

Cross WORDS

FREEDOM

“SURELY HE HAS BORNE OUR GRIEFS AND CARRIED OUR SORROWS; YET WE ESTEEMED HIM STRICKEN, SMITTEN BY GOD, AND AFFLICTED. BUT HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES; THE CHASTISEMENT FOR OUR PEACE WAS UPON HIM, AND BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED. ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY; WE HAVE TURNED, EVERY ONE, TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HAS LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL.” **ISAIAH 53:4-6 NKJV**

4 WORDS OF THE CROSS THAT WE NEED TO KNOW

- **FORGIVENESS**
- **FREEDOM**
- **PEACE**
- **HEALING**

“FOR JUST AS THROUGH THE DISOBEDIENCE OF THE ONE MAN THE MANY WERE MADE SINNERS, SO ALSO THROUGH THE OBEDIENCE OF THE ONE MAN THE MANY WILL BE MADE RIGHTEOUS.” **ROMANS 5:19 NIV**

THE ROAD TO FREEDOM-HOW TO FIND YOUR WAY BACK HOME TO GOD

1) THE ROAD AWAY-A TIME OF WANDERING

LOST SHEEP - WHEN ITS FOUND, THE SHEPHERD THROWS A PARTY TO CELEBRATE.

LOST COIN - WHEN ITS FOUND, THE WOMAN THROWS A PARTY TO CELEBRATE.

LOST SON - WHEN HE IS FOUND, THE FATHER THROWS A PARTY TO CELEBRATE.

“THEN HE SAID: “A CERTAIN MAN HAD TWO SONS. AND THE YOUNGER OF THEM SAID TO HIS FATHER, ‘FATHER, GIVE ME THE PORTION OF GOODS THAT FALLS TO ME.’ SO HE DIVIDED TO THEM HIS LIVELIHOOD. AND NOT MANY DAYS AFTER, THE YOUNGER SON GATHERED ALL TOGETHER, JOURNEYED TO A FAR COUNTRY, AND THERE WASTED HIS POSSESSIONS WITH PRODIGAL LIVING. BUT WHEN HE HAD SPENT ALL, THERE AROSE A SEVERE FAMINE IN THAT LAND, AND HE BEGAN TO BE IN WANT.”

LUKE 15:11-14 NKJV

“FOR EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD—THE LUST OF THE FLESH, THE LUST OF THE EYES, AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE—COMES NOT FROM THE FATHER BUT FROM THE WORLD.” **1 JOHN 2:16 NIV**

INIQUITIES, I.E. (MORAL) EVIL -- FAULT, INIQUITY, MISCHIEF, PUNISHMENT (OF INIQUITY), SIN.

UNINTENTIONAL SINS
DELIBERATE SINS
AGAINST YOURSELF
AGAINST OTHERS
THOUGHTS
WORDS

"AT LAST HE STOOD UP AGAIN AND RETURNED TO THE DISCIPLES, ONLY TO FIND THEM ASLEEP, EXHAUSTED FROM GRIEF. "WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING?" HE ASKED THEM. "GET UP AND PRAY, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT GIVE IN TO TEMPTATION." " **LUKE 22:45-46 NLT**

WHEN YOU FALL DOWN THE TRAP OF FOLLOWING SIN. YOU OPEN UP THE DOOR TO THE ENEMY. AND ALL OF THE SUDDEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A BATTLE.

"FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE AUTHORITIES, AGAINST THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD AND AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS." **EPHESIANS 6:12 NIV**

ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOR COMES FROM GOING DOWN WAYWARD PATHS... THEN NOT KNOWING HOW TO RETURN HOME. THEN YOU ARE DEALING WITH TEMPTATIONS OF THE FLESH, OF THE WORLD, AND OF THE ENEMY, YOU ARE FIGHTING BATTLES THAT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO WIN.

YOU CAN TRY AND WILLPOWER THE DEVIL AWAY, BUT THAT DOESN'T WORK.

YOU CAN TRY AND DO A LOT OF GOOD DEEDS, AND EARN YOUR WAY, BUT THAT DOES NOT WORK.

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT WORKS, IS RECOGNIZING JESUS, PAID THE PRICE FOR OUR SINS, FOR OUR WANDERING, AND FOR MISTAKES.

"ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY; WE HAVE TURNED, EVERY ONE, TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HAS LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL." **ISAIAH 53:6 NKJV**

2) THE CROSS ROAD - A TIME OF AWAKENING

“BUT WHEN HE CAME TO HIMSELF, HE SAID, ‘HOW MANY OF MY FATHER’S HIRED SERVANTS HAVE BREAD ENOUGH AND TO SPARE, AND I PERISH WITH HUNGER! I WILL ARISE AND GO TO MY FATHER, AND WILL SAY TO HIM, ‘FATHER, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST HEAVEN AND BEFORE YOU, AND I AM NO LONGER WORTHY TO BE CALLED YOUR SON. MAKE ME LIKE ONE OF YOUR HIRED SERVANTS.’” **LUKE 15:17-19 NKJV**

WHEN YOUR AWAKENED, YOU RECOGNIZE THAT YOU ARE NOT LIVING UP TO YOUR POTENTIAL.

GOD DIDN'T MOVE, YOU MOVED. YOU LOST YOUR HOME, YOU LOST YOUR PLACE, YOU LOST YOUR STANDING. YOU HAVE AN INHERITANCE, YOU HAVE WEALTH, BUT SERVANTS ARE LIVING BETTER THAN YOU.

YOU WANT TO COME BACK TO THE FATHER, BUT YOU FEEL CONDEMNATION...YOU FEEL UNWORTHINESS.

“THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BORN INTO GOD’S FAMILY DO NOT MAKE A PRACTICE OF SINNING, BECAUSE GOD’S LIFE IS IN THEM. SO THEY CAN’T KEEP ON SINNING, BECAUSE THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD.” **1 JOHN 3:9 NLT**

3) THE ROAD HOME - A TIME OF RESTORING

“AND HE AROSE AND CAME TO HIS FATHER. BUT WHEN HE WAS STILL A GREAT WAY OFF, HIS FATHER SAW HIM AND HAD COMPASSION, AND RAN AND FELL ON HIS NECK AND KISSED HIM. AND THE SON SAID TO HIM, ‘FATHER, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST HEAVEN AND IN YOUR SIGHT, AND AM NO LONGER WORTHY TO BE CALLED YOUR SON.’” **LUKE 15:20-21 NKJV**

“BUT THE FATHER SAID TO HIS SERVANTS, ‘BRING OUT THE BEST ROBE AND PUT IT ON HIM, AND PUT A RING ON HIS HAND AND SANDALS ON HIS FEET. AND BRING THE FATTED CALF HERE AND KILL IT, AND LET US EAT AND BE MERRY; FOR THIS MY SON WAS DEAD AND IS ALIVE AGAIN; HE WAS LOST AND IS FOUND.’ AND THEY BEGAN TO BE MERRY.” **LUKE 15:22-24 NKJV**

4 GIFTS OF RESTORATION

1) ROBE - RIGHTEOUSNESS

"FOR HE HAS CLOTHED ME WITH THE GARMENTS OF SALVATION, HE HAS COVERED ME WITH THE ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS." **ISAIAH 61:10B NKJV**

"FOR THE SIN OF THIS ONE MAN, ADAM, CAUSED DEATH TO RULE OVER MANY. BUT EVEN GREATER IS GOD'S WONDERFUL GRACE AND HIS GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR ALL WHO RECEIVE IT WILL LIVE IN TRIUMPH OVER SIN AND DEATH THROUGH THIS ONE MAN, JESUS CHRIST." **ROMANS 5:17 NLT**

2) RING - IDENTITY

"THEN PHARAOH TOOK HIS SIGNET RING OFF HIS HAND AND PUT IT ON JOSEPH'S HAND; AND HE CLOTHED HIM IN GARMENTS OF FINE LINEN AND PUT A GOLD CHAIN AROUND HIS NECK." **GENESIS 41:42 NKJV**

""AND HE AROSE AND CAME TO HIS FATHER. BUT WHEN HE WAS STILL A GREAT WAY OFF, HIS FATHER SAW HIM AND HAD COMPASSION, AND RAN AND FELL ON HIS NECK AND KISSED HIM. AND THE SON SAID TO HIM, 'FATHER, I HAVE SINNED AGAINST HEAVEN AND IN YOUR SIGHT, AND AM NO LONGER WORTHY TO BE CALLED YOUR SON.'" **LUKE 15:20-21 NKJV**

3) SANDALS - POSITION

WHEN YOU HAVE NO SANDALS....IT IS A SIGN OF DESTITUTION, POVERTY...

THE SERVANTS AND SLAVES WERE OFTEN BAREFOOT.

"IT IS HE WHO, COMING AFTER ME, IS PREFERRED BEFORE ME, WHOSE SANDAL STRAP I AM NOT WORTHY TO LOOSE."" **JOHN 1:27 NKJV**

IT'S ALSO A SIGN OF MOURNING...

"SO DAVID WENT UP BY THE ASCENT OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, AND WEPT AS HE WENT UP; AND HE HAD HIS HEAD COVERED AND WENT BAREFOOT. II SAMUEL 15:30A NKJV

4) BANQUET DINNER - CELEBRATION

"SO HE ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIS FATHER, 'LORD, THESE MANY YEARS I HAVE BEEN SERVING YOU; I NEVER TRANSGRESSED YOUR COMMANDMENT AT ANY TIME; AND YET YOU NEVER GAVE ME A YOUNG GOAT, THAT I MIGHT MAKE MERRY WITH MY FRIENDS.'" **LUKE 15:29**

"IT WAS RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD MAKE MERRY AND BE GLAD, FOR YOUR BROTHER WAS DEAD AND IS ALIVE AGAIN, AND WAS LOST AND IS FOUND.'" **LUKE 15:32 NKJV**

MANY OF US HAVE BEEN WANDERING...WE GOT LOST.

GOD WANTS TO AWAKEN YOU AND RESTORE YOU, AND HE WANTS TO CELEBRATE YOU. THIS IS THE REASON THAT HE CAME:

**"FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME TO SEEK AND SAVE THOSE WHO ARE LOST."
LUKE 19:10 NLT**

"THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD, AND CHRIST JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BRING US TO GOD. JESUS WAS TRULY HUMAN, AND HE GAVE HIMSELF TO RESCUE ALL OF US." 1 TIMOTHY 2:5 CEV

THIS IS WHAT I KNOW ABOUT FREEDOM... WHEN WE ARE LOST WE NEED TO BE FOUND.

MANY OF US LOST TIME, LOST HOPE, LOST STRENGTH, LOST HEALTH, LOST MARRIAGE...

MANY OF US NEED TO BE RESCUED. WE NEED TO BE RESCUED FROM ADDICTION. RESCUED FROM BONDAGE. RESCUED FROM ANGER. FROM OFFENSE. RESCUED FROM DESPAIR. RESCUED FROM DEPRESSION.

"IN HIM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE" EPHESIANS 1:7 NKJV

