

**PERSONAL STUDY****Prepare your heart and mind**

Take a few moments to focus on God and what He has for you during this intentional time with Him. Ask God to help you block out distractions and prepare you to learn what He wants to teach you.

***I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. – Galatians 2:20***

In this verse, Paul makes a beautiful statement that summarizes the Christian life. Let's take a closer look at this truth and process its meaning for our lives.

***I have been crucified with Christ***

Think about the word *crucified*. Why do you suppose Paul used this word instead of saying *I have died with Christ*?

The power of the cross and all that is associated with it is important to remember. Because of Christ's death on the cross, we are no longer under the penalty of the law. Our punishment was paid in full at the crucifixion. We are united in death with Christ, and we will be united in resurrection with Him.

Read the following verses to help identify what it means for *you* to be crucified with Christ. Write down what these verses say to you.

Romans 6:5-14

Galatians 5:24

We now have a new way of life; the old way has been nailed to the cross. We have been given the Holy Spirit, who guides, and we are no longer slaves to the world.

***I no longer live but Christ lives in me***

In your own words, describe what this means.

When we receive Christ as our Savior, we exchange our old life for a new one. Life in Christ means death to our old sin-filled ways and living in the power of the Holy Spirit that transforms us into new creations. Our old nature has been replaced with a new nature. We are no longer slaves to the world, and the power of sin is broken.

Read the following passages and identify what happens in our new life when we become followers of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

2 Corinthians 3:18

Matthew 16:24

***The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me***

How are we to live out our new identity?

The new life we have been given is no longer based on keeping the law. We now are to live by faith. Describe how you live by faith in the various areas of your life: marriage, singleness, finances, family, personal journey, raising children, etc.

**Prayer time**

Here's a prayer you can pray to close out this time of reflection and study:

*God, I praise you for the beautiful reality of the Gospel. Please help me to live the crucified life. Help me to enter each day by putting my faith in You. May I seek your guidance, wisdom, and direction in all that I do.*