

Crucified unto the World *Galatians 6:14*

In **Galatians 6:14** the apostle Paul gave the testimony, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

Throughout this study we have learned much concerning our relationship as believers toward this world. Positively, we have learned that we are to be a force of moral preservation as the salt of the earth, that we are to be a force of truth and righteousness as the light of the world, and that we are to be a force of spiritual deliverance as witnesses of Christ’s gospel unto this spiritually lost world. Furthermore, we have learned that the Lord our God will use us as His faithful servants to turn this world upside down spiritually. However, we have also learned that as the faithful servants of the Lord we will have to face hatred and persecution from this world, and that we are to respond toward this hatred and persecution with joyful patience and unwavering faithfulness. Negatively, we have also learned that we are not to set our affection and love upon this world or upon the things of this world. We have learned that we are not to live according to the foundational motivations of this world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. We have learned that we are not to be unequally yoked together with the unbelievers of this world. We have learned that we are to come out from among this world and be spiritually separate from this world. We have learned that we are not to walk after this world’s counsels for life, that we are not to seek after acceptance by this world’s crowd, and that we are not to be characterized by this world’s scornfulness against the things of the Lord. We have learned that we are not to partake of or have fellowship with this world’s unfruitful works of spiritual darkness and uncleanness. We have learned that we are not to follow after this world’s wisdom. We have learned that we are not to entangle ourselves with the affairs of this life, that is – with the cares, riches, and pleasures of this world. Finally, we have learned that we are not to be a friend of this world or to conform our character and conduct after this world.

Even so, the question may be asked whether it is truly possible for us to live this way. Indeed, the question may be asked whether it is truly possible for us to be spiritually separate from this world and not entangled by the things of this world? Even so, the answer rings back from God’s Word that YES, it is certainly possible, because the world has been spiritually crucified unto us, and because we have been spiritually crucified unto the world. In **Galatians 6:14** the apostle Paul gave testimony, saying, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” In addition, **Galatians 1:3-5** proclaims, “Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Thus we are brought somewhat back to the point with which we began this study. Certainly we are now in this world; but as the children of God through faith in Christ, we are no longer spiritually of this world.

I. According to the Course of This World

Before we became the children of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for eternal salvation, we were spiritual darkness and as such were a very of this spiritually dark world.

(See Ephesians 5:8) At that time we were spiritually dead unto God in trespasses and sins, being alienated from the life, light, and fellowship of God. (See Ephesians 2:1 & 4:18) At that time we naturally walk according to the ungodly course of this present evil world. (See Ephesians 2:2) At that time we naturally walked according to the will of this sinful world's god, "the prince of the power of the air," that wicked one the devil. (See Ephesians 2:2) At that time we naturally walked in and after the worldly lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the ungodly lusts of our flesh and of our mind. (See Ephesians 2:3) At that time we spiritually were the children of disobedience, the children of darkness, the children of the devil. (See Ephesians 2:2 & John 8:44) At that time we were spiritually bound under the power of sin and were bound to the will and ways of this world. At that time we were spiritually a part of the world and were naturally in love with this world.

II. Spiritually Crucified with Christ

However, our spiritual nature changed when we received the Lord Jesus Christ through faith as eternal Savior. Even so, **2 Corinthians 5:17** declares, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." In that moment we ceased to be the spiritual children of darkness and the devil, and we became the spiritual children of God and light. (See John 1:12 & Ephesians 5:8) In that moment our old spiritual nature, the spirit that was dead unto God in trespasses and sins, was spiritually crucified with Christ. Even so, **Romans 6:6** declares, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." In that moment our sinful spirit was taken away, and the Lord our God created a new righteous spirit in its place. In that moment we were spiritually born again by the power of God the Holy Spirit, and a new spirit was created in us after God's own nature of "righteousness and true holiness." (See John 3:5-8 & Ephesians 4:24) In that moment we were not only joined with Christ spiritually in His crucifixion, but were also joined with Him spiritually in His resurrection, so that in that moment we were recreated spiritually and raised up unto newness of life. (See Romans 6:4) Even so, in that moment we were set free from the dominating power of sin in our lives. (See Romans 6:7) In that moment our spiritual life was "hid with Christ in God," and we were made spiritually alive "unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (See Colossians 3:3 & Romans 6:11) Furthermore, in that moment, being spiritually crucified with Christ, we were also crucified by Christ unto the world; and the world was crucified unto us. This is the principle of truth that we learn from the apostle Paul's testimony in **Galatians 6:14**, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." So then, in that moment we were also set free spiritually from the dominating corruption of worldly affections and lusts in our lives. Even so, **2 Peter 1:2-4** declares, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." In like manner, **Galatians 1:3-5** declares, "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

