



UPPER ROOM
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

urfm.org/

URFM is a **Spiritual Teaching** and **Christian Counseling** ministry

Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Timothy 2:2

Spiritual Transformation and the Cross

We often pray to be conformed into Christ's image. Do we not? I guess that we like this idea and we think that if we just pray for it, it would happen in our sleep, and hold and behold one morning we wake up transformed. Many of us do not realize that our transformation hinges on the work of the cross in our lives.

Gene Edwards writes, "Remember that moment when you asked to be conformed to His image? Consider this: Transformation hinges on your becoming a living sacrifice."¹ Since the cross is not properly preached in many churches today I think that this is a novel idea for many Christians. Many of us like to live a prosperous life here on earth and, upon Jesus' return, enjoy eternity. Is it not true? Edwards writes, "You like your God when He lets you have a nice home, a good car and good circumstances, do you not? When He lets you sell your house and buy another one? When you get that scholarship, procure that job? But what is your attitude toward Him when that same Lord gives consent to nails tearing through your flesh, ripping your feet, and shredding your soul? Do you still like Him? As much?!"²

God loves you and me so much! May be we know this in theory. May be we know just the love of God for our salvation but we have not comprehended God's love for our sanctification. The fact is that when we prayed that prayer – you know what I am talking about – that prayer of total surrender. When we prayed: *God I want to be more like Jesus*. God takes us seriously. Then He targets in us aspects that are not Jesus, and as the Vinedresser that He is, the Lord begins to prune us of any dead aspects. In the gospel of John we read, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit" (John 15:1-2). Interesting concept, isn't it? This sounds like crucifixion to me. Edwards writes, "To embrace it is to allow the destruction of all that is in you which is not Christ. ... When you embrace a crucifixion, you allow the full element of destruction into your life to do away with the very thing which you so desperately desire to preserve. Crucifixion strikes at the most subterranean motivations of your being, the labyrinth of your unconscious will."³ Wow! That hurts!

That is why we need to experience crucifixion. I know that, in the humanistic culture most of us live in where the materialism and consumerism are the standard of life; to discuss about crucifixion it is hard in

¹ Gene Edwards, *Exquisite Agony*, (page 31).

² Ibid, (p. 34).

³ Ibid, (p. 37).

Upper Room Fellowship Ministry (URFM)

A Place for *Healing of the Heart* and *Restoration of the Soul* by *Experiencing Christ* through the *Power of the Holy Spirit*

our hearing. But the spiritual reality is that only the cross has the power to reveal and to destroy. Edwards writes, “Crucifixions do two things. They reveal —and they destroy.”⁴ Only the cross reveals the deeper and more hidden motives of the flesh. Brother Gene captures this dead on. “The purpose of a crucifixion is to lay naked before the world, men, God, and angels your reaction to being crucified. Crucifixion reveals one’s reaction to being crucified.”⁵

There is good news. Rest assured that a true crucifixion has resolution. As Edwards writes, “A true crucifixion ever ends in triumph. ... Suddenly it becomes not only a crucifixion but a holy work of God.”⁶ And this is exactly what we need – *a holy work of God*.

Jesus promises His followers *abundant life* (John 10:10(b)). But in order to experience it we must lose our bios life (Luke 9:23-24, John 12:24-25). Gene writes, “A crucifixion, (properly embraced) will ultimately make you better than what you were. Improperly embraced, it leaves you less than what you were. ***It is your choice***. You will either be spiritually destroyed or you will grow in Christ beyond previous boundaries!”⁷

Deep inside all of us would like change. But most of us do not like to suffer so those changes are done by the Spirit of God inside us. Paul understood that he cannot have one without the other, so he writes, “More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ” (Php. 3:8). Therefore, when the cross is presented to us we have a choice to embrace it or to reject it. Edwards writes, “Deliverance from a crucifixion is an escape from pain. It is also an escape from change... change which God desires!”⁸ Gene continues, “All crucifixions are intended to turn into redemption and transformation. Crucifixions are not for pain nor bitterness, they are for the highest of triumphs.”⁹ Can you imagine that? Turning your unjust sufferings, unethical insults, hurting slanders, any other form of overt or covert persecuting to God? Wow! “Unfairness turned to transformation. ‘*Crucified by men*’ changed into triumph by Christ. It is in the joy of that moment, when the smoke and fire lift, you see Jesus!”¹⁰

You and I are called to the highest life. “The highest life in all universal history is God’s... passed through death. God’s life,... resurrected. That is the highest life.”¹¹ Therefore make your mind today to embrace the call to live the highest life. “Settle your crucifixion. Resurrection awaits.”¹²

With LOVE in Christ’s Service,

Valy Vadura

Spiritual Mentor / Life Coach

⁴ Ibid, (p. 41).

⁵ Ibid, (p. 42-43).

⁶ Ibid, (p. 43).

⁷ Ibid, (p. 51).

⁸ Ibid, (p. 56).

⁹ Ibid, (p. 60).

¹⁰ Ibid, (p. 61).

¹¹ Ibid, (p. 99).

¹² Ibid, (p. 100).