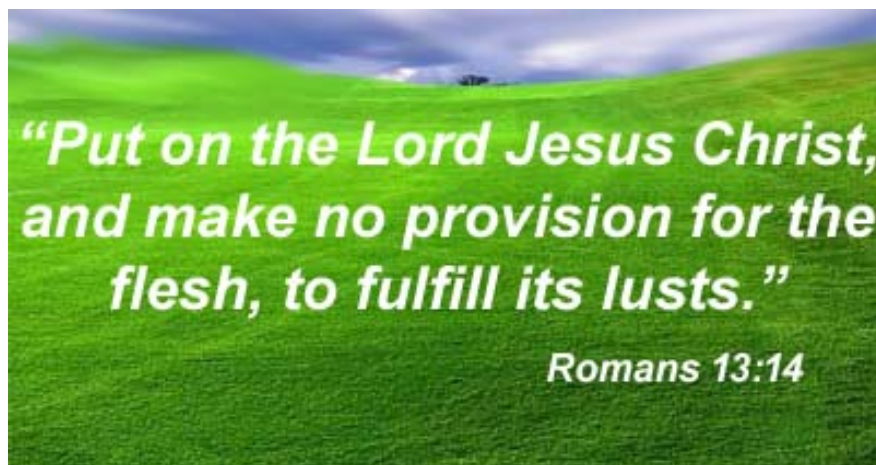
Hebrews 13:20-21, "May the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever."

Therefore:

Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Do I grasp the necessity of following Christ from the heart, and not only superficially from the lips?

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How did Jesus clearly describe the path to follow if we truly believe in Him?

John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 12:26, "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also."

John 6:57, "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me."

What's more?

Revelation 22:12, "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

As such:

Revelation 3:10, "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

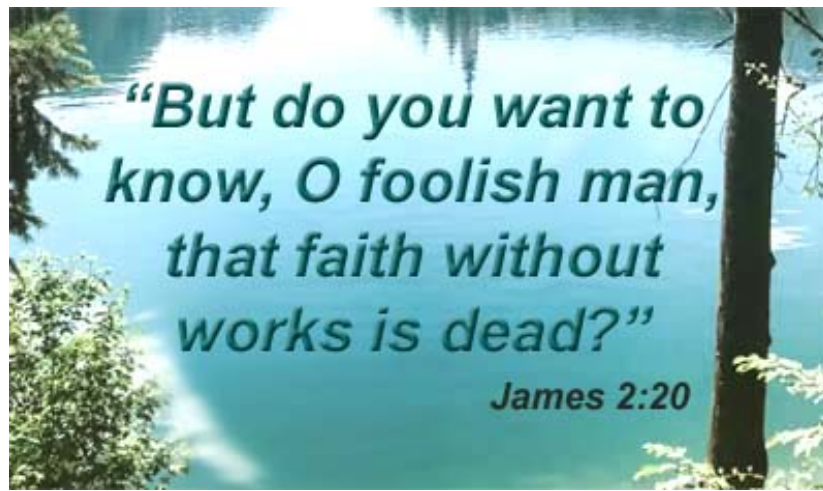
Therefore:

Romans 6:12-13, "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."

Titus 2:12, "Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

Have I put on the Lord Jesus Christ to live righteously and godly?

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Unfortunately, many who call themselves Christians fail to understand what true faith in Christ imply.

Here's how the Word of God define the implications of true faith in Christ leading to salvation:

2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Why?

Romans 6:6-8, "Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him."

1 Peter 2:21, "Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

James 2:17, "Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Therefore:

Colossians 3:5, "Put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."

Colossians 3:17, "Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

1 Peter 1:15, "As He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct."

Does my belief in Christ translate into a new life so I truly follow Him as Lord?

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***“For all that is in the world—
the lust of the flesh, the lust of the
eyes, and the pride of life—is not
of the Father but is of the world.”***

1 John 2:16

If we truly believe in Christ, why must we not live like the world, but rather follow Christ and abide in Him?

1 Peter 2:9, “You *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Ephesians 2:10, “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

How must we then live to abide in Christ?

2 Corinthians 5:15, “He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

Philippians 2:15, “That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”

As such:

1 John 2:4, “He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

Galatians 6:8, “He who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

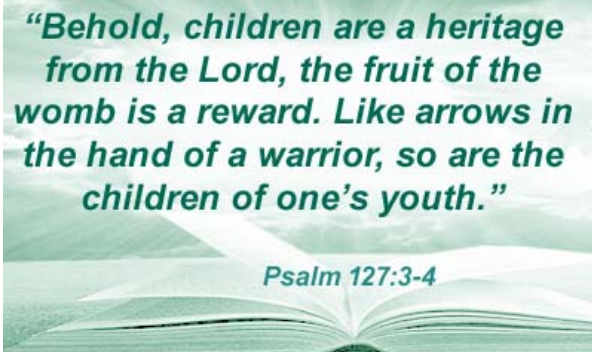
Therefore:

John 15:8, “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

Am I a true disciple of Christ?

