What About My Right Hand???

Illustrating the Spiritual truth of living the “crucified life.”

Psalms 118:27 God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar.

Ro 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

*Provisionally the Lord Jesus Christ died* upon an old rugged cross that He could take my place, the He could be the payment for my sins, the He could bear the punishment I deserved! There is no Salvation, no relationship with God without that bloody and gory cross!

*Positionally the Lord sees me as crucified* with the Lord Jesus Christ! My sin debt is PAID IN FULL, my sinful flesh is PUT TO DEATH, My state before Him is PURE for He was made sin for me that I might be made the righteousness of God in Him!

*Practically the Lord has called me to daily pick up my cross and follow him!* Friends there is no service for Christ without a cross. There is no pleasing Christ without a cross, an not just ANY cross, but MY CROSS!

We are living in a culture of professing Christians that want a Christ without a cross. The Hymns of old were great hymns that embraced not only the cross of Christ but the cross that was taken up for the love and fellowship of Christ. The hymns of today are melodies sung to the carnal chords of worldly music and major on the comfortable life of ease sought by contemporary Christianity of our day.

This may not seem the run of the mill Father's Day message, but I, as a father, am speaking to fathers. The Bible exhorts us to “take up our cross” and follow Christ. We are to be “living sacrifices” and as such, it is imperative that each of us as Paul “die daily” to self and sin that we may live for the Saviour!
1Co 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb,
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His Name?

Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize,
And sailed through bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face?
Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace,
To help me on to God?

Sure I must fight if I would reign;
Increase my courage, Lord.
I’ll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy Word.

Thy saints in all this glorious war
Shall conquer, though they die;
They see the triumph from afar,
By faith’s discerning eye.

When that illustrious day shall rise,
And all Thy armies shine
In robes of victory through the skies,
The glory shall be Thine.

-Isaac Watts

Provisionally Illustrated:

Ga 2:14-21 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? 15 We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, 16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. 17 But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. 18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. 19 For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. 21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Practically Illustrated:

Ga 5:13-25 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt
love thy neighbour as thyself. 15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. 16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Positionally Illustrated:
Ga 6:11-15 Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand. 12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. 14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

So I am picturing a cross. A cross is not built for comfort, but for crucifixion! The cross is for ME. How does one bear his cross, How does one “crucify the flesh with the lusts and desires”? How does one “die daily”?

*It takes THREE nails...

The FIRST NAIL, reasonable must be for my FEET (MY WALK)
The Second NAIL, reasonably must be for my “Left Hand” (MY WEAKNESS)
The THIRD and final nail, MUST BE for my “Right Hand” (MY STRENGTH)

I. Let's deal with this first nail: My Walk...

Psalms 119:59 I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

Ephesians 5:15-16 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

II. Let's deal with this second nail: My Weakness...

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

1 Corinthians 10:12-14 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 13 There
hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

Though it would cause me much personal pain and sacrifice, the FIRST TWO NAILS are within my reach. They are within the realm of my ability. If my heart is to crucify the flesh and the desires therof I can bend down and with the hammer pound that nail into my feet, securing my WALK, that I not WANDER from the cross I am called to bear...

Then, with my feet secure, and my WALK in order, I can reach across and secure the LEFT HAND.

We often blame our WEAKNESS for our failures, but this is most often NOT the case!! In fact it is in our weakness that we find ourselves blessed with the GREATEST STRENGTH!

III. Now for the Third Nail...

The Question comes again, “What about my right hand?” It was the Roman soldiers that pounded in the nails that held my Saviour to the cross of Calvary. In reality it was His commitment to the will of the Father and His compassion towards me that ACTUALLY HELD HIM THERE! What about my right hand?

Galatians 5:14-15 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

A. Turning the Cheek

Matthew 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

B. Taking Wrong

1 Corinthians 6:5-7 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? 6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. 7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?

C. Triumphant over Evil with Good

Romans 12:16-21 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.
D. Toward all Men, Patience

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. 15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

E. Thankworthy Endurance

1 Peter 2:18-20 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. 19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

F. Contrariwise Blessing

1 Peter 3:8-9 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

G. Taking Inventory of the heart and Taking Care of the Lips

Ephesians 4:29-32 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

The right hand is normally secured by folks not of our choosing, nor of our liking. Instead of cursing them, let us be mindful of the blessing the Lord is USING THEM for our sakes!