

Separated by the Cross!

(Gal 6:14 NASB) But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

What a glorious word and truth that our hearts must see and receive unto its own! Paul had only one boast and it was not human ability or will power but only the cross of Christ which accomplished all for Paul. The word for "world" comes from the Greek word *kosmos*. This word means *the sum-total of human life in the ordered world, considered apart from, alienated from, and hostile to God, and of the earthly things which seduce from God*. The best definition of this word though comes from the Bible itself:

(1Jn 2:16 NASB) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

The world is comprised of the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. We all still have the flesh as long as we remain alive on the Earth, but God wants you to see that He has provided victory over the world- lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

(Joh 16:33 NASB) "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

How did Jesus overcome the world? It is found in Galatians 6:14. **By the cross** the world (or sins of the flesh) was crucified to us and we to them. This is a spiritual reality that can be tapped into by faith. We can overcome the sins of the flesh by faith in Christ's cross.

(1Jn 5:4 ESV) For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

If you are born again you **HAVE** overcome the world (sins of the flesh). This is a spiritual reality in Christ. How can we experience this victory over the sins of the flesh? **We see in 1 John 5:4 it is by our**

faith. As we meditate on this liberating truth and allow ourselves to see it has a present reality and confess it with boldness we can indeed experience to greater and greater degrees. You do not have to be bound any longer to the things of the world. You do not have to overcome your flesh by your own will power. **Jesus did it for you by the way of the cross**. Believe it in your heart and confess it with your mouth and you will have it in experience!

- 1) What areas of the world have a grip on you? What lusts of the flesh are you struggling with? What lusts of the eyes are you struggling with? What areas of the pride of life are you dealing with?
- 2) Are you willing to turn from these things and walk in freedom?
- 3) Confess any sins to the Father right now and receive forgiveness and cleansing so that your faith will not be hindered.
- 4) Faith exercise: Think about an area of the world that you struggle with. Close your eyes and picture the cross of Jesus. Now picture that sin or weakness you have on one side of the cross and now see yourself standing on the opposite side of the cross. What does this represent? It represents that the cross has separated you from that sin. That sin cannot come across the cross to you to dominate you any longer. It has been crucified to you and you to it. **Feel how good it is to be safe from its tyranny! Let your heart soak in this reality and faith will arise.** Spend as long as you need doing this until you know that it has no longer control over you. Ask the Holy Spirit to brand this truth into your heart. Once you sense faith in this truth it is time to confess with your mouth!

Confession: I am now free from _____ (name the sin).
_____ (name the sin) has been crucified to me and I have been crucified to _____ (name the sin). I have been separated from that sin by the cross of Christ. It cannot and does not exert any control in my life. I have been born of God and I have overcome the sins of the flesh by my faith in what Jesus Christ has done. I am free!

Spend some time each day this week doing this and you will start to see changes happen in your life.