

CHAPTER 9

Surrendering to Jesus' Lordship Brings Eternal Life & Power

THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME TO SAVE US FROM SIN AND MUCH MORE...

As God the Son, Jesus Christ is the only way to peace and reconciliation with the Father (John 14:6) and the only name we can call upon and trust to save us (Romans 10:13). Not only from our sin, but also from whatever difficulty we may face whether demonic oppression, depression, physical peril or financial need, He will meet the need. Every time I have called on that matchless name in genuine faith miracles have taken place. On November 24th, 1982 I called on His name to save me from my sin wrecked life and instantly the miracle of a transformed life began. On the day my Dad lay terrified of Hell and was dying in a Chatham hospital, I called on His name. Immediately the power of Heaven descended into the room and incredible miracle power brought perfect peace and snatched my Dad from death's door. On another day in a chapel at Woodstock General Hospital I cried out His name and He spoke life into Debra's failing body wrenching her from death's icy grip. Then there was the cold winter day as I was travelling from London to Woodstock on old Highway #2 at approximately 80 km/hour. Suddenly the car began spinning out of control on a section of black ice down the middle of the two lanes with traffic flowing in both directions. In that terrifying moment I called on the name of Jesus and in the next instant I found my car safely parked on the right-hand shoulder of the road headed for Woodstock. Millions of people worldwide can testify of the miracles they have received as they have called on "*the name which is above every name ...*" Now we hope and pray that you would take this opportunity to call on His name. No matter what your need is today, be it physical, emotional or spiritual. If you will sincerely call upon His name in faith, He will meet you at the point of your need. On the Cross He bore the penalty for not only your sin, but also for every deep emotional scar and physical need as Isaiah revealed 700 years before it ever happened. ⁵ "*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: **the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.*** ⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all*" (Isaiah 53:5-6 KJV). As shared above Jesus Christ was fully man when He suffered the tremendous rejection, humiliation and abuse at the hands of His own creation. They spat upon Him, they mocked Him ruthlessly, they ripped out pieces of His beard, with a rod they pounded the two-inch thorns of the thorny crown they fashioned for Him upon His head piercing His brow and head. The Roman scourge ripped out strips of His

flesh as the sharp pieces of metal and bone (embedded into the tips) of the “*cat of nine tails*” (whip) dug into His exposed back during the 39 lashes. Jesus understands your suffering and your pain. He tasted the full spectrum of human suffering and humiliation on His journey to the Cross and He is touched with the feelings of your infirmities. At the Cross He endured the intense agony of the metal spikes being driven through His wrists and feet and the intense pain of His shredded flesh against the rough-hewn wooden cross. Yet in the midst of the mocking and verbal abuse along with the unimaginable physical and spiritual torture and agony He cried out; ³⁴“*Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do*” (Luke 23:34a KJV). *He forgave them; “will you forgive those who have wronged you?”* For hours He had to hang by His spiked limbs all the while pulling and pushing Himself up on those spikes to enable Him to properly breathe. Until finally horribly exhausted and spent in spiritual, emotional and physical agony beyond comprehension, His heart ruptured and He breathed His last while crying; ³⁰“*Father into Your hand I commit My Spirit*” ... “*It is finished*” (John 19:30b). “*It is finished*” is essentially the same terminology used in Jesus’ day for a transaction that was *paid in full*. In His final breath Jesus declared that the debt for our sin was paid in full by His precious blood sacrifice. God the Son paid the ultimate price and sacrifice for you and me and demonstrated a depth of love for us that is unfathomable. It was not in vain. He paid the penalty for the sin for any and all who would believe and receive Him. The chastisement for our peace of heart, mind and soul was covered by the blood that flowed from His thorn pierced brow and by the stripes that ripped open the flesh of His back, healing for every sickness and disease was provided. Now it is up to you. “*Will you believe and receive for your need today?*”

The greatest need we all have is for forgiveness and reconciliation with our loving God. We’ve ²³“*all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23). ²³“*The wages (or penalty) of our sin is eternal death (in hell), but the gift of God is eternal life (in Heaven) through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Romans 6:23). *God died for you, now are you willing to live for Him?* If you are, then take the following simple steps of faith and surrender to begin this powerful new relationship with Him.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED AND MADE READY FOR HEAVEN?

