



- The words from the cross connect us to the **power** of the cross.

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NLT)

We can't have a **resurrected** life without living a **crucified** life.

Jesus said: "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. Matthew 16:24 (NLT)

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

- The words from the cross also call us to a **surrendered** life.

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Luke 23:44-45

Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. Luke 23:46

Into your hands I commit my spirit... Psalm 31:5 (NIV)

Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit.... Psalm 31:4-5 (NIV)

They conspire against me and plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God"

Psalm 31:13b-14

We tend to trust God with some **things**, but not **everything**.

Jesus shows us how to trust God in dark times:

- Jesus' statement of **trust** from the cross began as a prayer of **surrender** in the garden.

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Matthew 26:39 (NLT)

When he came back, he again found them (his disciples) sleeping, ... So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. Matthew 23:43-44 (NIV)

Surrender is not a one-time event but an **ongoing process**.

- Jesus focused on the **Father**, not the **pain**.
- Jesus had a Father in heaven that **loved** him, not a God in heaven that **watched** him.

Into your hands I commit my spirit... Psalm 31:5 (NIV)

"**Father**, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:44

"Pray like this: Our **Father** in heaven..." Matthew 6:9 (NLT)

- Jesus knew his heavenly Father to be **personal** and **powerful**.

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:44

"Never! Can a mother forget her little child and not have love for her own son? Yet even if that should be, I will not forget you. See, I have tattooed your name upon my palm... Isaiah 49:15-16 (TLB)

"No one can snatch them out of my Father's hand." John 10:29 (NIV)

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 ESV

The hand of God speaks of:

God's protection - Psalm 89:13; 138:7

God's Healing - Acts 4:39-40

God's Guidance & stability - Psalm 139:10

Our future: Psalm 31:15

The hand of God refers to the **power** of God **extended** to us.

- Jesus knew there was more **happening** than what was **seen**.

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:44

- If you want to know what you need to entrust to God, look at what you are **worrying** about.

"Father, into your hands I commit my _____."

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a place of safety in times of trouble. Those who know you, Lord, will trust you; you do not abandon anyone who comes to you. Psalm 9:9-10 (GNT)

Application Steps:

- Get to know the **goodness** of God.
- Get to know the **love** of God.
- Get to know the **faithfulness** of God.



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- In your own words, how would you tell someone about the power of the Cross? What does that mean to you?
- What does the statement mean: "We can't have a resurrected life without living a crucified life."
- How do the words from the cross call us to a surrendered life?
- Do you find that you can trust God with some things, but not everything? Why?
- Why is Jesus' prayer in the garden significant to his statement of trust on the cross?
- How can we focus on the father during dark and difficult times?
- Do you think that how we know God affects how we trust God? Explain.
- How does knowing God personally increase our trust?
- How does knowing there is more happening than what we can see increase our trust in God?
- Is there anything that you need to commit into God's hands?
- How does knowing God's goodness, love and faithfulness allow us to trust Him?

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