

The More Abundant Life

THE CROSS

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny Himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Luke 9: 23

THE CROSS There Is No Limit

"There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.

THE CROSS There Is No Limit

If men will endure the necessary discipline, without complaining or fainting by the way, God will teach them hour by hour, and day by day. He longs to reveal His grace. If His people will remove the obstructions, He will pour forth the waters of salvation in abundant streams through the human channels."

DA 250

THE CROSS The Devil's Agenda & God's Promise

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

John 10: 10

THE CROSS God's Promise

"God has made every provision whereby our thoughts may become purified, elevated, refined, and ennobled. He has not only promised to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, but he has made an actual provision for the supply of the grace that will lift our thoughts toward him, and enable us to appreciate his holiness.

THE CROSS God's Promise

We may realize that we are Christ's possession, and that we are to manifest his character to the world. Prepared by heavenly grace, we become clothed with the righteousness of Christ, in the wedding garment, and are fitted to sit down at the marriage supper."

Y1 October 28, 1897

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How do we experience
this “more abundant” life?

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How do we receive
the provision that
completely transforms us?

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1. We must recognize the things—the impediments—that stand in the way.

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2. We must receive God’s overcoming provision.

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1. We must recognize the things—the impediments—that stand in the way.
2. We must receive God’s overcoming provision.
3. We must understand and gratefully accept God’s transforming process.

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Impediments:
Our “Natural”
Inability

“Once dead in trespasses and sins...”

Ephesians 2:1

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Impediments: Our "Natural" Inability

"Can the Ethiopian change his skin
or the leopard its spots? Then may
you also do good who are
accustomed to doing evil."

Jeremiah 13:23

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Impediments: Our "Natural" Inability

"Before the believer is held out the wonderful
possibility of being like Christ, obedient to all
the principles of the law. But of himself man is
utterly unable to reach this condition. The
holiness that God's word declares he must
have before he can be saved is the result of the
working of divine grace as he bows in
submission to the discipline and restraining
influences of the Spirit of truth.

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Impediments: Our "Natural" Inability

Man's obedience can be made perfect
only by the incense of Christ's
righteousness, which fills with divine
fragrance every act of obedience. The
part of the Christian is to persevere in
overcoming every fault. Constantly he is
to pray to the Saviour to heal the
disorders of his sin-sick soul.

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Impediments: Our "Natural" Inability

He has not the wisdom or the strength to
overcome; these belong to the Lord, and
He bestows them on those who in
humiliation and contrition seek Him for
help."

Peter's Counsel to Parents, p. 58

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Impediments: Our Peril

"Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."

John 8: 34

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Impediments: Our Peril

"I see another law in my members warring
against the law of my mind, and bringing
me into captivity to the law of sin which
is in my members."

Romans 7: 23

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Impediments: Our Peril

"Every soul that refuses to give himself to God is under the control of another power. He is not his own. He may talk of freedom, but he is in the most abject slavery."

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Impediments: Our Peril

He is not allowed to see the beauty of truth, for his mind is under the control of Satan. While he flatters himself that he is following the dictates of his own judgment, he obeys the will of the prince of darkness." DA 466

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Impediments: Our Carnal Condition

"To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."

Romans 8: 6,7

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Impediments: Our Carnal Condition

"It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them. "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one." "The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Job 14:4; Romans 8:7. Education, culture, the exercise of the will, human effort, all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless."

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Impediments: Our Carnal Condition

They may produce an outward correctness of behavior, but they cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life. There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness"

SC 18

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God's Remedy: Pardon & Righteousness

"Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5: 1

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God's Remedy: Pardon & Righteousness

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

2 Cor. 5:21

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God's Remedy: Pardon & Righteousness

"It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God.

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God's Remedy: Pardon & Righteousness

But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness.

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God's Remedy: Pardon & Righteousness

If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned." SC 62

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God's Remedy: Pardon & Righteousness

"Grace is an attribute of God shown to undeserving human beings. We did not seek after it, but it was sent in search of us. God rejoices to bestow this grace upon every one who hungers for it. To every one He presents terms of mercy, not because we are worthy, but because we are so utterly unworthy. Our need is the qualification which gives us the assurance that we shall receive this gift." AG 62

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God's Remedy: Pardon & Righteousness

What is the result of the provision of pardon and Christ's righteousness?

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God's Remedy:
Pardon &
Righteousness

It changes our
standing before God.

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God's Remedy:
Pardon &
Righteousness

We are forgiven,
treated as if we
had never sinned,
but still not changed!

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God's Remedy:
Pardon &
Righteousness

"O wretched man that I am! Who
will deliver me from this body of
death?" Romans 7: 24

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God's Remedy:
Sanctification 1
The Emptying Dying Half

"What shall we say then? Shall we
continue in sin that grace may
abound? Certainly not! How shall
we who died to sin live any longer in
it?

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God's Remedy:
Sanctification 1
The Emptying Dying Half

Or do you not know that as many of
us as were baptized into Christ
Jesus were baptized into His death?
Therefore we were buried with
Him...." Romans 6: 1-4 ☒

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God's Remedy:
Sanctification 1
The Emptying Dying Half

"Knowing this, that our old man
was crucified with Him, that the
body of sin might be done away
with, that we should no longer be
slaves of sin." Romans 6: 6

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

"Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6: 11

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

"...let him deny himself, take up his cross daily..." Luke 9: 23

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

"...unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies..."

John 12: 24

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

"God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

Galatians 6: 14

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

"I am crucified with Christ..."

