

Powerless People Need To Trust The Power Of The Cross ~ A Bible Study on Romans 5:6-11

1st Step – Lesson 5

It's tough to admit you're powerless. That's true no matter what problem you're dealing with. Whether the problem is alcoholism, or having been abused as a child, or depression, or an eating disorder - no matter what you need to recover from, we all hate admitting that we're powerless over it. See if you've ever found yourself saying or thinking one of these things:

- "I'm not an addict; I can quit any time I want to."
- "I should be able to handle this."
- "If I just start praying more and being a better Christian this problem will go away."
- "Only wimps and neurotics need help."
- "I just gotta be strong."

Let's be honest: we've tried all kinds of ways to be in control of our problem, and we've never experienced more than very temporary relief. Eventually the drinking or the drugs or the shame or whatever it is got the better of us. We really are powerless.

But when you come to the true God, the God revealed in the Bible, you don't find him demanding that you quit being such a weakling and get your life under control. His invitation is to come as you are, powerless over your problems, and allow him to be the one in control.

THOUGHT QUESTION: Have you ever experienced the relief of giving up on trying to do something that you just weren't realistically capable of handling?

Romans 5:6-11

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Verses 6 and 7 talk about being powerless to get on God's good side. What are some common ways people use to try to get God's attention and favor?

2. Verse 8 makes it clear that God put his plan to save us into action without waiting for us to deserve to be saved. Have you ever found yourself thinking that you had to deserve God's love and forgiveness before you'd get it? How did that feel?

3. If your salvation depended on how much you deserved it, could you ever be sure of where you stood with God? What does verse 8 tell you about being sure of where you stand with God?

4. Verse 9 says we're "justified by his blood." That means that because Jesus died in your place God declares you not guilty. What does that do for any shame you're feeling about your problems?

5. Verses 10 and 11 talk about being "reconciled to God" by the power of Jesus' death and resurrection life. That means that God is completely on your side. What kind of difference do you think that's going to make in the problems you're dealing with?

6. Verse 11 says that "we rejoice in God" because of the new relationship we have with him through Jesus. What kinds of feelings do you think you'd have if it were your responsibility to get yourself right with God?

What do you have to "rejoice" about, with the right relationship with God that Jesus has won for you?

CLOSING PRAYER: What do you want to say to the God who has accepted you in your powerlessness, and who applies his own power to your problems?