

## ONE-TIME DELIVERANCE WITH NO RECOVERY

Exodus 14:10-14 & 22-31 & I Peter 1:3-6, 3:18

***“The same great power of God that delivered God’s people from Egypt one time, is the same great power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead one time, and the same great power that will keep you in Christ with joy and security for all time.”***

***–Manny Mill***

Jesus Christ provided for you and me a ***one-time deliverance***, by purchasing with His ***one-time payment*** a ***one-way ticket*** “out of Egypt” that none of ***us*** were qualified to buy! That means no ongoing “recovery” process. In the Bible, Egypt represents every possible manifestation of sin, of death, of slavery and despair. **Despair will steal your joy!**

It is my passionate desire and fervent prayer that you will clearly see your urgent and desperate need to become compelled to choose to position yourself at the Cross with permanency! It is then that you will believe and know how to receive and **believe** the one-time deliverance from your guilt and from the power of sin that Jesus Christ provided for you. Your acceptance of this one-time redemptive deliverance will unleash His joy in you. With His perfect and permanent work of Redemption through the Cross, His precious and sinless blood, and His resurrection from the dead, He defeated death for ever and paid the one-time transfer for you out of Egypt forever!! The death that entered into the human race through Adam and Eve is now gone forever if you believe and embrace the good news of the Gospel (Genesis 2:17-3:21).

The Cross is the only place where the Christian belongs!! There is no place for the Christian outside of the Cross. It is at the Cross where the Christian's growth and maturity in Christ takes place. It is at the Cross where you and I can truly feast in the Word of God which must become our very life and as important for us as the physical eating of food for our bodies (Deuteronomy 32:46-47).

The Cross and Christ must never be separated and they must be presented in every sermon and reflected through our lives. The Cross and Christ are essential for our Justification--Sanctification and One Time Deliverance from hell--slavery and guilt of sin, as Jesus paid our sinful bill in full and purchased us, one time, with his broken body, sinless blood and resurrection, so we can never be resold again--We have been declared not guilty, fully forgiven by God the Father and therefore we are no longer for sale!

At the Cross we no longer need to entertain the idea of re-covering the sin that separated us from the loving and eternal relationship that God the Father has been longing to have with us!! God is the one who initiated His love relationship with us by His persistent and resilient love for you and I. God will **never** give up on you or me because we have been created in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26), which is why the devil and his demons hate us so much!! We were born to bring God our Father (not the devil), the glory and honor He deserves. It is when we experience satisfaction in Christ that our joy will reflect His glory. Sin no longer has dominion over us because we are dead to sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus (Romans 6:11).

My friend Dr. John Piper reminds us that ***“Sin is the suicidal abandonment of Joy.”*** God, your ***real*** Father, desires through Jesus Christ to make your joy complete and to give you an abundant life (John 10:10; 16:15 & 24).

Jesus Christ lives forever and He has a permanent priesthood. Therefore, He provided for you and I ***complete deliverance***, meeting our every need (Hebrews 7:24-26). Jesus Christ is the real deal/the ***true*** Messiah who fulfilled His Calling as The Great High Priest, Prophet and King. He has kept and delivered every one of His Promises. His Word is alive - He is the living Word - the Word became flesh (John 1:14) - and His Word is Truth.

The finished redemptive work of Christ must be our exclusive and permanent source of joy - joy that neither the devil, nor his demons, nor any fellow church members can steal from us. We must be resilient in defending God's gift of joy to us through Christ Jesus *who for the Joy that was before Him endured the Cross - as well as much opposition, even from his own - so that you and I will not grow weary nor loose heart, - but rather be joyful and refreshed in Christ and for Christ as we continue to identify with His finished work on the Cross* (Hebrews 12:2-3). Just as Christ Himself literally died on the cross, we must literally die to self (self-satisfaction/indulgence) as we look to the cross and what it stands for with delight (Romans 6:8-10).

Moses, a former criminal, was forgiven and given a brand new beginning by God. Moses was called directly by God as a liberator to serve Him for a very specific mission, as a type of savior as well as a prophet, speaking **for** God **to** the people. Moses became like a 'priest' constantly interceding before God, for God's people. Moses also was a frontrunner to Jesus Christ. He was chosen and equipped by God to deliver God's people one time out of Egypt. Moses was given the difficult mission to deliver a rebellious people who **always** complained about God's pursuing love. Their sin had filled them with anger and bitterness and with an attitude of self-centeredness, preventing them from being gracious and thankful to God for delivering them from 'total despair'.

