

The word of the cross—the power of God!

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God ... but we preach Christ crucified ... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Cor 1:18, 23, 24).

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power” (1 Cor 2:4–5).

There is a difference between preaching the message of the cross, God’s power, or simply preaching about the cross. The cross is God’s “power station” from which power for salvation, healing and deliverance flows. The Holy Spirit brings to life in me what Jesus did on the cross. The message of the cross is: sin is defeated, sickness has been healed and death has died! My sins are forgiven! My diseases have been healed! Every curse has been broken! I am no longer a sinner but a son of God! I am no longer sick but have been healed by his wounds. I am no longer under the curse but under the blessing. God did not say to Abraham: “I will make you a father of many nations,” but rather “I have made you a father of many nations.” Jesus never said: “I will heal you,” but rather: “Go, you are healed! By my wounds you have been healed.” Jesus does not say: “I will forgive your sins,” but rather, “Go, your sins are forgiven.”

As long as we keep trying to get our healing, we will never obtain it. But if I look to the cross, I see myself healed. I don’t try to obtain something that already belongs to me. I have to own it in faith first, before it becomes a reality in the physical realm.

On the cross, Jesus wholly identified with us. He became what we were: sin, sickness, the curse, poverty and death! He not only bore our sins, he was made sin (2 Cor 5:21). He not only bore our diseases, he was made sick (Is 53:10). Jesus became the curse (Gal 3:13). He became a sinner, a sick man and a cursed one!

He became the lost son. He was separated from the Father, for God has no fellowship with sinners. He lost the glory that Adam had lost when he sinned. Jesus drank the bitter cup that contained all sins, sicknesses, curses and death, down to the last drop. He tasted death for us. That was not just physical death but also spiritual death, being separated from God. He went to hell for us. He suffered our punishment and stood as the guilty one in our sinful clothing before the Father. God’s judgement for the sins of all humanity came on him. Owing to his sinless blood, God was able to cleanse him from all our sins and declare him righteous again. Jesus himself experienced a spiritual and physical transformation. He who became sin was made righteous again. He was wrapped in grave clothes. I imagine a caterpillar spinning a cocoon around itself and then a completely new creature emerging: a butterfly. Jesus was three days and nights in the grave. He died as a sinner and rose as a righteous man. He died as a sick person and rose as one healed. He died as a cursed one and rose glorified. God the Father restored him with all the glory he had possessed before. Jesus became the firstborn from among the dead. He was the first one to be born again. Jesus identified with us on the cross and we are now identified with him in his glory. On the cross he became like us and now we are like him.

I recently had an operation to remove a tooth. On the cross, an operation also took place. Jesus removed all the devil’s teeth! His poisonous fangs can no longer bite. Sin, sickness and death have no more power over us. Jesus gave us his resurrection life.

He defeated death, hell and Satan for us. Through Adam we all became sinners, and through Jesus we were all made righteous. It has already happened! I just need to accept it and say yes to it!

World Wide Evangelism

Postfach 500231
60392 Frankfurt am Main
Tel. 06186 9143727
info@wwevangel.org
www.wwevangel.org

FreiKirchen Bank
IBAN: DE60 5009 2100 0001 7808 08
BIC: GENODE51BH2

