



# Fire Ministries Newsletter

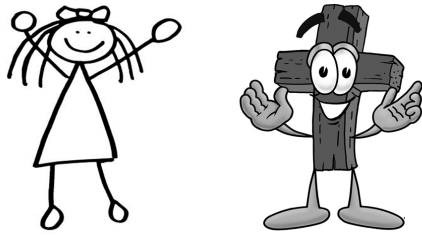
January 2014

Dear Family in Jesus,

Happy New Year in Jesus! May 2014 be a year of new beginnings in Christ. May 2014 and our calendar be ordered by Christ. In the Old Testament, the Children of Israel were instructed by God to set their calendars in a very specific way. God ordered their “new calendar” to begin with an event that would bring profound hope to their hopeless cycles of bondage. When God introduced His new calendar to Moses, the Israelites had been in bondage in Egypt for 400 years. Moses and the Children of Israel had been watching and waiting as plague after plague seemed worthless in bringing them a true release from bondage and a new beginning. When all hope was gone and freedom from bondage seemed impossible, God introduced something so profound and eternal that it is the answer to all people in all generations for all time and beyond. God told Moses and Aaron when they were yet in Egypt after all the plagues had failed, *“This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you... Speak to all the congregation of Israel, that they shall take to them a lamb... Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year” (Exodus 12:2,3,5)*. God was revealing what it would really take to break-out of bondage and break-through into a new beginning. He told them to “take to them a Lamb”. These people had “taken to them” many other methods of getting through the crisis of life in Egypt, but on this day God commanded them to embrace the Lamb as their way. This day was the beginning of a new calendar and a new way of proceeding. This event of “taking into them the Lamb” was to be a “forever ordinance”, as found in Exodus 12:24: *“And you shall observe this thing for an ordinance to you and your children forever”*. God had them reset their calendar, sharing with them that all time would revolve around and be measured by a crucified Lamb that we take unto ourselves in redemption and into ourselves as Life. Our hope is not found in ourselves or our circumstances, but ALL HOPE is found by those who receive God’s Lamb!

Your servant in His love, *Kelly*

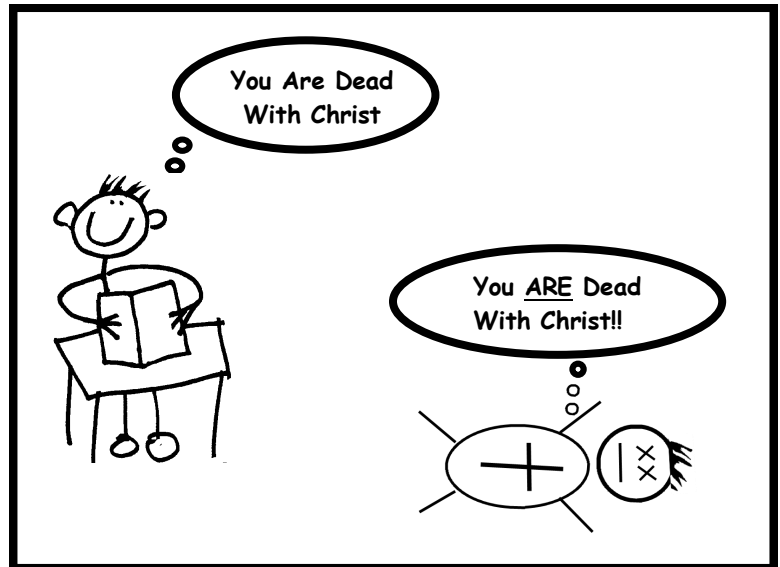
## My Personal Experience of The Cross



The precious Holy Spirit is so faithful to open up the scriptures and share Jesus with us. How wonderful to fellowship together in the Word of God! Yet sometimes sharing from personal experience can communicate the Word that has been received and formed through the furnace of trial and experience. I have received a tender response from many concerning the testimony I shared of my personal experience concerning the Cross. The Lord helped me to

organize my testimony in a way that illustrated with simple pictures the journey I went through. Even though it was a deeply personal sharing, I shared it hoping that it would bring real hope to others who were going through hard times and needing practical answers concerning how to embrace the Cross in their personal experience. Although the video presentation is much more thorough, I have set forth a few of the basic points from the first portion of the sharing in these following pages.

About 20 years ago I started going to Bible School and began hearing and studying the message of the Cross. I loved Jesus and the message of His Cross, but being dead with Christ was something I read about in the Bible rather than experienced in my daily circumstances and reactions.



