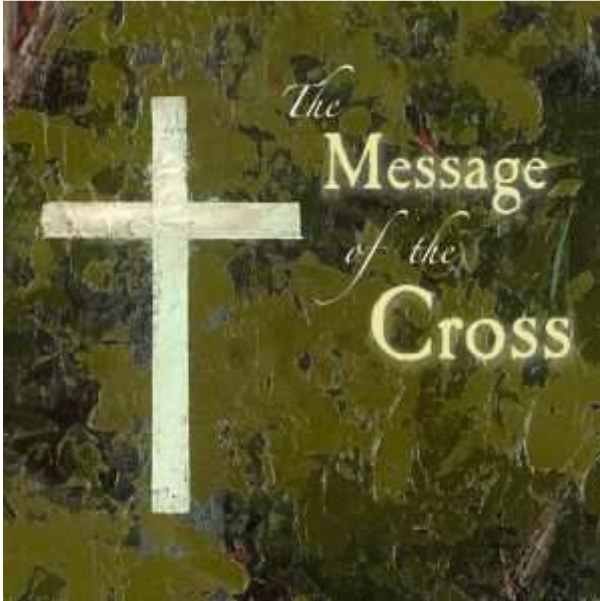


**Mary Craig**

**From:** Mary Craig  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2011 6:17 PM  
**Subject:** Mary Craig Ministries October 2011 email



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

October 2011

My first encounter with the Holy Spirit was September 27, 1972, from midnight to 1:00 a.m. A battle raged over my soul between the Lord and Satan; I knew it. I collapsed under the power of the Spirit, and heard, "Mary, be still and know that I am God. I am the Living Spirit and I have come to live within you. You have died, but because I live, you live..." That launched me from being merely a churchgoer (4 to 5 times a week) to being truly "saved." I was apprehended by Jesus Christ that night.

I had been slain by the Spirit. A death blow to my human nature, to my sin nature had occurred, and I was being raised into new life in Christ. I didn't know the Holy Spirit, really; but He knew me.

We talk about how we want a deeper relationship with God. It's "big" right now. We talk about wanting the power of God active in our lives. We talk about wanting to get closer to Jesus. We talk less about desiring holiness and how the Holy Spirit works to bring us closer to Jesus, increasing the power of the Spirit in our lives, etc.

So...we're going to talk about it with some help from Andrew Murray and his book, *The Secret of Spiritual Strength*.

Hebrews 9.14 says, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" If we are going to understand a new dimension of life in Christ we must understand the power of the Cross. The Cross of Christ is the highest expression of the Spirit of Christ. We must come to know the Spirit who led Christ to the Cross to truly know Jesus. Obedience and self-denial are what distinguished Jesus from everyone in heaven and earth. Obedience and self-denial are what qualified Him as Mediator on the throne throughout eternity.

10/6/2011



Likewise we must come to know the nature of the Holy Spirit who led Christ to the Cross. The Holy Spirit of Pentecost is the same Holy Spirit who conceived Jesus and the same Holy Spirit who led Christ to the Cross. This same Holy Spirit also flows forth from the Cross to us as its purchase, and to whom the power of the Cross is given.

The Holy Spirit led Christ to the Cross, and the Cross led to the giving of the Holy Spirit to the elect, and so the Spirit will always lead back to the Cross again, because only the Holy Spirit can reveal the meaning of the Cross and communicate to us its fellowship.

We are to live “crucified with Christ” (Gal. 2.20). We are to walk as those who have crucified the flesh and who can conquer it in no other way but by continually regarding it as crucified. We are to take up the Cross, this instrument of death, daily. Our relationship to the world is to be that of those who are crucified to it, and the world is crucified to us.

We must have a vision of the Cross. It’s not the amount of suffering required or actual surrender to death but the mind of Christ we are after. What motivated Him throughout the course of His earthly life? What was the mind that was in Him? Where did the power come from? It was through the eternal Spirit that Jesus offered Himself without spot to God.

It was the Holy Spirit who was in Christ, who conceived Christ, who taught Him, who led Him. For example, take time to examine Luke 2.49, Matthew 3.13-17; Matthew 4.1, 1 Peter 1.11. The Cross is the perfect expression of the mind of the Holy Spirit—of what He asks and how He works. In order to free human nature from sin and fill it with Himself, that sin nature had to be slain. Our prayer should be, “Slay us.” Freedom from the power of sin takes personal separation from it through entire death to it. God demands it and the Spirit works it. In this Jesus is our Forerunner, the Captain of our salvation. Hebrews 2.9-15.