Galatians 2: 20

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

"The new birth is a rare experience in this age of the world. This is the reason why there are so many perplexities in the churches. Many, so many, who assume the name of Christ are unsanctified and unholy. They have been baptized, but they were buried alive. Self did not die, and therefore they did not rise to newness of life in Christ." BC Vol. 6, 1075

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

"We cannot retain our own self and be filled with the fullness of God. We must be emptied of self. If heaven is gained by us at last, it will be only through the renunciation of self and in receiving the mind, the spirit, and the will of Christ Jesus. . . . Are we willing to pay the price for eternal life?

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

Are we ready to sit down and count the cost, whether heaven is worth such a sacrifice as to die to self and let our will be bent and fashioned into perfect conformity with the will of God?

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

Until this shall be, the transforming grace of God will not be experienced by us. Just as soon as we present our emptied nature to the Lord Jesus and His cause, He will supply the vacuum by His Holy Spirit. We can then believe He will give us of His fullness."

ST, Nov. 21, 1892

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

"As inevitably as my curse pointed Him to the Cross as the only place where He could be fully united to me, His blessing points me to the Cross too as the only place where I can be united to Him. He took my cross for His own; I must take His Cross as my own."

Murray, Andrew, *Abide In Christ*, 69.

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God's Remedy: Sanctification 1 The Emptying Dying Half

"There was a day when I died"; and, as he spoke, he bent lower, until he almost touched the floor. Continuing, he added, 'Died to George Müller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame even of my brethren or friends; and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.'" Maxwell, L. E. *Born Crucified*

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

How does a person
die to self?

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

"And being in the appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

Philippians 2: 8

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

"...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered."

Hebrews 5: 8

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

"...count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." James 1: 2-4

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Romans 8: 28

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

"The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us.

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. Whatever comes to him comes from the Saviour, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord's permission.

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us." MH 488

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

"No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire renunciation of self. But no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work.

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

Then the language of the soul will be, 'Lord, take my life, for I cannot give it, it is thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak unchristlike self.

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of thy love can flow through my soul.' It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed." COL 159

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

"He is knocking at the door of your heart, asking for admittance. He longs to renew your heart, filling it with a love for all that is pure and true. He longs to crucify self for you..."

YI Sept, 9, 1897

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

"Why is it so hard to lead a self-denying, humble life? Because professed Christians are not dead to the world. It is easy living after we are dead."

MYP 128

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

"What a victory you will gain when you learn to follow the opening providences of God with a grateful heart, and a determination to live with an eye single to his glory, in sickness or health, in abundance or want." GW 373

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

What does it mean,
then, to die to self?

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

What do we learn
in a cemetery?

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

God *holds* the shovel
and decides *how much*
dirt to send down!

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

My job is to stay
down in the hole!

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God's Remedy: The Process of Dying to Self

Emptying is for the purpose of
being filled by another.

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God's Remedy: Sanctification The Filling Half

"I am crucified with Christ. I live and yet not I. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life 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

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God's Remedy: Sanctification The Filling Half

"But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God,—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption."

1 Corinthians 1: 30

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God's Remedy: Sanctification The Filling Half

"But thanks be to God who always causes us to triumph *in* Christ...."

1 Corinthians 2: 14

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God's Remedy: Sanctification The Filling Half

"By faith you became Christ's and by faith you are to grow up in Him,—by giving and taking. You are to give all,—your heart, your will, your service,—give yourself to Him to obey all His requirements;

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God's Remedy: Sanctification The Filling Half

and you must take all, —Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper,—to give you power to obey." SC 70

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God's Remedy: Sanctification The Filling Half

"The Lord Jesus loves His people, and when they put their trust in Him, depending wholly upon Him, He strengthens them. He will live through them, giving them the inspiration of His sanctifying Spirit, imparting to the soul a vital transfusion of Himself.

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God's Remedy: Sanctification The Filling Half

He acts through their faculties and causes them to choose His will and to act out His character. With the apostle Paul they then may say, 'I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me....' SSW Feb. 1, 1896

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God's Remedy: Sanctification The Filling Half

"Christ alone can help us and give us the victory. Christ must be all in all to us, He must dwell in the heart, His life must circulate through us as the blood circulates through the veins. His spirit must be a vitalizing power that will cause us to influence others to become Christlike and holy." (Letter 43, 1895).

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The Result: The More Abundant Life

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new." 2 Cor. 5: 17

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The Result: The More Abundant Life

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." 1 Thess. 5: 23,24: 17

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The Result: The More Abundant Life

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature.

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The Result: The More Abundant Life

The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. But unless we yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one.

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The Result: The More Abundant Life

We must inevitably be under the control of one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world.... The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness." DA 324

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The Result: The More Abundant Life

"God does not ask us to carry forward the work of character-building in our own strength. We are not sufficient of ourselves to think anything of ourselves. The Holy Spirit is our efficiency in this work. When we think ourselves capable of molding our character aright, we deceive ourselves.

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The Result: The More Abundant Life

Never can we in our own strength obtain the victory over temptation. But he who trusts in Christ, and submits to the guidance of his Spirit, will grow daily into the likeness of God. Growth will be proportionate to his dependence on the Spirit's help.

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The Result: The More Abundant Life

Such a one in every time of difficulty will turn, and not in vain, to the One who has said, "Come unto me, . . . and I will give you rest." On the one side is the all-wise, all-powerful God, infinite in wisdom, goodness, and compassion; on the other his frail, erring creatures, weak, sinful and absolutely helpless.

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The Result: The More Abundant Life

God proposes to make them laborers together with him in the building of character, and all his mighty power is at their disposal as they co-operate with him." YI, May 16, 1901

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How Will You respond?

"If any man desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9: 23.