Please prayerfully read through this section to understand the process of the commitment you are about to make. At the end you will find a prayer guide you can follow (if you like) to articulate and personally express to God your desire to concretely take these steps you’re about to read. First of all, by grace with a thankful and humble heart confess your trust in Who Jesus is and what He did for you through His sacrificial death upon the Cross. Then take a moment of humble reflection upon

your past life and admit your sinfulness. As mentioned earlier I came to the place where I saw myself for what I truly was. A proud, selfish, lying, lust filled, angry and rebellious sinner, who had broken many of God's laws and was deserving of eternal punishment. I had to admit I was a thief for fudging on my income tax, using cable TV services I'd never paid for and for not paying for auto repairs after my cheque bounced, etc., etc. I had to deal with any unforgiveness toward others along life's journey and release forgiveness. Forgiving others is a key step to receiving forgiveness yourself. Jesus said if you will not forgive others their trespasses against you, then God cannot forgive your many trespasses against Him (Mathew 6:12, 14-15). Ask the Lord for His grace to help you release forgiveness to anyone who has hurt or violated you in any way. If you sincerely want to forgive, He will release His grace into your heart to do it. Please don't let your pride stop you from humbly admitting your sin. You may think, "*I'm not anywhere near as bad as you were Michael.*" That may very well be true, but we're all guilty of sin especially of pride and lying. We even lie and deceive others to protect our ego. Whether you're a big sinner or a small sinner, your sin will keep you out of Heaven. We're all sinners who need to humbly embrace by faith the Saviour's loving sacrifice to pay our penalty and remove the barrier of our sin. Whatever the Holy Spirit brings to your remembrance confess and ask the Lord to forgive you. Please realize that even what you don't remember He will forgive you as you confess and ask His forgiveness. Along with your confession make a determination in your heart that by God's grace you will turn away from all self-will and sinful habits as Jesus requires and reveals in Mark chapter 8. ³⁴*"And when He had called the people to Him with His disciples also, He said to them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it"* (Mark 8:34-35 KJVER). The good news is that the Holy Spirit and His grace will come into your life to give you His power to overcome every habit and temptation. God loves you and is not a respecter of persons, what He did for us and others He will do for you, if you are willing to surrender your life into His care and purpose. The next step in this salvation process is to then ask the Lord to come into your life by His Spirit to be your Lord and to guide and empower you to do His will from this day forward. As mentioned above you cannot follow Jesus in your own strength or ability, He will enable you to follow Him by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit as you surrender to Him. The Holy Spirit will not only empower you, but will bring you into ongoing communion and relationship with the entire Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) as Jesus revealed in John chapter 14; ¹⁵*"If you love me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷Even **the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees Him not, neither knows Him: but you know***

Him; for He dwells with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you ...* ²³*Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make our abode (home) with him”* (John 14:15-18, 23 KJVER). When you genuinely repent, believe and receive Jesus as your Lord a miracle of transformation will begin (Romans 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17). The blood of Jesus will cleanse away your sin and make you a fit habitation for His Spirit to indwell you, then the presence and power of God the Father, and Son will dwell within you by the Holy Spirit. If this is the sincere desire of your heart you may pray spontaneously of your own volition or pray something like this; *“Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You for loving me so very much that you sent Jesus Your Son to die for me. Lord Jesus ... God the Son, I thank You for humbly coming from Heaven to bear my sin on the Cross. I confess that I have sinned against You and others. Please forgive me ... (take a moment to confess and renounce anything and forgive anyone the Holy Spirit may bring to your remembrance). “Lord Jesus by Your grace I now turn from my sin and selfish desires and commit my life to follow You. Lord Jesus please come into my life and take control of my life from this day forward. I confess that You rose from the dead and that you are my Lord. I thank You for coming into my life and forgiving my sin. Loving Heavenly Father, I thank You for receiving me as Your child. In Jesus’ Precious Name. Amen!”*

STARTING YOUR NEW LIFE WITH OVERCOMING GRACE & POWER

There is nothing magical about this prayer but if you prayed it with a humble and contrite heart then something powerful has begun in your life. You have passed from eternal death into eternal life. Deb and I want to congratulate you and welcome you into God’s eternal family. You may have felt nothing or perhaps a deep sorrow with tears for your sin and neglect of God and His love for you. You may feel tremendous joy and relief like the weight of the world has lifted from your shoulders. Regardless of what you feel you have been saved by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, not your feelings. Please call, write or email us (*all contact info is on final page*) and let us know of your decision that we may rejoice with you and pray for you as you embark on this new transformative relationship with God as His beloved child.