We say we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads us to a death that is characterized by the Cross, God’s chosen instrument of death. There is no higher work in our behalf than to lead us into the perfect fellowship of the Cross. The Holy Spirit leads us in the path of the Cross. His purpose is to manifest in us the obedience and self-denial of Christ. Christ learned obedience in the things which He suffered, and so will we. Paul got it.

*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.  
 Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss  
 For the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:  
 For whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them  
 But dung, that I may win Christ.  
 And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness,  
 Which is of the law, but that which is through the  
 Faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:  
 That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection,  
 And the fellowship of His sufferings,  
 Being made conformable unto His death; if by any means  
 I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.  
 Philippians 3.7-11*

The Cross means taking up this instrument of death and following Christ through the Cross to glory. (Luke 9.23, 24).

Know that self refuses the Cross. Self, the real center of our being, the controlling power, refuses to accept it. Thus we begin with the total denial of self.

The Cross means surrender, accepting and surrendering to death. The soul that sins will surely die. Carry your cross to Golgotha and be crucified on it. You might ask, "Why, since Jesus did it for me?"

When Adam plunged humanity into the state of sin and misery, man (you and I) became a creature with a strange, unnatural, worldly life. The will of God, heaven, and holiness, for which we were created, became lost to us. The pleasures of the flesh, self, the world, and the fascination of evil became natural and attractive. We don't see it, the power of self and its pride, the corruption, the pollution, the death. We don't see the evil of it; how it is our enemy. When it is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, we take up the Cross, the instrument of death, and kill it.

I hold and am held, I bear and am borne. I bear the Cross and I am borne by Christ. It is only in the power of being held by Christ that I can hold the Cross. It is only in the power of being borne or carried by Christ that I can bear or carry the Cross.

Following Christ takes focus. We focus on Christ and on the path He has chosen as the Way.



The Cross speaks of sin and of the Curse. It speaks of suffering and of death. When Christ bore the Cross and entered into God's holy presence, He opened up a way in which we, too, could draw near to God. He put away sin. 1 Peter 3.18, Hebrews 9.26. Jesus bore the Curse, death, and condemnation. He carried away sin. He broke and abolished the power of the Devil. He set us free from Satan's stronghold. There is immediate acquittal and admission to God's favor and friendship for every believer. This is grace; this is what love looks like.

Jesus walked this way of the Cross. Hebrews 5.8, 9. Galatians 6.14. The Cross is the path to God. There is no way to God apart from death, the entire giving up of a life.

The way of the Cross is the way to bless others. It was as the Crucified One, giving His life, that Christ earned the power to bless people. The power of God's Spirit works through the body of Christ in the measure in which God's people give themselves to Him as a sacrifice for others. It means being willing to forget ourselves and to sacrifice ourselves, to give so that the cause of Christ prevails.

*Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us;  
and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 1 John 3.16*

At first we regard death to sin, death to the world, and death to self as the path of life and blessing. But there is more. We must also allow Christ to teach us the secret that every aspect of His obedience to the Father and His victory over sin was not for any personal glorification but was for the purpose of saving others around Him. We must reach the stage where we give our lives for others, for the Body of Christ. Something may be "lawful" but not expedient. Romans 14.13-23. The Cross is the way for us, so that it may be the way for others, too. To have power over something, you must be dead to it and it must be dead to you.

The enemy of the Cross is Satan. Earth is the battlefield where heaven and hell meet in deadly conflict. We are to conquer evil and to cast it out. The Cross is the triumph over Satan. Colossians 2.14, 15. Christ made a show of His enemies openly; throughout the entire spiritual realm, before angels and devils, it was known that Jesus had conquered.

In the spiritual world, the Cross means victory over death, hell, and the grave. Christ turned the tables on the enemy. He turned captivity captive. The only way Satan can rule over someone is that they consent to be his slave. Deliverance is there for anyone who yields to Christ and His Cross. 2 Cor. 2.14, 1 Cor 15.54, 57. We must believe in this triumph. Christ sets the believer free. We must see that the chains of bondage have been broken, get up, and get going. Walk out of our helplessness. Walk out of our bondage. Walk away from the power of Satan. Come out of the grave. Unwrap the bindings of death.

We cannot rise from the dead until we are dead. And, yes, there is life after death.

LET THE WORLD SEE WHAT  
**REDEMPTION CAN DO.**