

# *“Holy’s Walk in Christ”*

By Pastor Dave Roberson

Have you ever noticed that even though we all received a new nature when we were born again, the rewards vary in degree? You can find the reason for this by looking at a passage of Scripture in the book of Romans 5.

**“And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification”** (Romans 5:16).

Apostle Paul was saying here that because of the one man Adam’s offense, you and I and every other human being who ever lived were all born with a spiritually dead nature. Yet because of God’s grace, the entire multitude of offenses committed from the time of Adam until the time of Christ were also justified in one Man—the Man Jesus Christ.

Paul continues in verse 17: **“For if by one man’s offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ.”** Because of one man Adam’s offense, the devil was able to gain access through the spiritually dead state of mankind. Thus, death reigned in the human race through the sin nature, causing the Hitler’s of this world to commit all sorts of atrocities through the ages. But when Jesus destroyed him that had the power of death, He destroyed the devil’s hold over mankind, giving those who received Him a new nature in place of the old nature through which Satan had reigned in their lives.

Anyone who is spiritually dead has the capacity to become a Hitler, for people sin to different degrees to the sin nature before they are born again, they also yield in degrees to the righteousness God has given His people through His grace. Therefore, we also reign in life to varying degrees—all the way from being born again to enjoying the fullness of the benefits God has for us. It all depends on **WHAT WE DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE**. Our reward isn’t based on God’s love for us, for that doesn’t vary. It is based on **our Love for Him**.

There is a walk through this life in which you can reign every step of the way, enjoying everything God has for you through the abundance of His grace and His gift of righteousness. However, that journey is dependent on **WHO HAS YOU** and **WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT**. Were you taught limitations and condemnation? Or has someone been opening up the things of God to you so that you are ready to pursue Him, no matter what comes your way?

Personally, I thank God that I found out how to feed the hunger that was inside me. Had I not discovered that answer, I may have given my hunger to something else and, as a result, done nothing more than “beat the air” all my life with no fruit to show for my efforts!

Many years ago, at a time when I was the hungriest for God that I had ever been, I entered a prayer closet every day for months and exhausted myself praying in tongues. I had three little children and a wife waiting for a paycheck with nowhere to preach, so I went into that closet and prayed full time out of total necessity. Thus, it was at my point of greatest hunger that praying in tongues quenched my thirst, fed my hunger, and set me on a course all the way into God! Now it is my full intention to reign through the gift of righteousness and His grace all the way into the fullness of what God said His people could do to change an entire city for Him!

Allow me to tell you about a man who reached this state of hunger and how he filled it despite tremendous adversities he faced in his life. Several years ago I wrote about this man in a monthly teaching letter. The letter went something like this:

“One night I was fellowshiping after our service with a good friend of mine, a very powerful man of God who is loved and respected by everyone. My friend began to tell me about the life of a preacher he had once known. I’ve heard so many stories through the years that I thought I’d heard just about everything. I have heard stories of daring exploits, of great crusades, and of impossible situations being turned around by God. But this story reached down into my heart and really got ahold of something within me. I knew the Holy Spirit was telling me to listen closely, that this would promise to be one of those life-changing examples—and that’s what it turned out to be!

Everything within me wanted to hear what my minister friend was saying. I realized that if I could just catch the message underlying the story he was telling me, I would never again be the same person.

“This man had a nice family and a successful ministry. His ministry was highly organized and effective, including 75 full-time staff members.

Then one day his wife and children were killed in a car accident—all five of them. This man knew that God hadn’t caused the car-wreck that killed his family; nevertheless, it was his reaction to the tragedy that so amazed me—most survive an ordeal like this the best they can. Then after a period of time, they somehow pull themselves back together again and begin to function.

But not this man! Immediately he let his entire ministry staff go. Then he began to preach to gang members and at college campuses everywhere. He gave up a successful “ministry,” and as we understand it from a traditional standpoint, trading his pulpit for the streets with no thought of his own personal safety or whether or not his needs would ever be met again.

From that point onward, this minister could be found preaching on campuses and in nightclubs where vicious, lawless, territorial gang members hung out. And, my friend told me, “the one thing you better not do was even insinuate to this man that God wasn’t going to meet his needs.” This minister friend of mine made that mistake once, and the man immediately responded, “***Please don’t say that. Don’t ever say that to me again. God always has and He always will meet my needs!***”

Then my friend said to this man, “***Let me ask you another question. Have you always been able to pay your bills when you leave a city?***”

The man answered, “***I always pay my bills.***

“***There was never a time when you couldn’t pay your bills?***”

“Never,” the man replied. “***God is faithful, and He has always been faithful. So, please don’t ever say that again.***”

Three times this man was beaten so badly that he became blind. Each time God came and raised him up again, healed and whole. Each time the man would go right back to the gang members who had beaten him and preach to them again and again until many of them received salvation. **This minister was attacked so badly that he sustained beatings 100 days in a row! Every day the gang members hurt him, and every day God supernaturally healed him.** In the midst of it all, the man just kept on preaching and preaching to the same people. And in case you are thinking he somehow got off balance and lost a healthy perspective of his life and ministry, think again. During this time, he continued to be a highly respected minister, preaching in some of the largest and most influential churches in America.

