

ALPHA COUNSELING SERVICES

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Dear Friends,

The resurrection is God's celebration of all the work done on the cross. Jesus' last words: "it is finished" are referring to His mission on earth. His project of liberating mankind of the defect of sin was complete. What is interesting is that our focus is on only part of what Jesus accomplished. Christians today rejoice in the penalty of sin being done away with; but do we also remember that our union with Christ gives us freedom from the power of sinning? Do we remember that Christ carried us "in Him" on the cross and we too have died to sin? Much of the defeat I see among Christians is caused by not knowing the great inheritance given to us on the cross.

Romans 6 in the Living Bible put as it like this: v5 *"For you have become a part of Him, and so you died with Him, so to speak, when He died: and now you share His new life, and shall rise as he did. v6 "Your old evil desires were nailed to the cross with Him; that part of you that loves to sin was crushed and fatally wounded, so that your sin-loving body is no longer under sin's control, no longer needs to be a slave to sin; v7 "for when you are deadened to sin you are freed from all its allure and its power over you. v8 "And since your old sin-loving nature 'died' with Christ, we know that you will share His new life v11 "So look upon your old sin nature as dead and unresponsive to sin, and instead be alive to God, alert to Him, through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Do you see that? When we Christians sin, it's because we don't know who we are in Christ. After salvation many feel abandoned by God to struggle with sin and worry. They don't realize that He made everything possible for our victory! When we continue to think of ourselves as 'just sinners who keep sinning' we are not living in our inheritance. For a moment pretend you have an elderly aunt who left you a vast fortune when she died many years ago. Through some deception you were never notified of your inheritance and have struggled for the last twenty years just to pay the bills.

Have you been rich for the last twenty years? Yes! Never having been told of your inheritance has caused you to live differently than if you had known you were rich. My point? From the moment you were born again you have had victory over sin and the Devil. But we continue to live in defeat because of not knowing or trusting God's complete work on the cross. The just shall live by faith.

Your faithful support to Alpha Counseling has brought salvation to many hurting souls. Even 'born again' Christians need to be saved from daily trials, past hurts. Thank you for helping us help others through their dark days.

God bless you,

Richard

WHEREVER YOU ARE, BE ALL THERE

I don't know exactly where that quote originated, but I sure do like it. My dad often said: "Any job worth doing, is worth doing right." Recently I heard a better one. "Any task worth doing is worth doing badly." How many of us are guilty of putting off a task solely because we might not get it done perfectly?

God wants to save us from our worst enemy, and our worst enemy is often ourselves. I share a list of seven affirmatives that keep a Christian on track with God daily:

1. I choose this day to live for Him. God is worthy of all my honor, praise, and worship. Psalm 23, Rom 11:36
2. I choose this day to live in His love. God loves Me. He chose me. Rom 5:6-11, Phil :6-8
3. I choose this day to accept His provision. I am complete in Christ and He is my sufficiency. Col 1:27
4. I choose this day to live in security. God has given me life eternal. I John 5:9-13
5. I choose this day to live in righteousness. God has justified me through Christ. Rom 5:1, 8:3&4, and 10:4
6. I choose this day to walk with Him. God wants a relationship with me. Eph 1:13-14,
7. I choose this day to live in His rest, His power, and His freedom, for it is God who produces a Holy life within me. John 1:12 John 5:4, II Cor 9:8, Phil 1 :13

"So then my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13,14

God blessed the heroes of faith because they were faithful, not because there was no sin, no error, no failure in their lives.

Selah!

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