



# THE CROSS *and* CROWN

*"No Cross, No Crown"*

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

The Lord is my tailor!

In the Garden of Eden, God clothed Adam and Eve in animal skins, replacing the fig leaves that they had sewn together to cover their shame. Notably, God wasn't symbolically covering their sin when he clothed them. God's way is not to cover over sin but to cleanse it, and he had already cleansed Adam and Eve. He clothed them because of the shame they felt in his presence, once they discovered that they were naked. God offers the same provision for us, who, even though we have been cleansed, may still hide ourselves from him, ever aware of our shame. We need to throw off our crude fig leaves of shame and accept God's new garments, so that we may fellowship freely with him, as he always intended.

David proclaimed that God had taken off his sackcloth and clothed him with joy. (Psalm 30:11) Isaiah says something similar: God gives us the garment of praise to replace a spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3). The end result is the same – a heart that rejoices in God and will not keep silent (Psalm 30:12), for the glory of God's splendor. (Isaiah 61:3)

Jesus, speaking of baptism in the Holy Spirit, told his disciples that they would be "clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49) This is a wonderful gift that I wish every Christian would claim! We don't have to struggle through the challenges of life in our own power but can navigate them in the power that the Spirit provides!

Finally, and most exciting, Paul told us that, at the fulfillment of our Blessed Hope, the perishable would be clothed with the imperishable. (I Corinthians 15:54) Our immortal souls will shed our mortal containers as God clothes us in a body created for eternal life with God.



All of these garments are the blessed provision of a loving God! Let us put on the clothes that he offers in place of our shame, our sorrow and the weakness of our flesh, so that we may walk through life "clothed with garments of salvation and arrayed in a robe of his righteousness!" (Isaiah 61:10)

*See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you. (Zechariah 3:3)*

# Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!

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





- upcoming summer ministry opportunities and challenges,
- 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!

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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](http://crossandcrown.online/subscribe) !

## Did You Know?

Tailoring rose to popularity in the thirteenth century, when people came to view clothes as a way to enhance (rather than hide) their bodies. The word "tailor," from the Latin word for "cut," first appeared in the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 1297.

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? (Matthew 6:30)



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