



**"No Cross,  
No Crown"**

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# The Cross and Crown

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Do you remember learning how to walk? If your experience was like mine, it was a very frustrating, embarrassing and difficult time. I was trying to learn how to use muscles that weren't fully developed, to get them to do things that I'd never tried before, and trying to figure out how to balance my body and move forward in ways that were new to me.



Unfortunately, I didn't have the

opportunity to figure it out in private, by myself. Instead, I was surrounded by people who, instead of helping me, stood just beyond my reach, taunting me to come to them. When I fell (and I fell a lot, hurting my knees or my backside), rather than helping me, they pointed at me and laughed or said, "Aww," as though it weren't the most traumatic experience of my young life.

Looking back on it, I'm glad that I know how to walk, but, honestly, if I had to do it all over again, I'd probably stick to crawling.

That's ridiculous, isn't it? The truth is that I don't even remember learning how to walk, although I'm sure it was a big deal for me at the time. And can you imagine how ridiculous I'd look, as a 60-year-old man, crawling everywhere?

Paul wrote to the Roman church that, "our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18) I would never minimize the very real struggles and pain that many of you are, no doubt, going through right now. No, I'm just here to encourage you that the struggles are not in vain! There will come a time when the glorious future that God is developing in us will come to fruition, and these times of trial will fade away from memory. "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun," we'll no longer remember the pain and frustration, but we will live through countless ages of eternity in the plane of glory that the suffering equipped us for. Stay strong!

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

*II Corinthians 4:16-18*

# Thanks for Praying!

We are so grateful for all that God is doing among us in response to your prayers! Please join us in praying

- for the moms and young children who have recently begun fellowshiping with us,
- for those the participants in this month's baptism and membership classes, and
- for summer ministries and the young people in our neighborhood.







Summer is just around the corner! Pray for our outreaches!

## 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 you in praying about, please let us know.

**We love hearing from you! Please do keep in touch!**

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we understand! Just call or drop us a note, 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!

## Did you know?

Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, David and Hezekiah have this in common: They were all singled out for mention as having walked faithfully with God.

**“Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,  
who walk in the light of your presence, Lord.”**

**(Psalm 89:15)**



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