III. No Longer Living LIKE This World

So then, because we have been spiritually crucified with Christ unto this world, and thereby have been spiritually delivered from this present evil world, we should no longer live like this world. Indeed, we have been spiritually resurrected with Christ in order that we should no longer serve the ungodly lusts of this world, but in order that we should now walk in the newness of godly living. Even so, **Titus 2:11-12** declares, “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” Being a new spiritual creation in Christ Jesus our Savior, we should no longer live unto the lusts of this ungodly world, but should now live unto the will of God. (See 1 Peter 4:2) Even so, **Ephesians 2:10** declares, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Now we should no longer fashion our attitudes and behavior after this present evil world; but as He which hath called us is holy, so we should be holy in every manner of our attitude and behavior, passing the time of our sojourning here in the fear of the Lord our God. (See 1 Peter 1:14-17) Now we should no longer allow sin to reign in our character and conduct. Now we should no longer obey sin in the ungodly and worldly lusts thereof. (See Romans 6:12) Now we should no longer yield our members unto sin and worldly lust “as instruments of unrighteousness.” Rather, now we should yield ourselves unto the Lord our God, “as those that are alive from the dead;” and now we should yield our members unto God as instruments of His righteous will. (See Romans 6:13)

IV. No Longer Living FOR This World

Furthermore, because through Christ this world has been spiritually crucified unto us, and thereby we are now “strangers and pilgrims” in this world, we should no longer live for this world. Because we are spiritually risen with Christ, and because our spiritual life is now “hid with Christ in God,” we should no longer seek and strive after the things of this world. (See Colossians 3:3) Rather, now we should “seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” (See Colossians 3:1) Now we should seek first “the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.” (See Matthew 6:33) Now we should even esteem “the reproach of Christ” as “greater riches” than the treasures of this world. (See Hebrews 11:26) Even so, in **Luke 9:23-25** our Lord Jesus Christ declared, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?” Now we should deny our own will for our lives, and should daily take up our cross of submission unto our Lord’s will for our lives. Now we should follow after our Lord’s will and direction step by step throughout our daily walk. No longer should we consider our lives as our own to be lived for self and to gain this world. Rather, because we have been redeemed and purchased with the price of Christ’s own blood, now we should lose our lives for the sake of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to serve Him. No longer should this world or the things of this world matter so much to us. No longer should we seek for the meaning of our lives in this world and the things of this world. Now we should be concerned only about pleasing the Lord our God. Now we should seek for the meaning of our lives in pleasing the Lord our God.

V. Spiritually Overcoming This World

So then, living in this world every day, and having to face the draw of this world on the one hand and the tribulation of this world on the other hand, how may we find spiritual victory? How may we spiritually overcome the draw of this world upon our hearts and lives and the pressure of this world against our hearts and lives? The answer is revealed in 1 John 5:4-5 – “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” Initially we overcame this world when we were delivered from the domination of its corruption through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as eternal Savior. Then we were spiritually born of God to become the children of God, and then we delivered from the power of spiritual darkness and were made children of spiritual light. Even so, now we may find daily victory over this world’s draw and this world’s tribulation through a daily walk of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as daily Master. Just as we received Him as Savior through faith, even so we are now to abide and walk in Him daily through faith, “rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith.” (See Colossians 2:6-7)

Indeed, this is the reason that our Lord has given us His Holy Spirit to dwell within us. In **John 14:16-20** our Lord Jesus Christ declared, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.” Through the Person of the indwelling Holy Spirit, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself is with us and in us. He is not the Spirit of this world, and this present evil world cannot receive Him and does not know Him. Rather, He is the Spirit of Christ and of truth, sent to dwell in every believer from the moment of faith in Christ for salvation; and we as the children of God can know Him and be enabled spiritually by Him. As we walk each day through faith under the filling influence of the Holy Spirit, we can spiritually overcome the worldly lusts of our flesh and can be guided to walk in spiritual wisdom against this world’s spiritual corruption. (See Galatians 5:16 & Ephesians 5:15-18)

Even so, through the Spirit of truth we can learn the way of godly truth and can overcome this world’s deception and draw. In **John 14:26** our Lord Jesus Christ gave the promise, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” Furthermore, in **John 16:13-14** our Lord Jesus Christ gave the promise, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” Finally, in **1 John 4:1-6** the instruction and truth is given, “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because

greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” As the Spirit of truth, the indwelling Holy Spirit stands in opposition to this world’s spirit of antichrist and spirit of spiritual error. Even so, because the indwelling Holy Spirit is greater than the spirit of antichrist and error that is in this world, He can enable us to overcome this world’s spirit of spiritual error and corruption.

In addition, through the Comforter we can find spiritual peace of heart and can overcome this world’s tribulation and persecution. In **John 14:16** our Lord Jesus Christ gave the promise, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.” Again in **John 14:18** our Lord Jesus Christ gave the promise, “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” Thus in **John 14:27** our Lord Jesus Christ expanded upon the promise, saying “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” The peace that this world promises and gives is fleeting and empty. The peace our Lord Jesus Christ promises and gives through His indwelling Holy Spirit is that which surpasses all human understanding (see Philippians 4:7), and that which can spiritually guard our hearts and minds from being troubled no matter what tribulation we may face in this world. Even so, in **John 16:33** our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” Yes, we certainly will face tribulation in and from this world. Yet our Lord has overcome this world, and He has given His own peace unto us through His indwelling Holy Spirit in order that we also may overcome this world’s tribulation in and through Him. Thus in **Romans 15:13** the prayer is delivered, “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”