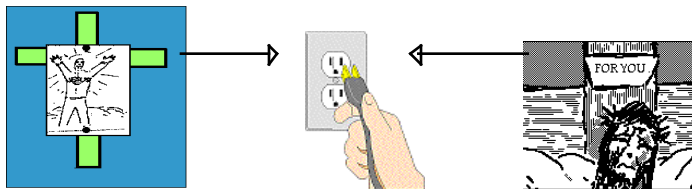


Connecting the Crosses Coming into The Presence of God

We need to experience the presense of God in our daily life. We need to know that our relationship with Him is based upon a blood covenant with Jesus. (John 6:53). Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.



There are always two crosses that must connect to make a blood covenant

We know about the Cross of Jesus, how He died, was buried and was resurrected. But how do we take up our cross? (Luke 9:23-24) Then he said to them all: If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

Here is the path prescribed in the Old Testament for taking up your cross. It was a pattern given to the priests who worshipped in the Tabernacle.

First the Cross of Jesus
Look at the check list on page 3.
for a check up.

The blood covenant swaps everything that we have that is bad for everything that God has that is good. We cannot have forgiveness of sins without making Jesus Lord; Romans

10:9-10.

Start out today by being honest with Jesus. 1 John 1:9 says If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A big part of taking up your cross is being GUT LEVEL HONEST with God. You need to be totally transparent and tell Him everything. Take time to pour out your heart to him as you would your best friend! **You need to walk in love, and when you blow it, run to God to get cleansed. Look at Appendix A and give yourself an honest evaluation.**

Next - The Word of God

This is the time to spend some time in The Word of God. The Word is alive, it is supernatural, it will come alive if you have the intention of

obeying it. Actually the Word is not an it, it is Him. John 1:1-2 says that Jesus is the Word of God. When you listen to the Word you are listening to Jesus.

Next - Thanksgiving

Now that you have been in the Word, you know you are right with God, Satan is judged, you have a lot to be thankful for. Even if you do not have things around you to

be thankful for, try to find some. If you cannot, just thank Him for what the Word says.

Thank Him because the Word says to, and because you know you have victory if you hang on. Thank Him for the Promises that He made to you that have not come into your life as yet.

Next give Him your will and desire. Give Him complete Lordship and control even over your desires

Exchange the desires of your heart (even if they may be good) for God's plan or will for your life. Lay down your wants desires and plans and ask God for His. Tell Him that He can do whatever He wants with your life.

Trust Him that even if you do not know what He is going to bring into your life, that if He brings it, it will be good. Repent from your ways of trying to control and manipulate your life. Turn it over to Him.

Next your mind

Exchange your old thoughts for the mind of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4-6 The warfare is in our mind. Demons constantly accuse us and bombard our minds with half-truths. Isaiah 11 tells us that God replaces our natural intellect with that of the Holy Spirit: i.e. Spirit of The Lord, Knowledge, Counsel, Wisdom, Understanding, Might, Fear of the Lord.

We need to get our mind renewed by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, Romans 12:2. Sometimes our intellect does not know how to pray, Romans 8:26 says we should use our prayer language to pray God's perfect will. Every time you use your prayer language, you are praying out God's Word and God's will. Your speech center dominates the entire brain, so your mind is being renewed and smoothed out to tell your flesh to conform to God's will.

Now your emotions

Exchange your old emotions induced by your flesh and the World, for God's fruit of peace, joy, love, hope, etc.

This is the place of a sacrifice of praise. Read Psalms 145-150 out loud if you don't *feel* the praise in your heart. God is seeking those who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth John 5. From this point of praise, God will seek you and desire your company!

Give Him those emotions that you have been holding back; perhaps your tears, maybe the raising of your hands, or perhaps just revealing to Him your true emotions. Go ahead, no one is looking except Him!

Now you are in His presence

Just take time to enjoy Him, His word, His company. You may feel like praying for others now. You may feel just like worshipping Him.

In here you realize His love, you realize that He is IN you not just with you. You realize that it is His grace that makes you clean. In here you have peace no matter what is going on around you!

