



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

16 - 22 Feb, 2020

Jesus Christ's Love Transforms Us

**'Be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that you may prove what is that good and acceptable
and perfect will of God' Romans 12:2**

Lent

- † Lent is a time of transformation, entering into a deeper relationship with Christ, through**
 - Fasting (*Mt 6:16-18; Mk 9:29*)**
 - Abstinence (*Mt 4:1-11*)**
 - Prayer (*Mt 5:5-15*)**
 - Submission to my parish. Christ the Lord of lords was submissive the Jewish laws (*Lk 2:21-40, Mt 3:13-17; Lk 3:23*)**
 - Almsgiving (*Mt 25:31-46*)**
 - Repentance (*Mt 4:17*)**

When we experience the love of God, we get transformed

- † *'Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends' Jn 15:13***
- † *'You are My friends if you do whatever I command you' Jn 15:14***
- † *'No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you' Jn 15:15***
- † *'You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you' Jn 15:16***
- † Jesus' love to the repentant criminal is revealed on the Cross when He told him, *'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise' Lk 23:43***
- † Jesus' love to the woman caught in adultery protected her from condemnation in this world and in eternity (*Jn 8:1-12*)**

The 'transforming event' is no more than the reaction to Christ's personal love to us

- † *'We love Him because He first loved us' 1 Jn 4:19*
- † The transformation in us starts with having faith in the Lord
- † *'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new' 2 Cor 5:17*
- † *'and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him' Col 3:10*
- † *'that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God' Col 1:10*
- † And we start pleading with the Psalmist, *'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me' Ps 51:10*
- † And the Lord will answer, *'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh' Ez 36:26*
- † We become humble like Samuel, sincere like Ruth, courageous like Daniel, bold like Paul. We become Christlike

We are called to be transformed

- † *'For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart. These, O God, You will not despise' Ps 51:16-17*
- † *'I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me' Gal 2:20*
- † *'that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God' 1 Pt 4:2*

Transformation is an ongoing process

- † It is God's work in us. *'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts' Zec 4:6b*
- † Let us call the Lord as Samuel did, **(1 Sm 3:7-11)**
- † *'Speak Lord, Speak, for Your servant hears' 1 Sm 3:10c*
- † *'make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen' Heb 13:21*

The transformation of the apostles

- † They left everything and followed Christ
- † Peter, the fisherman, became a fisher of men (*Lk 5:1-11*)
- † Matthew, the tax collector, became an apostle and one of the four evangelists (*Mt 9:9-13*)
- † Nathanael, who would not believe that any good thing comes from Nazareth, changed his mind when he had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ (*Jn 1:43-51*)

Bibliography

Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths' Pro 3:5-6

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

- † Christ love me an unconditional and indescribable love

My reaction

- † Am I seeking His will daily?
- † Am I asking Him to use me as an instrument in His hands?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick

10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Catholic Church in prayer

<p>الصلاة الربانية أبانا الذي في السموات لنتقدسُ إسمك ليأت ملكوتك لنكن مشيئتك كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض أعطنا خبرنا كفاف يومنا واغفر لنا خطايانا كما تغفر نحن لمن أساء إلينا ولا تدخلنا في التجارب لكن نجنا من الشرير أمين</p>	<p>قانون الايمان أومن بالله واحد، أب ضابط الكل خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يرى وما لا يرى ويرب واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر الذي به كان كل شيء الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء وتأنس وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي وتألم وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما في الكتب وصعد إلى السماء، وجلس عن يمين الأب وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات الذي لا فناء لملكه وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي المنبثق من الأب الذي هو مع الأب والإبن مسجود له وممجّد الناطق بالأنبياء وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية وأعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي أمين</p>
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