

# CLING TO THE CROSS

Notes for prayer and reflection

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## READ ALOUD

“We owe all to Jesus crucified. What is your life, my brethren, but the cross? Whence comes the bread of your soul but from the cross? What is your joy but the cross? What is your delight, ...but the Blessed One, who ever lives to make intercession for you? Cling to the cross, then, put both arms around it! Hold to the Crucified, and never let Him go. Come afresh to the cross at this moment, and rest there now and for ever! ( Charles Spurgeon, 1881)

The Cross is a place of **exchange**- we see this in the familiar passage in Isaiah 61:

“ to comfort all who mourn,  
3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair”

## FOR REFLECTION

We know that Jesus won a great victory on the Cross on our behalf through his death and resurrection and that through faith, we receive that victory in our lives- not because we ‘earned’ or ‘deserved’ it, but as a stunning gift of grace!

Here are just a few aspects of that exchange:

1. Jesus was punished -that we might be forgiven
2. Jesus was wounded -that we might be healed
3. Jesus tasted death -that we might share His life
4. Jesus was made a curse- that we might receive God’s favour and blessing
5. Jesus endured shame and rejection- that we might know the Father’s total acceptance

Take a few moments in silence to consider these five areas- recall times when you received Christ’s:

Forgiveness, Healing, New Life, Blessing, Acceptance.

## SHARING TESTIMONIES

Take time to share a story of a time when Jesus's love, forgiveness and acceptance flowed into your heart and your life?

Or share a time when you experienced the power of his resurrection to heal you, or to shift and change your circumstances.

## FOR DISCUSSION

Share one thing that's bugging you the most right now and pray for the divine exchange of Jesus' perfect provision in place of that pain, frustration, fear, or need.