Once this man suffered such intense physical damage at the hands of gang members that his friends insisted on putting him in the hospital. But even though the gang members had kicked him, cut him, and hit his head with chains, he told his friends, “***NO! Just take me back to the hotel, lay me in the bed, and cover me up. I will be ok.***

Once again God came to this minister during the night and supernaturally healed him. The following day, he went right back and preached to the same gang members who had beaten him. When the gang leader who had abused him the most saw that he had been completely and fully healed, he exclaimed, “***You can’t be that man!***”

The minister replied, “***I AM THAT MAN! GOD HAS HEALED ME!***

Then a holy, reverent fear settled over the gang leader, and he said, “***This man is a holy man of God, and as long as he is in my territory, anyone who touches him will answer to me.***” So, from that day forward, the minister was known by those who knew him the best as “***Holy.***” Things would happen to that man that were absolutely amazing. One day he was walking back to his motel after preaching on a college campus in an unfamiliar city. At

the time, he had only two dollars in his pocket. Suddenly and angry, distraught-looking man crossed the street and approached him, cursing and swearing violently. Then this man said, ***“I have to give you \$500, so here—take this money!”*** The man of God called “Holy” said, ***“I’m not taking anything from you. Stop swearing and get saved, and let God cleanse your filthy heart!”***

The man answered, “You don’t understand. I HAVE to give you this money. Some kind of presence just came over me, and I know it was God. Then a voice spoke to me and told me to give this money to you. **PLEASE, TAKE THIS MONEY, PLEASE!**”

The minister said, ***“Well, alright, if God told you to give it to me, I will take it, but you need to get your heart right with God.”*** This is how the man “HOLY” reaped a mighty harvest among the street gangs on the college campuses of America.

I do not know where “Holy” is now; possibly he has gone on to be with Jesus. But when I heard this man’s Testimony, I knew that God was getting ready to teach me something, and I think I am just now beginning to understand what that was.

In the days that followed, I continued to wonder, ***“Why did this man go to such an extreme in ministry when he lost his family?”***

“Holy” wasn’t someone with battle scars and tattoos who had grown up on the streets and could spot a con because he had once been a con himself. He didn’t have a ministry that would only fit on the streets. **NOT THIS MAN!** His situation was quite a lot different. He had built his own ministry from the ground up. He had 75 people on his staff and went about teaching and preaching internationally!

But then “Holy” turned his back on all of that success and started doing something for the Kingdom that was totally out of character for him—and I couldn’t get away from wondering why. I thought and prayed about this question all the time until finally, I began to understand.

This man loved his family so much. They were his whole life, and then suddenly they were no longer there. I don’t think a person can fully understand what this is like unless he has experienced something similar himself. There was nowhere for this minister to look for his family. They were gone. The pain couldn’t be erased because he knew they weren’t coming back. All that was left was an empty place on the inside, devoid of any hope to ever see them again in this life!

The vacuum can be so great in this kind of situation that it can make a person’s heart sick, to the point that he feels like he wants to die. This minister already had the things religion had to offer as far as success was concerned. Yet all these things failed him in his hour of need. Suddenly he was a man who had nothing to lose and wasn’t afraid of anything because he didn’t care any longer whether he lived or died. “Holy” had all the marks of a successful ministry, but Jesus didn’t seem to be in those “marks of success” enough to heal his broken heart. In times of crisis like this man was facing, a person must have something more in his life—something that is stronger than what he is suffering.

What this minister was looking for was peace—the kind of peace that can only be found in knowing God. I’m not talking about the ability to run massive corporations or to stand behind a pulpit and preach. I am talking about the peace that comes from a person knowing—really knowing—that God is with him no matter what.

When this man called “Holy” couldn’t find enough of Jesus to heal his broken heart within the world where he was ministering, he jumped over into the world of the lost. Somehow he sensed that Jesus would follow him over to that world and heal him from the deep hurt on the inside that he couldn’t escape. This is how it came to pass that one day this man had 75 people on his staff and the finest of everything, and the next day he was getting his head smashed with chains and having his clothes torn off by atheists and sinners who were trying to shut him up.

But “Holy” didn’t care about the abuses he suffered at the hands of those with whom he was sharing the gospel. Even though his physical man was sustaining the beatings, his inner man had been set free! The truth is, the pain from a broken heart can far outweigh the pain from a physical beating. The only reason some people might think the price this man “Holy” paid to find peace was too great is that they have never experienced enough peace to know the difference themselves. Once a person has had that kind of fellowship with Jesus, he is willing to follow

Him to hell and back if it means he can just be at peace and have the sweet assurance that Jesus is walking with him. When something traumatic like this happens that causes a man to be crucified to the world so that the world no longer matters to him, the results can be the same as if he took a different path through fasting and prayer. Either way, he will come to the same destination in the Spirit.

