



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

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"Brothers and sisters, pray for us." 1 Thessalonians 5:25

I wonder how it went for those shepherds who saw the angels' announcement lighting up the night sky on the day Jesus was born. When they went back to their flocks the next night – or even later that night – was it back to business as usual, with that glorious, miraculous spectacle forming just a blip in their existence, or was it a life-changing experience that set them and their families on a permanently altered course pointed towards Heaven?

Between the time that Jesus first appeared to his apostles after the resurrection and the time he ascended into Heaven, some of the apostles took up their nets and went back to their old jobs. Had they forgotten Jesus' promise to make them fishers of men, or did they think that the vocation he promised was just a temporary job? Perhaps they were just trying to keep busy while they waited for Jesus to let them know what the next step was. After he came to them and told them to wait for the Holy Spirit, they set out on a path from which there was no going back.



Do you remember the time that Jesus first came to you? Perhaps the excitement that you felt there has waned through the years, but I can assure you that God still wants to fulfill the purposes that he established for your life. Do what the disciples did: Leave your nets for a season and spend some time just waiting on the Holy Spirit. Allow him to renew you in purpose and vision and to lead you on the path that he has prepared you for.

The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, ... and you will be changed into a different person. Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you. [Immanuel] (1 Samuel 10:6,7)

Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!

Your prayers are our lifeline! Thank you for agreeing with us for:

- those in our city with inadequate heat and housing for this cold weather,
- more God's his Spirit, wisdom and direction,
- more grace and provision for the many challenges around us and ahead of us, and
- ministry planning and execution in the new year.

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

Whether it's to share a prayer need, a praise report or a word of greeting or encouragement, please keep in touch. Hearing from you encourages us more than you know.

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !



May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (II Corinthians 13:14)



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