In Exodus 14:12, the Israelites are very rude to Moses, showing no sign of gratitude or respect to Moses, whom they **knew** was God's chosen vessel of deliverance. Instead, they allowed their fears and insecurities to paralyze them from doing good, rebuking Moses for the good (leading them to permanent freedom) he was doing for them and their families. Moses' responded to their rudeness by demonstrating Christ-like character qualities, graciously telling the people not to be afraid. He told them to: "Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today, you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." (Exodus 14:12-14).

One can clearly see that God's people were disappointed with God because they changed their focus from God to self - like many Christians in the Church have done today - forgetting that God **is** Holy and He demands for His people to be prepared for His action in the context of holiness (I Peter 1:13-16).

In actuality, the Israelites had no reason to be disappointed with God, because God had demonstrated time and again His love, His abundant provision (every Hebrew family left Egypt with much wealth – later used to build the tabernacle), His miracles, and His power of deliverance through the institution of the Passover (Exodus 11 & 36:4-7). However they were disappointed with God because they chose to trust self rather than to trust and obey God. God was providing for His people, through Moses, the desperate freedom that their money could not buy them - Money they did not earn but received through the favor God gave them with the Egyptians (Exodus 11:3). God gave them a permanent and eternal hope that does not disappoint and God has poured out this love into our hearts through His Holy Spirit (Romans 5:6).

***Disappointment always leads to despair. In fact, despair is the result of the sin of disappointment. Despair will always desire the misery of Egypt, which will inevitably place you back in bondage where you will experience defeat.***

I strongly believe that there are too many Christians who have chosen to purchase another one-way ticket back to despair (what I call Egypt), where agony, defeat and depression reign. They have never chosen to follow Jesus with an attitude of loving gratitude that will lead them to cherish the work done for them on the cross. A cross-like attitude is one that demonstrates the understanding that God created us for His glory and our Joy. Furthermore, it is an attitude that is hungry to know Jesus Christ, compelling one to proclaim Christ to others.

The Israelites did not deserve deliverance from Egypt. We in turn do not deserve deliverance from eternal damnation (Hell). It is a gift. As my friend and fellow servant in ministry Steve Venable always says, "Hell is the only thing we deserve; anything over and above that is a gift." Joy cannot live with despair. In his book, "360 Degree Preaching", my friend Dr. Michael Quicke quotes Walter Brueggemann saying: "***Prophetic ministry seeks to penetrate despair so that the new futures can be believed in (believing is our human responsibility and duty) and embraced.***"

God makes a way out of nowhere when we choose to obey Him without complaining or arguing. Notice that when God commanded Moses in Exodus 14:16, to Raise the staff and stretch out his hand over the sea to divide the waters so the Israelites (You and I) can go through the sea on dry ground, that Moses obeyed the first time in verse 21, by faith. Moses had a joyful relationship with God which enabled him to employ his faith. He knew this God who did not and will not disappoint.

The waters were divided (Exodus 14:22) and the Israelites went through the sea onto dry ground just like God promised. The Egyptians, on the other hand, were swallowed up by the sea (verse 26) as they followed after the Israelites. Moses was again obedient by faith the FIRST time God told him what to do, but not one of the Egyptians survived – aleluya! That day the LORD delivered Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore (God kept His promise--as He always does all the time--from Exodus 14:13-14--aleluya). The application I'm talking about here is that now you and I possess the grace (resurrection power + ability) to not do the very sinful things we once did when we were in chains in Egypt.

When the Egyptians finally saw, in verse 25, that the LORD was fighting for the Israelites (He is also fighting for you and me), it was too late. God will always receive His glory even from the enemy. Jesus Christ vindicated His Father by not only paying our huge sinful bill with His body and His redemptive blood, but also by destroying all the work of the devil (1 John 3:9). The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is what demonstrated God's glory. It was for the benefit of all who will believe (John 11:25-26). Jesus destroyed the 'D' from the word devil--then He took what was left over in the word 'evil' and turned it around into L-I-V-E.