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What does the Word of God declare on the sanctity of life from the day of conception?

Jeremiah 1:4-5, “The word of the LORD came to me, saying: ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.’”

Psalm 139:13, “You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb.”

Psalm 127:3, “Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb *is* a reward.”

Stern warnings:

Exodus 23:7, “Do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.”

And to those who assist in the killing of children:

Deuteronomy 27:25, “Cursed *is* the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.”

What’s more?

Isaiah 5:20, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness.”

As such Jesus clearly said:

Matthew 18:10, “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.”

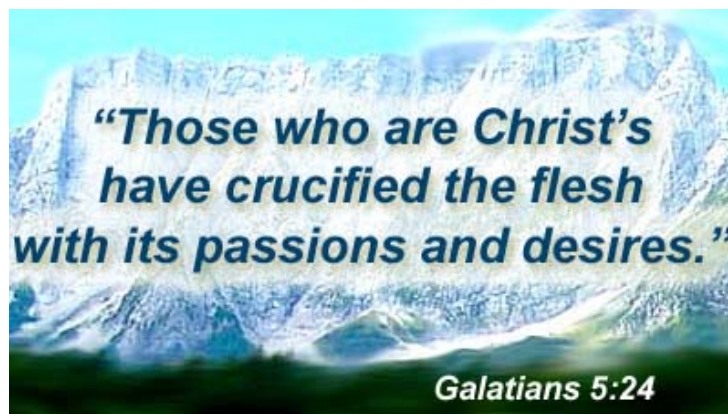
Matthew 19:18, “You shall not murder.”

Therefore:

Psalm 139:23-24, “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Do I understand that children are a gift from God that we must cherish and protect?

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Can we expect challenges and even trials in following Christ as Lord?
2 Timothy 3:12, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

The reason Jesus said:

John 17:14-15, "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."

John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Why must we trust God even through trials?

1 Peter 1:7, "That the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

As such:

Philippians 3:8-9, "I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him."

Therefore:

James 1:12, "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him."

Am I resolute and steadfast to abide in Christ even through trials?

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***“Do you not know that friendship
with the world is enmity with God?
Whoever therefore wants to be a
friend of the world makes himself
an enemy of God.”***

James 4:4

Why must we keep our guard up at all times, so we are not deceived by the world?

Matthew 7:21-23, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

What’s more?

Mark 4:18-19, “They *are* the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

As such:

James 1:14-15, “Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

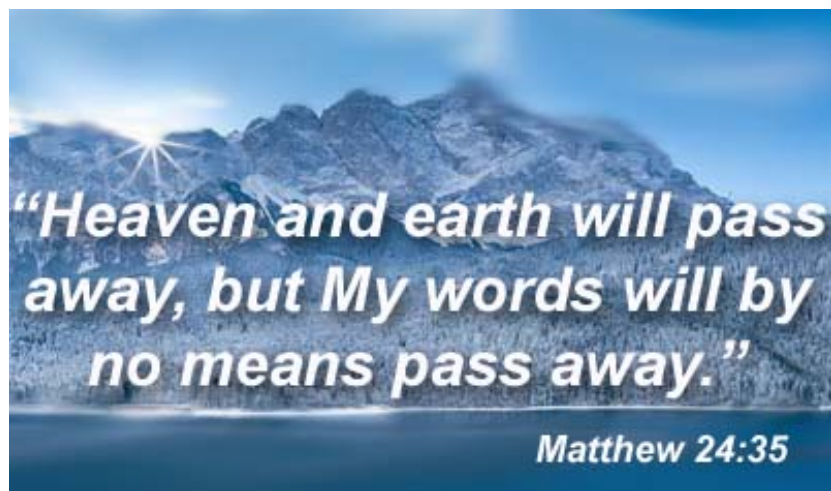
Romans 8:13, “If you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

Therefore:

1 John 2:15, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Is my guard up at all times, so I abide in Christ and am not deceived by the world?

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What is our only trustworthy and secure source of truth about God?
2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Why?

Hebrews 4:12, "The Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The reason Jesus said:

John 6:63, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life."

John 8:31-32, "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

As such:

Isaiah 55:11, "So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it."

Therefore:

James 1:21-22, "Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Have I made Christ, the Word of God, my eternal anchor?

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