

The Work of The Cross

Moment by Moment

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The Work of The Cross of Christ Moment by Moment

Why our God Works the Death of Christ in His People Always

Because Our Old Man Was Crucified with Him

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

God does not reform the old man. He executed him in Christ. If the death of Christ is not worked in us, then the old man would still dominate our experience. But, The Spirit continually brings us back to Calvary so that what is already true legally becomes operative practically.

Because Life Only Comes Through Death

Jesus established the principle:

John 12:24

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Spiritual life flows from death. Always and exclusively. The resurrection Life of Christ operates only in the pathway of His death. If the Spirit were to work outside of that, He would contradict the very foundation of Redemption.

Because the Flesh Cannot Be Improved

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

The “not I” must remain in the place of death. The Spirit does not empower the flesh. He conforms us to Christ and Christ’s pattern is death first, then life. If the Cross/Death of Christ is not being worked in us, then the flesh will rise in confidence, and when the flesh rises, grace is frustrated (Galatians 2:21).

Galatians 2:21

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Because Grace Reigns Through Righteousness

Romans 5:21

That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grace does not reign outside of His governing principle. It reigns through Righteousness, and Righteousness was declared in the death of Christ (Romans 3:25–26).

Romans 3:25-26

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

So, for Grace to function in the Believer, The Spirit must continually apply the benefits of that death to us, keeping us dependent, humble, and trusting only in the Sacrifice of our Lord.

Because The Spirit Always Delivers Us Unto That Death

This is perhaps the clearest answer:

2 Corinthians 4:10-11

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are ALWAY delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

Notice this is not something occasional but rather ALWAYS. But why? That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. The Spirit works the death of Christ in us so that the Life of Christ may be manifested through us.

No death = no manifestation.

No Cross = no life.

Because God Cannot Acknowledge Anything Outside the Cross

Humility is only found at Calvary, as the Cross is the only place sin was judged. It was the only place where Righteousness was declared through which is the only place grace flows and self is dethroned.

So, God must keep His people in fellowship with that death, because outside of it the soul exalts itself. The flesh seeks confidence as Faith attempts to find another object. When the object shifts, communion is disrupted.

The Truth of The Cross is not only where we were saved. It is where we are kept.

The Spirit does not move us beyond Calvary. He moves us deeper into it. When Faith remains exclusively in what Christ did there, Grace reigns, Righteousness governs, and the Life of Jesus is manifested.

This connection is doctrinally rich because it reveals how the Lord's continual working in His people is not random discipline, but covenant faithfulness grounded in the Cross of Christ. Let us look carefully at both passages.

2 Corinthians 4:11-12

11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

“Always” (always delivered unto death) reveals a continual ongoing operation. Paul is not describing occasional suffering. He is describing an ongoing “Now Faith is” spiritual process. This process is a continual delivering, a continual dying, a continual manifestation of Christ's life.

The Holy Spirit does not apply the Cross once and then move on

He continually applies the death of Christ in the Believer's experience so that Resurrection Life may continually flow. This is not punishment as some might say, but rather preservation.

Job 7:17-18

17 What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?

18 And that thou shouldest visit him every morning, and try him every moment?

“Every Moment”

God visits and examines/tries His people “every moment.” Though Job did not yet see the Cross, he recognized divine scrutiny and divine nearness as constant realities.

The Connection of Always & Every Moment

Paul reveals the New Covenant clarity of what Job sensed dimly. “Every moment” is our God's continual attention. What a treasure to know this.

“Always” refers to God's continual application of the Cross to His people's lives through their fellowship/faith in the Gospel.

Philippians 1:5-6

5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Under the New Covenant, God's moment-by-moment involvement in the Believer's life is not outside of His governing place of testing. It is The Holy Spirit faithfully delivering us unto the death of Jesus. Why? Again, let us know so that the Life also of Jesus might be made manifest through us. The same God who "tries" His people every moment is the God who "delivers" His people always. And the means of that delivering is His delivering us to the death of Christ at the Cross which is where we died with Him by Faith in His death.

Romans 6:6-8

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

What This Means Practically is our God's involvement in our lives is continuously. If He has promised to never leave us or forsake us, what is He doing moment by moment? Every moment He is guarding us from fleshly confidence, exposing misplaced Faith when necessary, which is quite often as we find ourselves trusting in ourselves more than we would like to admit. Every moment He is working in us that which produces the humility and obedience of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He is leading us back to exclusive trust in Christ crucified every moment. For those who do not see this great need are not recognizing the self-righteous spirit that would disagree.

The "ALWAYS" of 2 Corinthians 4:11 explains the purpose of the "every moment" of Job. Under Grace, those moments are not random trials, but they are the Spirit ensuring that our Faith and fellowship remains rooted in the Sacrifice.

Job saw the Greater Light of Christ in His divine visitation as overwhelming scrutiny. Paul reveals it as redemptive conformity. Because of Calvary, God's moment-by-moment dealings are not wrath and they are not condemnation, nor are they uncertainty. They are the Spirit performing that good work in us to keep us within the framework of Christ's death so that Resurrection life may flow.

"Every moment" reveals God's unceasing attention as He is "Always" revealing His unceasing Way which is the death of Jesus. Moment by moment we are "always" being delivered to death so that life may be manifested as often as we, by Faith, are in agreement with this Saving and Sanctifying Truth. This is Covenant Love expressed through the Cross of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amos 3:3

Can two walk together, except they be agreed?