



THE PRICE

We are hard pressed but not crushed sometimes in doubt but never in despair, persecuted but not abandoned struck down but not destroyed
2 Corinthians 4:8-12 | **DEVOTIONAL 6**

How much is the most expensive thing you own?

My father always said to us, "If you must buy a car, try your best to buy a "new" car from the bond". Buying a new car would cost more money than a used car that was readily available, he added. However, buying a used car did not require a loan so we usually settled for those. They were often in good condition but sooner or later, we started making frequent trips to the mechanic. And as the years have gone by, the trips have become more expensive because we have to replace old parts with new spare parts. In hindsight, I now realize that buying a new car would have given us many more years.

Every decision has a price. The price may look cheaper at the beginning but it gets expensive along the way in terms of the consequences. We know that Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price for sin so that we are no longer slaves to sin. This way, we have been delivered from the power, the penalty and eventually the presence of sin. Yet we still struggle with that reality. What then did that price mean?

In the courts of law, a judge can pronounce a verdict and sentence over a convict but someone else has got to implement that sentence. Likewise, God the righteous judge pronounced the sentence over sin, but as Christians, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we have to implement that sentence on earth. **Titus 2:11- The grace of God has appeared to ALL men, it teaches us to say no to ungodliness and to live a self-controlled and an upright life in this godless age.** That grace given does not overshadow and take over your will, it daily teaches you to say NO to sin. The grace teaches you to overcome the power of sin in your life and then in the world so as to advance the kingdom of God.

In overcoming sin, the world will greatly oppose you, shame you, malign and slander you. Our Lord Jesus said that they hated Him and will hate us too. Paul an apostle to the Gentiles was flogged five times with 39 lashes each, imprisoned falsely and also imprisoned for his faith, shipwrecked, bitten by a snake, opposed greatly even by fellow believers and yet in his closing remarks he encourages believers to keep the faith against all odds. Sometimes the price is being disowned for believing in Christ, loss of a job because you stood for the right thing, loss of a child, waiting for a healing while preaching a God who heals, waiting for deliverance, not having a house to call your own, a spouse that has turned away from the faith they once professed or being crippled and knowing that you may never function again.

In moments of great pressing, we must remember Paul's encouraging words in **Romans 8: 35-39, nothing could ever separate us from the love of Christ, in all these things we are more than conquerors. No temptation has ceased except what is common to man, when we are tempted, He will provide a way of escape. 1 Corinthians 10:13.** We face many trials in this life but that is the price we must pay of becoming more like Christ. We have been called to a standard and there is a price to pay but in all this, may we always remember that Christ paid the ultimate price.

Prayer: Lord, when my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock - Jesus Christ that is higher than me. May I remember that you are right by my side in the pressing and the crushing. I receive the grace that teaches me to say no to ungodliness and to live a self-controlled and an upright life in this present age. I entrust my life to you in Jesus' name. Amen