WORD of the CROSS

Where Love Grows

A Testimony of Deliverance and the Gospel of Jesus Christ

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:18 (KJV)

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WE PREACH CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED

There Is Hope

Are you carrying the weight of addiction, guilt, shame, anger, bitterness, rejection, or the pain of your past?

Do you feel trapped by choices you have made, or wounded by things others have done?

You are not alone. And your story does not have to end in bondage.

I know what it means to be lost, hurting, and without hope. I also know what it means to be delivered and changed by the power of Jesus Christ.

There Is Hope (continued)

This is my testimony of how Jesus saved me, set me free from addiction, began transforming my heart, and called me to preach His Word.

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36 (KJV)

But this tract is about more than my story. It is about the Savior who died for our sins, rose again, and offers salvation to all who repent and believe the Gospel.

My Story: From Bondage to Hope

I was raised in church until I was ten years old. But childhood hurt, a broken family, poverty, and harmful influences led me into alcohol and drugs at the age of ten.

Over the next fifteen years, addiction, anger, and hatred grew stronger. Eventually I became bound by crystal meth.

My Story: From Bondage to Hope (continued)

I was using extreme amounts, experiencing withdrawal symptoms even while using, and wasting away. I weighed only 130 pounds. I knew I was dying.

On January 5, 2005, a friend looked at me and said, “You look like a dead man.” His words shook me. When I looked in the mirror, I knew I could not keep living that way.

My Story: From Bondage to Hope (continued)

After a six-hour drive home without drugs, I was terribly sick from withdrawal. I went into the woods, desperate for it to end.

I cried out to God, asking Him to kill me or deliver me. I told Him I could not live that way any longer. Then I prayed:

“Lord, if You will take this from me, I will do anything that You tell me to do.”

Delivered and Called

Immediately, the power of God came upon me and knocked me flat on my face. When I got up, I understood God to be calling me to preach His Word.

As I walked home, I realized I was no longer sick or hurting, and my body was no longer crying out for drugs. God had delivered me. Since that day, I have not returned to drugs or alcohol.

Delivered and Called (continued)

But the miracle went beyond deliverance from addiction.

The deeper transformation was what God began doing in my heart. I had carried anger and hatred for years. As I received God’s forgiveness, I began learning to forgive the people who had hurt me.

My temper gradually diminished as I learned to depend on His grace and mercy.

Delivered and Called (continued)

Today, I can testify to the freedom Christ has given me from the guilt and hurt of my past.

My testimony is not that I made myself better. It is that Jesus Christ had mercy on me. And the Gospel that changed my life is good news for you, too.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

The Problem: Our Sin

Our greatest need is not merely a change in circumstances. It is to be made right with God.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23 (KJV)

Every one of us has sinned against a holy God. Sin is more than outward behavior; it reaches into our hearts, desires, and motives.

The Problem: Our Sin (continued)

We cannot earn forgiveness by good works or make ourselves righteous.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (KJV)

Sin brings judgment and death.

The Problem: Our Sin (continued)

Left to ourselves, we are unable to rescue ourselves from its penalty. We also live in a world filled with suffering. Addiction, grief, anxiety, depression, and painful experiences can affect people from every walk of life, including believers. Such suffering does not, by itself, prove that a person is separated from God. Our universal problem is sin. Our only Savior is Jesus Christ.

The Gospel: God’s Answer

God loves us, and in His mercy He sent His Son, Jesus Christ. Born of a virgin, Jesus lived without sin. He willingly died on the cross in the place of sinners, was buried, and rose bodily from the dead on the third day.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (KJV)

The Gospel: God’s Answer (continued)

The apostle Paul declared the Gospel plainly:

“…how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:” 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (KJV), excerpt

Jesus did not merely come to give us an example.

The Gospel: God’s Answer (continued)

He came to save sinners. His death and resurrection are the foundation of our forgiveness and hope.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
Ephesians 2:8–9 (KJV)

Salvation is God’s gift, received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Your Response to the Gospel

Jesus said, “…repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:15, KJV)

To repent is to turn to God with a changed heart toward sin. To believe is to trust Jesus Christ—His death and resurrection—as your only hope of salvation.

Your Response to the Gospel (continued)

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Romans 10:13 (KJV)

A prayer does not save by the mere repetition of words. Salvation is found in Christ. If you are ready to repent and place your faith in Him, you can call upon Him sincerely.

A Prayer of Faith

Lord God, I acknowledge that I have sinned and need Your mercy. I believe Jesus Christ died for my sins and rose again. I turn to You in repentance and place my trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. Forgive me, change my heart, and teach me to follow You. Thank You for Your grace. In Jesus’ name, amen.

If you have trusted Christ, tell someone. Seek fellowship with a Bible-believing church and begin growing in His Word.

Your Next Steps

1. Tell someone about your faith in Jesus Christ.

2. Find a Bible-believing local church where you can grow and serve.

3. Speak with the pastor about believer’s baptism.

4. Read and study the Bible daily.

5. Pray regularly and seek to obey God’s Word.

6. Share the Gospel with others.

Keep Growing in Christ

JOEY BECK
MINISTRIES
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1 CORINTHIANS 2:2

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