

The Power of the Cross

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Why does the church need another song about the cross? Isn't there enough music that already focuses on the death of Jesus? The church can always sing anew about the cross because it can never exhaust the riches of Christ's crucifixion.

*We see the tragedy and beauty of the cross
We feel the mystery and wonder of your love
Lord, we marvel at the gift You gave to us in the spilling of Your blood*

The cross is both a tragedy that culminates our sinful rebellion against God and a beauty that magnifies our glorious redemption by God. The crucifixion is both a mystery that we cannot comprehend and a wonder that causes us to understand God more. The cross is God's greatest gift to us because, in the crucifixion, God satisfies his wrath toward us and sets us free from the dominion of Satan.

The *power* of the cross is experienced by the whole person and transforms the direction of the whole person. Christians "see" it; they "feel" it; they "marvel" at it. As a result of this experience, the power of the cross transforms who we are and how we live. It changes how we stand before God. It reshapes how we live for his kingdom. It realigns our desires and affections.

*To bring us healing you were wounded
To show us mercy you bore the curse that we deserved
To win our pardon, to buy our freedom
You chose the cross, oh the power of the cross*

The chorus of the song highlights the *purpose* of the cross. The work of Christ overflows in the worship of the saints. The chorus suggests four reasons for Christ's death. First, echoing Isaiah 53, we are healed from the scourge of sin because Christ is wounded for our transgressions. Second, God shows us mercy because his son is our substitute who bears the curse we deserve. Third, the cross secures our pardon by justifying us before God through the righteousness of Christ. Fourth, though we were slaves to sin, the cross purchases our freedom from the domain of darkness. Because Jesus chose the cross, the church chooses to worship.

*You are the Savior who has conquered sin and death
We live in victory and hope because of this
Our risen Lord you bring us back to life again, we come alive again*

The power of the cross also shapes the *people* of the cross. What Christ has done for us transforms how we live for him, as the second verse of this song describes. The conquest of Christ over death enables the victory of Christians over sin. Because Jesus conquered

sin and death, it fuels believers with unwavering hope in the midst of the clash of the kingdoms. This song rightly recognizes that the crucifixion only has power to shape the people of the cross because of the resurrection. Jesus shows his authority over the grave as he rises from the dead. His resurrection enables us to experience new life. Though we were dead in our sins, Christ Jesus died for us.

This song was written to call the people of the cross to live in light of the purpose of the cross by the power of the cross.

- written by Redemption City Church elder, Phillip Bethancourt