

Isaiah 53:3–10 (NLT) <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. <sup>4</sup> Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. <sup>6</sup> All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup> Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. <sup>9</sup> He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man’s grave. <sup>10</sup> But it was the Lord’s good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord’s good plan will prosper in his hands.

### [Jesus Was Beaten](#)

John 19:1–3 (NASB95) *The Crown of Thorns* 1. Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him. 2. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; 3. and they *began* to come up to Him and say, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and to give Him slaps *in the face*.

### [Jesus Was Crucified](#)

Luke 23:32–46 (NLT) <sup>32</sup> Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. <sup>33</sup> When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. <sup>35</sup> The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. <sup>37</sup> They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup> A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.” <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!” <sup>40</sup> But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? <sup>41</sup> We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” <sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.” *The Death of Jesus* <sup>44</sup> By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. <sup>45</sup> The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!” And with those words he breathed his last.

### [Through The Cross, Jesus Conquers Death, and Offers Life \(Abundant & Eternal Life\)!](#)

1 Corinthians 15:54–57 (NLT) <sup>54</sup> Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup> O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” <sup>56</sup> For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. <sup>57</sup> But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 1:20b–24 (NLT)** And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. <sup>21</sup> For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. <sup>22</sup> But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. <sup>23</sup> I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. <sup>24</sup> But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.

**2 Corinthians 5:8 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup> Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.

### The Cross Draws Everyone's Attention To Christ

**John 12:32–33 (NLT)** <sup>32</sup> And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

### When We Look Into The Crucifixion of Jesus We Are Surprised to See:

1. Love

2. Forgiveness, Not Condemnation

3. Eternal Life

4. Born Again

**John 3:1–21 (NLT)** There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee.

<sup>2</sup> After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth,

unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God." <sup>4</sup> "What do you mean?" exclaimed

Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. <sup>7</sup> So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

<sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked. <sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? <sup>11</sup> I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. <sup>12</sup> But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. <sup>20</sup> All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go

near it for fear their sins will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

## 5. The Gateway or Door

## 6. Abundant Life

## 7. We Can Know His Voice & Guidance

John 10:1–18 (NLT) *The Good Shepherd and His Sheep*

“I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! <sup>2</sup> But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.” <sup>6</sup> Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn’t understand what he meant, <sup>7</sup> so he explained it to them: “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. <sup>10</sup> The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. <sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep. <sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, <sup>15</sup> just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> “The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. <sup>18</sup> No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

## Seven Benefits Of The Cross

### 1. Love - God Loves Us Even Though We Are Sinful

John 3:16–17 (NLT) <sup>16</sup> “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

### 2. Salvation – God forgives all my sins if I surrender to Him as Lord because Jesus paid for my sin – (know forgiveness, know eternal life)

**Ephesians 2:8–10 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

**Acts 4:10–13 (NLT)** <sup>10</sup> Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup> For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup> There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” <sup>13</sup> The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

### 3. Healing - God Heals all my diseases -(mind, body, and soul)

**Psalms 103:3–5 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup> He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. <sup>4</sup> He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. <sup>5</sup> He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle’s!

**Isaiah 53:5 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

### 4. Redemption - (God rescues and restores me)

**Colossians 1:13–14 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, <sup>14</sup> who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

**1 Peter 5:10b (NLT)** So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

### 5. Transformation (God changes me into His likeness)

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT)** <sup>18</sup> So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

### 6. Blessing (God Provides Everything I need)

**Philippians 4:19 (NLT)** <sup>19</sup> And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

### 7. Eternal Family (Secure Hope) (We can be with God forever, We can be with Christians forever)

**Ephesians 1:4–6 (NLT)** <sup>4</sup> Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. <sup>5</sup> God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. <sup>6</sup> So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.

**John 14:1–4 (NLT)** *Jesus, the Way to the Father*

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.”

**Jesus is the gateway or door to eternal life, but also His Kingdom and Promises!**

**John 10:7–9 (NLT)** Jesus said... **“I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.**

**Colossians 1:11–14 (NLT)** <sup>11</sup> We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, <sup>12</sup>always thanking the Father. He has enabled **you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.** <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, <sup>14</sup>who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

### **Born Again**

**Romans 10:9–13 (NLT)** <sup>9</sup> If you openly **declare** that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is by **believing in your heart** that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. <sup>11</sup> As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” <sup>12</sup> Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

**Ephesians 2:8–9 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when **you believed.** And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

**Matthew 16:24–26 (NLT)** <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, **“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must **give up your own way**, take up your cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup> If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. <sup>26</sup> And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?**

"Dear God,  
I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness.  
I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son.  
I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life.  
I want to trust Him as my Savior  
and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward.  
Guide my life and help me to do your will.  
I pray this in the name of Jesus.  
Amen."