

Joshua Daily Devotionals



Week Seven: God Is Faithful to Fulfill His Promises. The Cross Is Sufficient.

Monday, 6/1

“Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.” (Joshua 21:45 ESV)

Joshua 13–22 is a compilation of the allotments of land for each tribe of Israel. Reading it is slightly tedious—there are a lot of names and locations! By the time we get to chapter 21, we are ready to move on to the next story. Enough with the lists!

But then we get to Joshua 21:45 and we see the point of the lists: not one promise that the Lord made to Israel had failed. The nine chapters of land distribution make it crystal clear: God fulfills His promises. This was important for Israel to remember, but it is also important for us to remember as God has not finished His work yet.

What is one promise of God that you look forward to Him fulfilling?
Joshua 21:43–45

Tuesday, 6/2

In the second half of *True Spirituality*, Francis Schaeffer describes several effects of the cross in the here and now. While the cross offers hope for the future, it also frees us from the results of sin now. One freedom that the cross offers us is freedom from a guilty conscience. Schaeffer writes:

“God means us to have, as one of his gifts in this life, freedom from a false tyranny of the conscience. Most, if not all, Christians find that the first step in the substantial healing that they can have in the present life is the substantial healing of the separation from themselves that is a result of the Fall and of sin. Man is first of all separated from God, then from himself, and finally from his fellow men and from nature. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ will give an absolute and perfect restoration of all these things when Jesus comes. But in the present life there is to be a substantial healing, including the results of the separation between man and himself.” (*True Spirituality*, 94)

The Scriptures tell us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Many of us carry around guilt from the things that we have done. But the cross liberates us from that guilt! The wages of sin is death, but Jesus paid that price on the cross. We can draw near to God, not as the guilty, but as the forgiven!

How have you been freed from a guilty conscience?

1 John 1:9

Wednesday, 6/3

Yesterday, we saw Francis Schaeffer make the case that one of the effects of the cross for the present day is freedom from a guilty conscience. He continues by saying that a second effect is a sense of purpose. Paul makes this same point in Romans 8, where he ties the cross to God's overarching story of redeeming the world. Paul says that the cross even enables us to make sense of suffering. Schaeffer writes about Christianity enabling us to make sense of the world:

“But present communion with God requires continual bowing in both the intellect and the will. Without bowing in the intellect, in thinking after God; without acting upon the finished work of Christ in my present life; and without bowing in the will in practice, as the waves of the present life break over me, there is no sufficient communion with God. Without these things I am not in my place as he creature in a fallen and abnormal world. These three things are absolutely necessary if there is to be real and sufficient communion with God in the present life.” (*True Spirituality*, 130)

Schaeffer says that communion with God and recognizing ourselves as creatures enables us to process the hardships of life.

How has the cross given you a sense of meaning in hardship?

Romans 8:18–25

Thursday, 6/4

Francis Schaeffer argues that the cross frees us from a guilty conscience and gives us meaning in a fallen world. There are other effects of the cross, including a better framework for relationships. In *True Spirituality*, he writes:

“As Christians we understand something more. Not only are we finite, as we were created, but since the fall we are all sinners; therefore we know that relationships will not be perfect. But on the basis of the finished work of Christ, human relationships can be substantially healed, and can be joyous. Christianity is the only answer to the problem of man. . . .

If man tries to find everything in a man-woman or a friend-to-friend relationship, he destroys the very thing he wants and destroys the ones he loves. He sucks them dry, he eats them up, and they as well as the relationship are destroyed. But as Christians we do not have to do that. Our sufficiency of relationship is in that which God made it to be, in the infinite-personal God, on the basis of the work of Christ in communication and love.” (*True Spirituality*, 142)

Schaeffer says that without a Christian understanding of the Creator-creature relationship, we will look for ultimate meaning in human relationships. But no human can meet our emotional needs, and when we look for ultimate fulfillment in them we will sabotage these relationships. But, when we look for fulfillment in *God*, we are freed from putting this burden on our loved ones and can have satisfying (while imperfect) relationships.

How has the cross enabled you to have more healthy relationships with friends and family?

1 John 4:13–21

Friday, 6/5

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” (Romans 8:29–30 ESV)

In Romans 8, Paul reminds of two things: (1) God is not done with His work yet, and (2) God fulfills His promises.

The cross was not the end of God’s work in the world, but it was the *beginning* of the end. We know that sin and death have been defeated, but we await the return of Jesus to see their ultimate submission to the Father. In the meantime, God has given us His Spirit—a foretaste of the work God is yet to do. God is yet to fully conform us into the image of Jesus. He is yet to wipe away every tear. He is yet to cast the Devil into Hell.

But even though God’s work is not done yet, Paul is so sure that God will fulfill his promises that he is able to speak of them in the past tense—we are as good as justified; we are as good as glorified. God is faithful. He will finish His work!

What difference does it make to you that your hope is in the faithfulness of *God* and not in your own ability to get things right?

Romans 8:29–30

Saturday, 6/6

“He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6 ESV)

This week we looked at the promises of God and the assurance we have in Christ. Because Christ has risen, we know that God will complete His work!

We looked at three effects of the cross as pointed out by Francis Schaeffer. First, the cross liberates us from a guilty conscience. There are no sins that are too big for the cross. We can draw near to God with confidence that we are forgiven in Christ!

Second, the cross gives meaning to our lives, especially in hard times. God has given us His Spirit as a down-payment on what He is doing in the world. When we go through hardships, we know that this is evidence of sin and death’s last-ditch effort to war against God but that they have ultimately been defeated. God is making all things new!

Finally, the cross frees us from the need to find ultimate fulfillment in human relationships. When we turn to God for meaning, we free our friends and family members from this burden. We can then have more meaningful (albeit imperfect) relationships!

Just as God fulfilled all His promises to Israel in delivering them the land, we know that God will fulfill his promises to us!

Philippians 1:3–6