Although you may or may not have felt any great emotion in this initial encounter with the Lord and His saving grace; one thing you should experience is His power. John chapter 1 verse 12 reveals that to as many as would receive Jesus as Lord they would experience power to become obedient children of God. As we shared earlier Deb and I received this transformational power as the Holy Spirit indwelt us, you

have too! By God's grace and the power of His Spirit you are now able to overcome every sinful habit, and deception including lust, anger, lying, cursing, selfishness, pride, or addictions [porn, sexual perversion (including pedophilia, homosexuality or gender dysphoria) drugs or alcohol], etc., etc... By grace through faith receive the liberating power of His sacrifice, His love and the power of His Holy Spirit into your life in Jesus' mighty Name. Amen!

WHAT IF GOD'S TRANSFORMATIVE POWER IS LACKING

Today and throughout the days ahead you will experience this transformative power. However, if in the days ahead you find yourself continuing to consciously practice sinful behaviours there may be a disconnect somewhere in your relationship with God or there may be an area for which you need healing or deliverance. If you believe it is an area of healing or deliverance that you need, it would be good to seek personal ministry from a Pastor or Christian leader. You can also check out our articles entitled *Demolishing Demonic Strongholds* and *Evil Roots That Produce Bad Fruits* at crosspoweryouth.org. We're not talking about an occasional stumble or trip in your walk with God, but a persistent conscious continuation in sinful behaviours. The Bible clearly reveals that he or she who is born of God does not continue to practice sin as the following scripture reveals; ³ ***“And every man that has this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure.*** ⁴ *Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.* ⁵ *And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.* ⁶ *Whosoever abides in Him sins not: whosoever sins has not seen Him, neither known Him.* ⁷ *Little children, let no man deceive you: He that does righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous.* ⁸ ***He that commits (practices) sin is of the devil; for the devil sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*** ⁹ ***Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin; for His seed remains in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*** ¹⁰ *In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever does not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loves not his brother”* (I John 3:3-10 KJVER).

GOD'S INDWELLING POWER TO OVERCOME PORN, PERVERSION & SIN

This does not mean you won't occasionally stumble as you face temptation and battles at times with old habits or sinful tendencies, but the Holy Spirit will ultimately empower you to completely overcome or escape. Lust provoking, pornographic or sexual temptation will often require the pursuit of the way of escape as God promised in I Corinthians chapter 10; ¹³ *“There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer (allow) you to*

be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it” (I Corinthians 10:13 KJVER).

As mentioned earlier pornographic material and sexual perversion is as addictive as crack cocaine, but God promises that He will never allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to endure and will always provide a way of escape. However, we must hate our sin (Proverbs 8:13) and be willing to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in taking the way of escape. I have been tempted by pop up porn on the internet but by God’s grace I’ve always chosen to avoid the traps and so can you. This promise of victory or escape applies to all areas of temptation we may face. *If we try to justify our sin we will never overcome. We must never enjoy or justify or tolerate any area of sin in our lives, because it will destroy our eternal souls (Matthew 7:21-23).* If we continue to practice sin, we can risk blaspheming the Holy Spirit by searing our conscience and hardening our hearts until there is no returning. Please take heed to the very sober warning in the following scripture; ²⁶ ***“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins,*** ²⁷ ***But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.*** ²⁸ *He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:* ²⁹ *Of how much sorer (worse) punishment, suppose you, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has done despite to (insulted) the Spirit of grace?* ³⁰ *For we know Him that has said, Vengeance belongs to me, I will recompense, (repay) saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge His people.* ³¹ *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrew 10:26-31 KJVER).*

THE LOVE OF GOD & FEAR OF GOD ARE KEYS TO OVERCOMING

We need to let the love of God and the providential fear of God’s judgment compel us to seek His overcoming grace until we have victory over every sinful passion and temptation and He will. ²¹ ***“He that has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves Me: and he that loves Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him” (John 14:21 KJVER).***

His Word also declares that by the fear of the Lord we depart from evil. ⁶ ***“By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil” (Proverbs 16:6 KJV).***

Whether it is His love, or a proper fear of the Lord that inspires us, or both, it is imperative that we overcome our sin by embracing the grace He has provided for us

through the Cross. At first you will face the challenge to overcome some of your old sinful habits and thought patterns, but by God's grace you will ultimately overcome. Never justify or give up, but continue by faith to:

- 1) embrace the grace of His cross
- 2) pursue the liberating truth of His Word
- 3) tap into the unlimited power of His Spirit within to overcome ... and you will.

