

## Memorable Quotes From Paul

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by Wayne Goff

***"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." Galatians 2:20***

I wonder how many *convenient* Christians read this passage and wonder to themselves: "Wow! That's a bit extreme, isn't it?" After all, they've found that they can go to church once a week, not commit to any of the work of the church, and somehow still remain on the church role. So what's the problem?

Didn't the apostle Paul know that you can go to heaven on a much easier track? Being crucified with Christ sounds **serious!** It could even be painful if you took it *literally*. Aren't we glad that God doesn't require that of us?!

### REALITY CHECK

Perhaps we should all examine ourselves to see if we are in the Faith (2 Cor. 13:5), or if we have been short-changing the Lord in our dedication, sacrifice and service!

Shouldn't we all be like Paul? Romans 6:3-4 shows us that we were all converted the same way as Paul. Romans 6:6 says that "*our old man*" was crucified with Jesus that we should no longer serve sin. We are to arise to walk in newness of life. A life with Christ in our hearts, minds and actions.

Paul's current life in the flesh was "*by faith*." That seems to be the key. Our *walk* as Christians is just as great as our *faith*. If we have little faith, then we have a small walk. If we have great faith, then we walk worthily. So our walk with Jesus is as close to Him as our faith is strong (2 Cor. 5:7).

### PAUL'S MOTIVATION

What was Paul's **motivation** for being crucified *spiritually*, letting Christ live in his heart *by faith*, and being so greatly transformed? We do not have to wonder because he tells us. "...*The Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.*" Indeed, the apostle John concurred when he wrote: "*We love Him because He first loved us*" (1 Jn. 4:19).

Go back to Paul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, Acts 9. He was already **zealously** serving the God of his fathers (Gal. 1:14). He *mistakenly* believed that this zeal should lead him to persecute and destroy that movement which followed Christ (Gal. 1:13). He was not content to persecute Christians in Jerusalem or Judea *only*, but was traveling as far as Damascus, Syria!

While on this journey, Jesus appeared to him as a bright light from heaven. He told Paul that he was persecuting Jesus, the Son of God! Paul's response was to ask: "**Lord, what do You want me to do?**" (Acts 9:6). He did not say those words haphazardly, but as he was "*trembling and astonished.*" Jesus told Paul to go into the city of Damascus where it would be told him what he **must** do. Once in Damascus, Paul "*was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank*" (Acts 9:9).

Now here is my question for us: "When was the last time we were trembling and astonished at anything God's Word has said to us?" Hopefully, it was there on the day we were converted to the Lord. When we were sorrowful in a godly way for our horrible sins, and when we realized that those sins would send us to a Devil's hell! Such was the case with Paul.

Once Ananias came to Paul and removed his blindness, Paul arose and was immediately baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 9:18; 22:16). From that day forward, Paul said that he was *physically* alive but *practically* dead because his life was now the life Christ wanted him to live. He became the Lord's apostle, born out of due time. Paul no longer lived for himself, but dedicated his whole life to Jesus.

You and I do not have to become apostles and suffer like they did. But we **do** have to be *crucified with Christ* (Rom. 6:6) as we put to death the sins of the flesh, and transform our lives into tools for righteous living. There is a certain amount of zeal, enthusiasm, and dedication in that idea.

Each of us should look inward to our hearts, outward to our lives, and ask ourselves: "**Am I sufficiently dedicated to Jesus Christ and His Cause?**"