

April 2, 2017

## “Crosswalk”

A Six-Week Journey with the Cross, Part 4

### “The Power of the Cross”

*“For Christ didn’t send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power. The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.”*

*1 Corinthians 1:17-18*

#### A. The cross became my victory...

*“In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”*

*Colossians 2:15*

1. The cross is the power of God!

*“...it is the very power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18b*

2. The cross was the instrument where Jesus took our sin.

*“But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing.” Galatians 3:13a*

3. The cross brought forgiveness for all who would receive His gift.

*“He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.” Ephesians 1:7*

4. The cross brought cleansing from sin.

*“But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7*

5. The cross cancelled our record of sin.

*“He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.” Colossians 2:14*

6. The cross brought reconciliation between man and God!

*“For Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.” Ephesians 2:14*

7. The cross brought peace!

*“For Christ himself has brought peace to us.”*

#### B. There are enemies of the cross...

*“they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.” Philippians 3:18b*

What the world values is the enemy of the cross:

*“The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. As the Scriptures say, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.’ So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18-24*

1. The world values social power.

2. The world values man’s esteem and honor.

3. The world values wealth.

4. The conduct of your life shows your relationship to the cross.

*“For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth.” Philippians 3:18-19*

#### C. The power of the cross brought transformation to me...

1. The power of the cross is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

*“This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead...” Ephesians 1:19b-20a*

2. The power of the cross transforms me into who I was created to be.

*“For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:6*

3. The power of the cross empowers me to do the things God prepared for me to do.

*“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10*

4. The power of the cross gives me the ability to know hope in my life.

*“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called...” Ephesians 1:18a*

5. The power of the cross gives me the opportunity to experience his incomparably great power.

*“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him.” Ephesians 1:19*

6. The power of the cross gives me the opportunity to know God in an even greater way.

*“I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.” Ephesians 1:17*

7. The power of the cross gives me the privilege of becoming His glorious inheritance!

*“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.” Ephesians 1:18*

#### **D. How is the power of the cross demonstrated in your life?**

1. Has He brought you into a relationship with Him?
2. Has He given you victory over addiction?
3. Has He given you victory over sin?
4. Has He given you a joy that is a constant?
5. Do you feel empowered by the Holy Spirit to live victoriously?

*“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.” Ephesians 6:10*

**Coming next:**

**40 Days of Prayer and Fasting –**

**March 5 – April 16, 2017**

*April 9: Freedom Through the Cross*

*April 16: After the Cross - 3 Days Later*