

## *The Joyful Cross—Our Only Medicine for Redemption*

Dear friends: The thoughts and quotes below are for your personal edification, challenge and reflection, especially about the place that the Cross has in your own personal life and relationship with Jesus and others! I love each one of you—it is my passionate desire that we, as members of the body of Christ, will become One as the Trinity is one—and that we will come together only around the Cross of Christ, where there is no place for self!

It is imperative---freeing and essential that one knows, and *believes*, that Jesus Christ—2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Trinity—who is also God (Phil. 2:6)—became fully human—humbling Himself and becoming obedient to death—even death on the cross (Phil. 2:8)—did not come to make us, human beings, better nor good—but rather He came to make us **Live**, because each of us was conceived and born dead and by nature we were objects of eternal wrath---(Eph. 2:1-10) due to the fact that when Adam and Eve chose to sin and betrayed the love of God (Gen. 2:17) the consequence was death, which transferred to the entire human race (the doctrine of original sin)! Jesus Christ came as the second and last Adam (I Cor. 15:20-22) to defeat death for good through His resurrection which provides us with a permanent receipt to show the devil and his demonic forces any time they want to mess with our minds.

We are at war and we will only find refuge at the Cross! The devil's desire is to steal our joy—to kill and destroy us—but Jesus came to give us life abundantly (John 10:10). Therefore, each of us must be alert and very vigilant at all times.

You see, you must become really CONVINCED and PASSIONATELY COMPELLED that Egypt will never change and that returning to Egypt is no longer an option for you. Egypt is where the Devil reigns (John 10:10) and is characterized by: 1—Despair—2—Constant assaults by the Devil—3—The world's false philosophies and values—4—Slavery—5—Imprisonment—6—Fear—7—Lack of joy—8—Self-centeredness—and 9—Insecurity. Therefore, we must place a Fence of Love with tight security and all the necessary components around us VOLUNTARILY and WILLINGLY. The necessary components are these: 1—The Fence of the Word, Jesus—2—The Holy Spirit to clearly illuminate the Fence of Love for each of us so we will never jump the Fence and bring shame to Jesus Christ—3—The Body of Christ as our permanent shield—4—The Cross at the Center and each of us rightly positioned at the Cross--our permanent position of Joy! With those things in place, we must always take the Fence to others, anchored to the cross with passion as well as to the other essential components.

At the cross, one will always find total security and protection. The cross will prevent us from running back to Egypt as we face the reality of life and challenges—Christians do not run from life's problems, but rather Christians face life and reality head-on with courage—anchored at the cross, which is our source of permanent courage. It took courage for Jesus to hang on the cross, so one does not have to hang in there any more.

As God's people, we must RECEIVE from God, through His people, with a HUMILITY that is totally anchored in the Cross—the Cross must become our permanent position—and we must RESPOND with a joyful and passionate love that points others clearly to the Cross.

My friend Paul Gracey says, "One can either be a joy stealer or a joy giver." Let us all be joy givers by being committed to the cross. As Christians—followers of Christ—we are no longer takers and abusers of others but lovers and givers of all the Grace, Mercy, Forgiveness and Love that God has given us lavishly and freely—which we have received through God's people—The Body of Christ—through the vehicle of the Cross—the empty tomb!

For each of us to be able to RECEIVE WITH HUMILITY AND RESPOND IN LOVE (repeat with me), we must be able to DELIGHT OURSELVES IN GOD with a type of delight that will DISPLAY the Glory of God, as we develop a righteous DISPOSITION that will provide us with the Attitude of Christ that will be compelled to see in others the face of Christ—so our doing will never bring shame to Jesus Christ, because we have found total satisfaction in God who has shown Himself to be 100% reliable and 100% sufficient. Each of us must experience Jesus personally by savoring Him so our testimony will become real and transferable!

Let's then seek the Holy Spirit to fill our tents to the brim with the Glory of God, so nothing of self will be left in us nor enter into our tents that belong completely to the Holy Spirit--we were purchased by Jesus' blood--He paid for our guilt and sin in full! One can only find in Christianity the fact that someone else PAID for us--Jesus Christ--no other religion can claim this revolutionary TRUTH--any other religion the individual has to pay and this type of payment cannot bring redemption!

The Cross is our only medicine for redemption and JOY!! Therefore the Cross is the *only identity* for a Christian. We must never abandon the Cross nor be ashamed of it—furthermore, the cross is the central aspect of the Gospel and we must not divorce it from the Gospel or remove it from our church buildings because some might find it offensive. The cross is God's idea and the exclusive vehicle of redemption! Therefore, as witnesses of Christ we must point people consistently to the cross and cherish the Cross with joy and passion—aleluya!

At the cross there is no place for self--self is 90% of all of our problems. Therefore, if we have a problem that is not bigger than a dead Jesus, then you or I and the Holy Spirit can solve it, because the only medicine the Holy Spirit will always point us to and invite us to take daily will be the cross! Preach the cross in season and out of season!!! Your Joy and satisfaction in God will increase and become real! THEN AND ONLY THEN TOTAL AND COMPLETE FREEDOM WILL INVADE YOUR LIFE FOR EVER!

*"If the Cross was good enough for Jesus, then the Cross is also good enough for each of us."  
At the Cross our satisfaction is guaranteed!!*

1 Chron.29 2 Chron 7:1 1 Cor 1:23 1 Cor 2:1-5 1 Cor 6:19 & Gal 2:20

*Written by Manny Mill, Executive Director  
Koinonia House® National Ministries  
[www.koinoniahouse.org](http://www.koinoniahouse.org)*