

## The Power of the Cross Study Series

The Power of the Cross - Part 4 (Colossians 2:6-23)

The EXPERIENCE Bible Study

September 10, 2019

The cross has not only provided us relational benefits, but the spiritual benefits are just as significant. Relationally, the Cross has reconnected us to a loving and Holy God. Relationally, the Cross has enabled us to reconcile fractured relationships, damaged self-image and ruptured families. We have benefitted greatly from the work of Christ on the cross from a relational standpoint.

Spiritually, our benefits are just as significant. From a spiritual place, the Cross has reached into a sphere that quite often we don't truly appreciate. The power of the Cross has rendered the forces of darkness helpless and powerless. **The major challenge we have is not in WHAT the Cross has done but it's HOW has the Cross impacted my life.** What Jesus did is truly remarkable but how it impacts my life is even more remarkable.

HOW HAS THE CROSS IMPACTED MY LIFE:

1) **The cross has disarmed the forces of darkness (vs.15)** - To disarm means to take away a weapon or weapons from someone. From a spiritual place, we recognize that the weapons of the enemy have not been removed.

The forces of darkness still discharge weapons against us, however, in this context, Paul is not referring to removing weapons but he's referring to the fact that the weapons have been rendered defenseless or made powerless. **Paul is encouraging the Colossian believers to rest in the fact that the cross has disarmed, or made powerless the weapons of powers and authorities.**

What makes any weapon powerful is the ammunition inside the weapon. If the ammunition is removed, the weapon is now made powerless. **The revelation is that the presence of the weapons don't signify they have power. Even though they form against us, the Cross has rendered them powerless to us.** The one through whom they have been filled (Christ) is the head over every principality and power.

From a spiritual place, this helps us to reengage the spiritual battles with greater confidence. We need not see ourselves as subject to the powers but the cosmic powers are subject to the Christ through whom believers have been filled.

2) **The cross has freed us from social perception/expectations/regulations/conformity (vs. 16-23)** - The Colossian believers were no longer bound by public perception or social conformity as a result of what the Cross had done. **This level of freedom can only be experienced when we realize that the weapons have been disarmed.**

The Cross has now enabled the believer to pursue a relationship with God that is not bound by what non-spiritual persons deem appropriate. **Spiritual development and freedom is not found in things that satisfy sensual pleasures but are found in disciplines and practices that feed the spirit as opposed to the flesh.**

Paul is encouraging them to realize that Christ is present and active within the natural order but He remains transcendent and sovereign over it. The work of Christ on the cross was a complete work thus enabling us to experience a level of completeness within ourselves.

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