A Spiritual Check up-appendix A

- **Love** - Are you treating others with the unconditional love of God?
- **Selfishness** - Putting your own needs over the needs of others. Love is concerned with the welfare of the other- are you more concerned with yourself and how you feel?
- **Stealing** - Can you remember taking money for property that was not yours?
- **Cheating** - Did you get anything from anyone unfairly?
- **Lying** - "Any designed form of deception".
- **Slander** - Speaking evil of someone. You do not have to lie to slander. - Have you spoken about others without love?
- **Immorality** - Are you guilty of stirring up desires that you could not righteously feed? Sexual vice, all impurity, even against your own body.
- **Drunkness**, drugs sorcery, carousing
- **Foul or polluted language**, evil words, unwholesome or worthless talk. Filthiness, foolish, silly and corrupt talk.
- **Envy** - Behind the talk of other's failures and faults usually lurks envy.
- **Ingratitude** - How many times have others done things for you that you are not grateful for?
- **Anger** - Have you been bad-tampered?
- **Cursing** - Have you used gutter language?
- **Course jesting**- "Needless frivolity, silly talk - talking and acting like a moron". Jests and practical jokes that tend to undermine the sacred and precious standards of life; " Have you been making fun of an ethnic group or a certain part of the world or even a state or region in your country, or some politician? Ethnic and regional jokes have no place in holiness.
- **Hardness** - Did you fight back, murmur or return evil for evil?
- **Habits** - Have you continually over-indulged natural appetites - how about your eating habits?
- **Halfheartedness** - Can you remember times when you deliberately shirked your full share of responsibility?
- **Hindrance** - Have you destroyed another's confidence in you by needlessly taking up their time? Have you betrayed another's confidence in you?
- **Hypocrisy** - Did the life you lived before some people make all you said of Christ and His gospel a lie?
- **Broken Vows** - Is there a vow you made to God that you have not kept
- **Unforgiveness**: Are you holding any resentment against anybody, friend or foe?
- **Divisions**, clicks, the party spirit of having differing groups
- **Lustful**, rich wasteful living, greediness. Overspending on shopping, Wasting time
- **Not treating** wives, husbands, children and parents with love and honor
- **Not being content**, being jealous of what others have and you do not have.
- **Idolatry** any desire in your life above your desire for God.
- **Strife** Have you stirred up strife by unneeded words?
- **Witchcraft** - manipulating another to meet your needs.
- **Rebellion to authority** - Boss, teacher, parent, spiritual leader, etc.
- **Love of the World** - includes: Sins of the eyes - what are you reading or watching? Lust of the flesh - what are you desiring? Pride of life - what part of your life do you think you can handle without God being involved? - Pretending in thought or life to be more or less than you really ARE.
- **Pride** is the greatest sin of all. Examine these areas:
 - Do you focus on the failure of others, or are you concerned with your own sense of spiritual need?
 - Are you self-righteous and critical, or compassionate and forgiving, looking for the best in others?

- Do you look down on others, or esteem all others better than yourself?
- Are you independent and self sufficient, or dependent, recognizing your need for others?
- Must you maintain control, or do you surrender control?
- Do you have to prove you are right, or are you willing to yield the right to be right?
- Do you have a demanding spirit, or a giving spirit?
- Do you desire to be served, or are you motivated to serve others?
- Do you desire to be promoted, or are you happy when others are promoted?
- Do you need to receive the credit, or are you happy when others are recognized?
- Do you feel confident in how much you know, or are you humbled by how much you have to learn?
- Are you self conscious or not concerned with your self at all?
- Do you keep people at arm's length, or do you risk getting close to others; willing to take the risk of loving intimately?
- Are you quick to blame others, or do you accept responsibility?
- Are you unapproachable, or easy to be entreated?
- Are you defensive when criticized, or receive criticism with a humble and open heart?
- Are you concerned with being respected or being real?
- Are you concerned about what others think or what God thinks?
- Do you work to maintain your image, or do you die to your reputation?
- Do you find it difficult to share your spiritual needs with others, or are you willing to be open and transparent?
- Do you try to hide your sin or are you willing to be exposed when you are wrong?
- Do you have a hard time saying "I was wrong, will you please forgive me?"
- When confessing sin, do you deal in generalities, or do you deal in specifics?
- Are you remorseful over your sin when you get caught, or are you grieved over your sin and quick to repent?
- When there is a misunderstanding or conflict, do you wait for others to come and ask forgiveness, or do you take the initiative?
- Do you compare yourself with others and feel deserving of honor, or do you compare yourself to the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for mercy?
- Do you think you have little or nothing to repent for, or do you have a continual attitude of repentance?"
- Do you think that everyone else needs revival, or do you continually sense a need for a fresh encounter with the filing of the Holy Spirit?
- Are you proud when you are around a new Christian, or do you delight in their zeal; are you willing to learn from them?
- Are you intimidated when you are around a more mature Christian, or are you hungry to learn from their experience?

"Oh God, You know my foolishness, and my sin is not hid from You...for Your Name's sake, pardon my iniquity, for it is great...If you, Lord, would mark iniquities, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared." (Ps. 69:5; 25:11; 130:3-4)

Will you do this now? Will you go to your gracious and loving Father as a little child and humbly ask His forgiveness?

"If we confess our sins, He is FAITHFUL and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."(I Jn. 1:9) The LORD is merciful and gracious...He has not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities; For as the heaven is above the earth, so great is His mercy towards them that fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." (Ps. 103:12)

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