

Becoming Like Christ By His Death!

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Death was a large part of the assignment of Christ!

Only through His death could sin be paid for and grace released!

Phil 2:8 tells us Jesus emptied Himself (of His Divine privilege) became human humbling Himself even to the point of death!

Isaiah 50:5-8 The Almighty LORD will open my ears. I will not rebel, nor will I turn away from him.

6 I will offer my back to those who whip me and my cheeks to those who pluck hairs out of my beard. I will not turn my face away from those who humiliate me and spit on me.

7 The Almighty LORD helps me. That is why I will not be ashamed. I have set my face like a flint. I know that I will not be put to shame.

8 The one who pronounces me innocent is near. Who will bring a case against me? Let us confront each other! Who accuses me? Let him confront me!

Isaiah says these prophetic words about Jesus' willingness to **humble Himself to be ridiculed, reviled, rejected and executed!**

Noticed the words, "I will not rebel or turn away from my assignment."

I wonder how many believers are fulfilling this part of their assignment.

The parts we like and are more comfortable with are:

Preaching, teaching, casting out devils and doing miracles, making a name for ourselves rather than **dying to ourselves and dying for others!**

Because death is a part of our assignment as it was for Christ!

Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

Jesus says **all** who would follow Him, living as He did **must deny themselves, take up their cross and join Him in His assignment!**

Denying to self is doing what Christ did when He emptied Himself of His divine privilege and became human.

Denying to self is being ok with people misunderstanding you and not recognizing who we really are to them!

Taking up our cross means being **willing to suffer and die for Christ.**

The Cross is the greatest symbol of rejection, humiliation, and pain!

The Cross is the symbol of death and sacrifice for the good of others!

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

The greatest love we can show is to give our lives for others!

2 Tim 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

We are all soldiers in God's army, a soldier knows **death** is a part of their assignment, that they may have to **die fighting!**

So why are Christians afraid to die?

When we gave our lives to Christ someone should have told us **we signed up to die**, not just live blessed, happy lives!

Joh 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jesus said The Father loves Him because He wasn't selfish, He wasn't all about Himself or thinking only about His comfort!

Jesus said the very reason The Father loves Him is because He was willing to lay down His life for the sins of the world!

Christ died for the worst of what we are to save the best of who we are!

Jesus' death is what made it possible for us to become sons of God!

There is no greater love than sacrificial love!

Heroes are people who give themselves up for the greater good, people who give their lives to save others.

Let me break it down!

A man who sires a baby is father to that child, the man who sacrifices his life to raise the child, teach the child, protect the child and see to the success of the child becomes that child's **hero!**

This man gave his life for his children, he wasn't spending all the money on his dreams, he was working hard earning money for his children's dreams.

He wasn't selfish with his time, money, or knowledge what he knew that would benefit his children he taught them.

***John 17:6** "I made your name known to the people you gave me.*

Jesus revealed the **nature, character, and reputation** of The Father to His followers.

So, they would **know** God **more deeply and completely!**

Jesus said...

7 Now they know that everything you gave me comes from you...

Again, Jesus didn't magnify Himself, but rather God The Father!

8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me...

He did this by giving the people **God's Word**, and no one else's!

***John 17:14** I have given them thy word...*

Many men and women of God over the centuries have fasted and prayed for the glory of God!

Here's one sure way of receiving the glory of God on our lives!

1 Peter 4:14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

Suffering for The Name of Christ produces the glory of God on our lives!

15 If you suffer, you shouldn't suffer for being a murderer, thief, criminal, or troublemaker.

The saints should **not** suffer because they commit fornication, steal, murder or are troublemakers in The Kingdom of God!

1 Peter 4:16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

2 Timothy 2:11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

13 If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful because he cannot be untrue to himself.

As we commemorate the **Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**, let's draw closer by identifying with His **sufferings**.

Let us understand **suffering** for Christ is part of our assignment!

Suffering for righteousness is something we should embrace **not** run away from!

Our Fast starts Thursday and ends Saturday let's get closer and become more like Christ, in the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.