God remained faithful, loving and compassionate to a people who found happiness (not joy) in God only when their selfish needs were met. Moses' single objective and focus was to bring God glory by being obedient to Him even when the people were disobedient, disrespectful and rude most of the time. Moses' encouragement came from God alone. Gordon MacDonald defines compassion as "*the ability to identify at the heart-level with the vulnerabilities, fears, and sorrows of others. The Christian must be able to identify in such a way that he/she is not **PARALYZED** but energized with great love.*"

Please know that the same great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians to deliver His people from Egypt one time is the same great power that He used to raise Jesus Christ from the dead one time. It is also the same great power that will keep you In Christ with joy and security for all time (1 Peter 1:3-6). This great power now dwells within you through the Holy Spirit - never to leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)!

Dr. Quicke reminds us that when the "Good News" (the redemptive Gospel of Jesus Christ) is preached, received and retained "creates new people in new communities, puts people, communities, nations, and the world on a new course with new possibilities and new outcomes, experiencing **the** way to live a life that is not a gloss on the status quo, but a change to **abundant** life."

The Gospel is a redemptive, non-negotiable and established package by our Triune God. None of us have the right to exclude or divorce from the Gospel any of its essential components, which offer a one-time deliverance with no recovery for any of us. Jesus/Immanuel/Incarnate God was

conceived in Mary's womb **one-time**. That was Jesus' commission by God the Father, presenting Him as the only acceptable **one-time** payment and perfect sacrifice.

Jesus was then born as a baby and came to live with us **one-time** – he 'tabernacled' with us (John 1:14) for 33 years. He was baptized **one-time**. Then, Jesus went **one-time** to the cross voluntarily, compelled by His love for us (who are His Joy). His human body was broken for us **one-time**. He was humiliated because of us - disrespected big time, paying our sinful debt with His sinless blood by dying for us. This was a **one-time** purchase. We are no longer guilty for our sin before God, our Father and Judge, because of that one and only acceptable payment.

Jesus was buried for 3 days and then **aleluya**, Jesus rose from the dead to defeat death forever **One Time** and we became fully reconciled (forgiven) to God our Father **one-time**. The stone was permanently rolled away! He finished the work of redemption providing for us a permanent receipt of freedom that delivers us from the power and slavery of sin. We are now fully free to roam within the fence of God's righteousness, with responsibility to maintain full cooperation with the Holy Spirit with whom we have been sealed (Ephesians 1:13). The Holy Spirit comes to live within the Christian **one-time**. In other words none of us can ask Him to leave. He will not leave because He came to own, not to rent, our tent/life through Jesus' one-time permanent payment.

Jesus then got dressed up with His glorified body, modeling for us the glorified body we will inherit and showing that indeed He had risen from the dead. The Bible tells us that over 515 people recognized Jesus after He had risen – including His own disciples. Look at all those witnesses! Some doubted (Matthew 28:17) but others worshipped Him when they saw Him.

After Jesus' 10th appearance in His glorified body, He transferred all authority to His disciples (you and I) to **go out and make disciples**. Then He ascended to God the Father **one-time** and sits on His eternal throne interceding constantly for us, waiting for His Father's command to come back **one-time** and take His Bride (the Church) to live with Him in glory (the New Jerusalem) (Revelation 21:9-27) forever - aleluya!!

Finally, the devil who is the deceiver of many, and death and Hades will be thrown into the lake of fire **one-time**, where the Beast and the False Prophet were earlier thrown, never to be released again (no parole). "If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:10, 14-15).

As you take your permanent position at the cross and identify yourself with the work done on that cross for you **one-time**, your joy will be complete as you respond with gratitude in worship to our triune God. So prepare yourself for the great wedding feast with the groom Jesus Christ, who is coming back for a bride (the church) that is pure.

This groom, the Lamb of God will then be joined forever with His bride the church. His sinless blood is the signature of His unconditional and redeeming love.

Jesus' promise in John 16:23-24 is that our Heavenly Father will give us whatever we ask in Jesus' name. Ask and you will receive and your Joy will be complete." Christ has given us a **one-time** deliverance, which is our sure hope for now and for eternity. Do not let it go!

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