Always remember that you don't have the capacity in your own strength or character to love God or to properly reverence and fear God as He so justly deserves. It is by the enabling power of His Holy Spirit that indwells us when we are "*born again*" that gives us the ability to love and fear God as we ought. It is the Holy Spirit that provides us with all we need to overcome and remain in intimate relationship with our awesome Almighty God (Romans 5:5 and Isaiah 11:2). The Holy Spirit is not only the Agent of God's love He is the "*Spirit of the fear of the Lord*" as revealed in Isaiah 11:2. Therefore in order to be overcomers of the flesh, the devil and this demonically controlled world system we need to daily: 1) By faith and grace embrace and enforce the victory of Jesus' shed blood for us at Calvary and 2) Ask, our Heavenly Father to fill us with the overcoming power of His Spirit; ¹³ "*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?*" (Luke 11:13 KJVER). In order to keep us from pride and independence the Lord requires that we daily seek Him for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit's power. God also requires that we remain obedient in our daily walk with Him or it will grieve and block the flow of His Spirit in our lives (Acts 5:32). Therefore, it is important to remain humble and be quick to repent of any area of self will and disobedience in our lives to prevent a blockage of the Holy Spirit's flow in us. Overcoming sinful habits and growing in Holiness and purity before God is an ongoing process in our walk with God. We need to be mindful that He will never leave nor forsake us and He will be with you and always cause you to be triumphant in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14; Hebrews 13:5-6). You may struggle and face challenges, like us to overcome these old habits, but the Lord has provided everything we need to be victorious over our flesh and every demonic temptation. You may occasionally trip or stumble in this journey to overcome, but your ultimate victory is assured through Jesus' grace and power. *If you do occasionally trip in this process understand that your salvation is not lost because you are clothed in His righteousness, not your own.* ²¹ "**God made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him**" (2 Corinthians 5:21 MEV). However, always be quick to repent to receive His cleansing (I John 1:9) and never accept defeat. Continue to diligently seek His overcoming grace until total victory over every unholy habit and sin is won.

TOOLS TO DISCERN & DEAL WITH DISCONNECTS IN RELATION TO GOD

If you continue to struggle with the practice of sinful habits there may very well be a lack of connection or disconnection in this empowering relationship with God. If that is the case for you, let us encourage you to check out [God's Strategy to Overcome Sin & Disconnects with God](#) at [crosspoweryouth.org](#). This teaching is a summary of our Conqueror Series that we held with both York University and Westview Secondary School students. The primary focus was helping young people to overcome addictions to porn and self sex (masturbation) which is epidemic among even Christian youth. Our young people experienced tremendous breakthroughs and victory in this area of their lives and in other areas as well. The overcoming Biblical principals shared in this series are applicable to any sinful habit you may be struggling with. This study will greatly help you identify any underlying reason for a lack of connection or disconnection in this life flowing relationship with the Lord and reveal practical steps to overcome the problem. Remember that God will always cause you to triumph in Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14) and the only way you will fail is if you quit. Don't ever quit and you will always ultimately triumph in Christ and overcome every challenge by the power of His grace. You will need to find a good Spirit filled church family where you can be nurtured and encouraged in your relationship with God. If you would like help in this regard please contact us. We also recommend that you go to [salvationstation.ca](#) and [hosannatcif.org](#) to view the *Growing In Christ* videos and request the information for the 12 Sessions of *Sure Foundations* discipleship equipping tract by Rev. Dr. Joseph Grubb. In the Foundations Series you will learn of the four vital pillars of relationship with God; 1) Personal *Intimacy* 2) God's *Covenant* Provision through Jesus 3) *Humility* and 4) Personal *Holiness*. Along with these powerful pillars you will learn how to build a rock-solid foundation of God's Word in your life that will enable you to stand steadfast in every storm. Deb and I thank God for Dr. Joseph and this Spirit inspired equipping that has helped us to remain strong in our relationship with God and has empowered us and many around the world to be overcomers. The Lord will use the *Growing in Christ* videos to get you started and this anointed equipping tract to build a strong foundation of God's Word in your life and enable you by God's grace to overcome the flesh, the devil and this world system. It will also assist you in discovering God's divine destiny and will for your life and help you to begin to walk in it. *Pastor Joseph we want to express our sincere love and deep appreciation to you for your labour of love in imparting into our lives these powerful truths that have by His grace kept us intimate with our Lord and in our Father's will. We will be forever grateful to our Lord and you for the life sacrifices endured to produce this transformative series. May the Lord richly reward you for your faithfulness to Him and to His people. May He open many effectual doors of utterance here and in the nations.*

