



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

a publication of Highway Mission Tabernacle and Resurrection Life Church, Philadelphia, PA

Edition CI | January 26, 2025 copyright ©2025, Highway Mission Tabernacle

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



After she told Jesus that the wine had run out at the wedding, his mother, Mary, told the servants to do whatever he told them - giving us the key to experiencing miracles.

If we expect to see God do miracles, we must be prepared to do whatever he tells us. There are three things, in particular, that we must be willing to do.

First, we must be willing to let go of the things that are not like him. For the rich young ruler who sought the miracle of eternal life, this meant letting go of material things. Like him, we may be called to let go of greed, but perhaps our call will be to let go of the pride that makes us hold grudges, the anger that poisons our relationships, or the envy or lust that corrupts our thoughts. Whatever we are holding onto, we can't move forward with Jesus – and we can't expect miracles – until we let go.

Second, we must be willing to take a step of faith, like the ten lepers whom Jesus told to show themselves to the priests and who were healed on the way. To be clear: Faith is not presumption. We cannot declare miracles and begin walking in them when Jesus has not directed us. However, once he tells us what to do, we must move boldly in faith, confident that we have received what he promised.

Finally, we must be persistent, as Jesus taught in the parable of the corrupt judge. Although the judge neither feared God or cared about people, Jesus said that he gave the widow justice because she kept pestering him. How much more will God, who *does* care about people, bring about justice if we persist in asking?

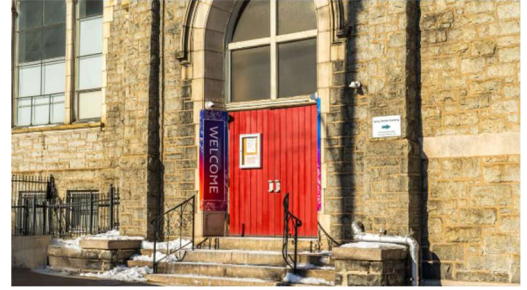
There is one more key, and it's the most important. Jesus told his apostles that they had to remain in him, the Vine, if they were to bear fruit. With that as the context, he added that, if they remained in him and his Word remained in them, they could ask for whatever they wanted, and it would be done. The final key is that, to claim the promise of asking whatever we want, we must abide in him, bear his fruit, and allow him to shape our will and our requests. Remain in him. Let him guide your steps. Then, whatever miracles he puts on your heart, ask him for!

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)

Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!

Thank you for standing shoulder-to-shoulder with us! Please continue agreeing with us for:





- two of our members who were recently hospitalized and several others who are ailing,
- new avenues of ministry and collaboration that God wants to open this year,
- more people called to and excited about ministry in Tioga/Nicetown, and
- God's continued grace and supply for everything that goes into operating the academy and the church.



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.)

Please do keep in touch! We're always delighted when we hear from you, to share your news or prayer requests – or just to chat!

	PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130
	17 th & Tioga Streets (3501 N 17 th Street) Philadelphia, PA 19140
	Church/Academy Office: (215) 226-1000
	CrossAndCrown@Highway.AG

* **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 !

Did You Know?

According to the US Mint's specifications on the weight of coins, fifty cents worth of dimes weighs the same as fifty cents worth of quarters.

The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him. (Proverbs II:I)



Highway Mission Tabernacle ♦ Resurrection Life Church ♦ PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130
Welcome@ResLife.AG ♦ Church: (215) 226-1000 ♦ Otis: (215) 266-5976
HighwayTabernacle.org ♦ ResLife.AG ♦ Sunday services at Noon: ResLife.stream

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