The difference between the two is that fasting and prayer will *always* result in a person being crucified to the world and the world to him. On the other hand, when tragic circumstances take away a person's hope and his reason for living, this doesn't always drive him into God. Sometimes the person allows the tragedy to drive him *away* from God and into *hatred and bitterness*.

In "Holy's case however, he chose to draw near to God when tragedy hit. Now, there is one thing we know for sure: God did not send the car wreck that took this man's family, nor was there anything about it that was divine. But when it happened for whatever reason, the result was that "Holy" no longer cared whether he lived or died.

When a man like "Holy" really turns himself over to God because he has nothing to lose, he becomes very dangerous to the devil. This is what happened in the case of this man. In the days following the loss of his family, He must have emptied himself out before God. Nothing in this world meant anything to him anymore. He had become dead to the world and the world to him.

So here was a man whom God could direct to do anything, from standing in the presence of kings to preaching in the grass huts of African warriors. "Holy" became crucified to the world and the world to him, God asked him to do something that less than 5% of Christians in this world would be willing to do. "Holy" offered himself to those who didn't want to "come to God". These were people whose minds and lives were possessed by the devil, who met him with violence and tried to shut him up as he paid the high price to tell them about Jesus. In this deep fellowship with God that "Holy" had found, Jesus asked him to walk with Him—not in a thirtyfold or sixtyfold walk, but in the last five percent of a hundredfold walk, a place of intimate fellowship that few believers ever experience.

Why does Jesus call His people to share the Gospel even in the most difficult mission fields, as He did with "Holy?" Because as much as Jesus loves the Church, it is not the Church He has come for, but for those who have not yet been saved. Once we are born again, the work of the Cross has already been accomplished in us. We are the ninety and nine just persons who need no more repentance. But to the sinner who has never known Jesus, it is as though the Cross had never existed. And unless we get sinners born again before this life is over for them, it will be as though Jesus has never come at all.

This is why Jesus said what He did about leaving the ninety and nine just persons and going into the wilderness to search out the one who is lost. His words can be found in Luke 15:4-7:

***"What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lost one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he had found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them; Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."***

"Holy" was called to be a mighty evangelist. But like most of us, he began his ministry doing things in a certain way because of the way he was taught by those he trained under. He took for granted that the way he had been reached for God's Kingdom was the way it was always supposed to be done. This is the same reason most evangelists who are called to evangelize the lost traditionally go from church to church and from one group of believers to another. But when this man's life was torn apart and he turned to Jesus for help, Jesus Said, "*Come with Me, 'Holy'*". *There are some people have I been trying to reach. I have asked many evangelists to go, but they will not go*".

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"Holy" found the fellowship he was looking for because, as Jesus said, "*Where I am, there will My servant be also.*" Here's Jesus' words in context:

***"He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me: and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."*** (John 12:25-26).

The life of Jesus must flow through believers, who are the Branches, and on to the lost world. Otherwise, no fruit for God's Kingdom is produced and the divine life flowing through the branches eventually becomes nothing more than a small trickle.

This helps us to understand the reason believers sometimes "*dry up on the vine.*" I don't think most Christians understand why this happens to them. But in **John 15:2**, Jesus explains "***Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit he [the Husbandman] taketh away....*** The life of Jesus must flow through believers, who are the branches, and on to the lost world. Otherwise no fruit for God's Kingdom is produced and the divine life flowing through the branches eventually becomes nothing more than a small trickle.

John 15:16 contains one of the final things Jesus said before He took His disciples to the Brook Cedron and waited there for Judas to betray Him: "***Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He may give it you.***"

Notice how this verse says the disciples were chosen and ordained to Go FORTH and bring forth fruit and that their fruit should remain. Two thousand years later, the commission of the Church is still the same. Her prime objective is to keep on bearing fruit—to bring more into salvation.

Any time a branch that is connected to the Vine ceases to bear fruit (to get people saved), it dries up on the Vine. This is what has happened to many massive organizations They started out on the Vine, but they eventually regressed into humanitarian groups, focusing only on meeting the natural needs of people. Thank God for the help these groups have provided, yet that natural help should never have been offered at the exclusion of the spiritual. This is why Jesus said what He did in **John 15: 1:2**:

***"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."***

I know that not all of us are called to do what "Holy" did. Some of us are called to the ministries of "Helps" and "Governments"; others are called to the prayer ministries that change things; and still others are called to handle the Word in every capacity. But we must always remember that the branches are part of the Vine; the Vine belongs to the Husbandman; and all three are designed to function toward one goal: **to bear fruit by salvations.**

When "Holy" faced a poor situation, he found peace only in dying to the world and surrendering utterly to God's call to bear fruit wherever the Holy Spirit led him to go. Every day that goes by, I am finding more and more peace as I learn how to do the same thing. Life has become a great adventure as I leave every impossible situation with God and then watch Him work. Meanwhile, I concentrate on continually drawing near to Him as I obey My Lord and God.