With our love and gratitude always. Those of you who choose to embrace *Sure Foundations* we are here to help you in any way we can. Please feel free to contact us; it would be our pleasure and privilege to assist you.

THOUGHTS FOR THOSE NOT READY TO SURRENDER ... YET

It is a good thing to fully count the cost of turning from your old life and giving your life to Jesus as Lord. That way when you make the decision to repent of your sin it will be genuine and life changing. If you make this decision casually, prematurely or rushed you won't be able to move forward in righteous living and transformative power due to your lack of total surrender. The greater the surrender the greater the transformative power you will experience to overcome (Mark 8:34-35; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17; Galatians 2:20-21).

Jesus Himself exhorted the multitudes who followed Him to count the cost of what it means to be His disciple (or follower) in Luke 14:25-33. ²⁵ *“And there went great multitudes with Him: and He (Jesus) turned, and said to them,* ²⁶ ***If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*** ²⁷ ***And whosoever does not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.*** ²⁸ *For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first, and counts the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? ²⁹ Lest haply, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, ³⁰ Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, sits not down first, and consults whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an ambassador (ambassador), and desires conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsakes not all that he has, he cannot be My disciple”* (Luke 14:25-33 KJVER). Jesus is not literally inferring that you need to hate your family. What He is saying is that your love for Him and your Heavenly Father needs to so exceed your love for family that it will seem like hate in comparison to your love for God. It also means that we will love Him to the degree that we are willing to leave our families if they reject our call to follow Him and even try to prevent it. God will enable us to extravagantly love Him above all else as He reveals in Mark 12:30. ³⁰ *“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment”* (Mark 12:30 KJV). God never asks us to do anything that He does not fully provide the grace to accomplish through the new birth and the indwelling power of His Holy Spirit (John 1:12-13). Once again, you can't do the things Jesus requires of you without being “*born again*” of His Spirit and His

supernatural power flowing in and through your life (John 7:37-39). Consequently, you don't have to worry about doing these things in your strength He will give you His strength to do them as you repent and fully surrender to His Lordship. Then He will faithfully guide you each step of the way by His Word and empower you by His Spirit to walk in obedience and in total victory. Therefore, we encourage you to fully count the cost of surrendering your life to God before you make your decision and when you do, do it with all your heart. Amen!

EVALUATING THE COST OF BECOMING A GENUINE CHRISTIAN

You will find that the vast majority of people are not interested in paying the price to be a true follower of Jesus as Jesus Himself warned in Matthew 7:13-14. ¹³ *“Enter you in at the strait (narrow) gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: ¹⁴ Because strait (small) is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and few there be that find it”* (Matthew 7:13-14 KJVER).

Consequently, don't look for a lot of your family and friends to encourage you in this process. In fact, you can probably expect them to discourage you from what they would consider as a radical decision that would make them feel uncomfortable and even embarrassed. If you are from other religions or even Catholicism you will likely experience opposition to your decision and may even face threats to expel you from the family. Sadly, most are blindly following the broad, easy road that will ultimately lead to their eternal destruction, but they don't realize it. You by your consideration of leaving the broad way to follow Jesus on the narrow road to new life can be awkward and challenging to their comfortable religious or nonreligious journey. However, if they see a powerful, and positive transformation in your life as a result of your choosing this new life in Christ they may very well become open and curious to find out more about this new transformational journey with God. God loves your family and friends and through your prayers He will provide opportunities to help them become part of His eternal family? The bottom line is the only thing that you can take with you from this life is your children, other family and friends. Therefore, the path you choose will influence them either toward eternal life in Heaven or eternal death in the Lake of Fire. *“Which path of influence will you choose to be your legacy to your loved ones?”*

