

# Many of Us: The Power of the Cross

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-30

📖 1 Corinthians 1:26–27 (NIV) “Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.”

📖 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV) “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

### God **speaks** through the cross.

📖 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV) “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

📖 1 Corinthians 1:19–21 (NIV) “For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” <sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.”

📖 1 Corinthians 1:22–23 (NIV) “Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles...”

- Some want more **evidence**.
- Some want more **explanation**.

📖 Matthew 12:39–40 (NIV) “...A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

📖 Matthew 27:39–42 (NIV) “Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked Him. <sup>42</sup> “He saved others,” they said, “but He can’t save Himself! He’s the King of Israel! Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him.”

📖 1 Corinthians 1:24-25 (NIV) “...to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.”

### God **saves** through the cross.

📖 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV) “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

📖 Acts 4:10–12 (NIV) “...It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> He is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’ <sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

📖 1 Corinthians 2:2 (NIV) “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

📖 Hebrews 1:1–3 (NIV) “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”

God **sanctifies** through the cross.

📖 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV) “...to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

### Understanding Salvation

1. We **have been** saved from the **penalty** of sin.
2. We **are being** saved from the **power** of sin.
3. We **will be** saved from the **presence** of sin.

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (NIV) “Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before Him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”

What does it mean to you to know that Jesus died on the cross 2,000 years ago? In what ways, if any, has the cross IMPACTed your life? Are you going to heaven when you die? Are you living for God today? What were you challenged by today? What has God brought you through? What does God want you to do?