Doctrine:

Reality:



I began to realize that there is a difference between learning something and bearing witness to the truth of a message, and that truth becoming my reality (*reality = real in me*). God wanted to change my doctrine to reality. He wanted me filled, transformed and free from bondage to self.

## My Daily Helpers:

My Relationships → How I Treat Others



My Circumstances → How I React



Unjust Treatment → How My Heart Responds



Discomfort/Loss/Rejection

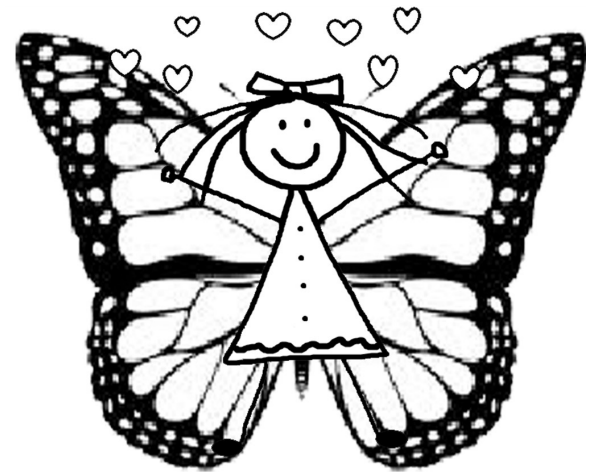
Where I Go For Comfort



I learned that daily life helps the Cross move from doctrine to reality. I began to realize that the things I go through each day are precious to the process. I noticed that how I responded in my relationships and circumstances indicated whether I was functioning in doctrine or reality.

Through these "daily indicators" I was confronted with my actual maturity (or lack thereof!). We were taught in Bible School that there is a difference between "perceived growth" and "actual growth". Perceived growth related to where I thought I was at in relation to Christ being formed in me, and I usually felt I was MUCH more spiritual than was formed at that point.

## Perceived Growth:

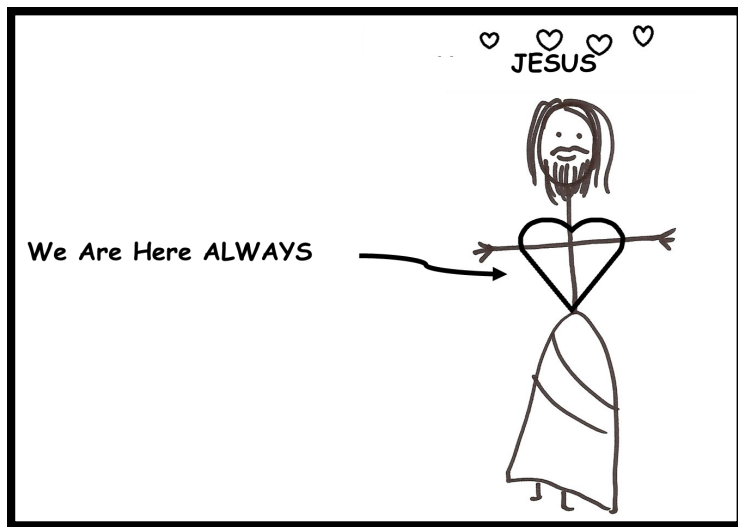


## Actual Growth:



Actual growth refers to how much Christ has actually been formed within, resulting in true transformation. When my "spirituality" was challenged by life circumstances, I usually manifested that I had a lot of head-knowledge but no wings! Rather than letting that discourage me, I learned to be thankful and not settle for less than Christ truly being formed in me!





NOW... let us take a moment to clarify!  
Where we are actually and always at in spiritual reality is **IN CHRIST**! Above anything we are going through and the stage we are at in the process of Christ being formed in us (Gal. 4:19), we are ALWAYS and FOREVER in Christ, accepted in the Beloved (Eph. 1:6). This was settled by His Cross and is a finished work (Col. 2:10-13).

But right now we are referring to our walk and maturity. There is a growth process we all must go through to allow Christ to be formed in us (Gal. 4:19). This process will determine how much Christ can manifest and live through us down here! Even though we are safe and hid in Christ, we can still find ourselves crawling through trials, struggling and crying out for more of Jesus!



1:) We Are Not What We Are Taught

2:) We Are Not Our Titles

3:) We Are What We Are  
In Spirit And Attitudes



God is determined to make our doctrines real in us, and many times that requires confronting us with what is not yet truly Christ formed within. For me personally, it was difficult to let all the things I had used to make me feel "spiritual" be removed. Yet deep inside I knew God was allowing this to prepare me to receive the true in-working of the Cross.

**TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH!**

Full version can be viewed at:  
<http://youtu.be/rOKGDOAlwDI>

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