The flesh is too bad to be cleansed; it must be crucified.
Watchman Nee

Prayer Study #339
First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia USA

Why I Follow Jesus

I want to say with all the sincerity of my heart that the greatest thing in my life is knowing Jesus Christ. Why do I follow Jesus? First, He paid with His blood the price for me to live eternally with Him. God's standards are so high that no one can measure up. I deserve, and everyone here, deserves nothing but Hell. Yet He gave His own life to save me from my sin. Furthermore, He Himself said in the Bible, a book that has been proven over and over, even in fields like science, anthropology, medicine, etc., that the only way to the Father in Heaven is through Him. There are no other ways. If there were, why would a God of love have allowed His only begotten Son to be so cruelly murdered. Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 52 that His visage was marred more than any man's. In the original language this means that He was beatened so badly that He was not recognizable on the cross as a human being. If you want to go to Heaven, you must invite Jesus to come into your heart.

A second reason I follow Jesus is He promises all my needs, according to His riches in Glory. When I need peace, He is the God of Peace, when I need healing, He is Jehovah Rophe, when I need provisions, He is Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who provides, etc. In fact in both the Old and New Testament, both the Hebrew and the Greek words for salvation mean, in addition to the new birth into God's family, deliverance, preservation, prosperity, healing, soundness and wholeness through and through, help, comfort, and all the promises of God, *"Yes and Amen!"*

A third reason I follow Jesus is He promised to never, no never, no never leave or forsake me. When I am lonely and alone, He is there. He walks with me and talks with me wherever I go. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our grieves and pain to bear, what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.

Jesus loves the sinner and is calling. At our worst He finds us.He loves prostitutes, drug addicts, churchy religious phonies, outcasts, murderers, homeless people, strippers, porn stars, etc. But He does not leave us that way. He helps us overcome and He sets us free.

The only unpardonable sin is never accepting Christ because it is only the cleansing power of His blood, which He applies to each one who recognizes that he is a sinner and wishes to repent so that he can be reconciled to God.

In 1970 someone wrote a song that became very popular in the United States. This politically incorrect song has been forgotten by most, but it is just as true as it was then. The lyrics go like this:

Well, old Buddha was a man
And I am sure that he meant well
But I pray for his disciples lest they wind up in hell;
And I am sure that old Muhammad thought he knew the way;
But it won't be Hare Krishna we stand before on the Judgment Day!

Now I don't hate anybody, so please don't take me wrong.
But there really is a message in this simple song.
You see, there's only ONE WAY-JESUS!-if eternal life is your goal,
And meditation of the mind won't save your soul.

Now you can call yourself a Baptist and not be born again
A Presbyterian or a Methodist and still die in your sin;
You can even be Charismatic, shout and dance and jump a pew,
But if you hate your brother, you won't be one of the chosen few.
Cause it won't be a Baptist that's sittin' on the throne,
A Presbyterian or a Methodist that's callin' us home.
It won't even be a Charismatic, that plays that trumpet tune
So let's all just live for Jesus, because He's coming back real soon.

NO, it won't be old Buddha, who's sitting on the throne.
And it won't be old Muhammad, whose calling us home.
And it won't be Hare Krishna, who plays the trumpet tune.
And we're going to see the Son, not Reverend Moon.

Today I challenge you to invite Jesus into your heart so you can have the Lord walk with you through every trial of this life and can be sure that you will be forever with Him in the life to come. We are not going to play games or embarrass you in any way, but we are going to ask any of you who want to invite Jesus into your heart or anyone who wants to recommit their life to Christ to come forward to this area in front of the stage.

I want to have a short prayer with those who want to come to Christ. You in the audience who did not have the boldness to come forward may also pray this prayer. I am going to pray the prayer for all of you. I want all of you here to agree with this prayer in your heart as I pray saying, "Yes!" to Jesus.
I want the pastors, youth pastors, the intercessors, the evangelists, and anyone who feels called to pray for people one on one to come and surround this group and after the prayer to pray with individuals who need special prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe you died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead. You redeemed me by your blood, and I belong to you, and I want to live for you. I confess all my sins-known and unknown-I'm sorry for them all. I renounce them all. I forgive all others as I want you to forgive me. Forgive me now and cleanse me with your blood. I thank you for the blood of Jesus Christ which cleanses me now from all sin. And I come to you now as my deliverer. You know my special needs-that thing that binds, that torments, that defiles; that evil spirit, that unclean spirit-I claim the promises of your word, "Whosoever that calleth on the name of the Lord shall be delivered." I call upon you now. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, deliver me and set me free. Satan, I renounce you and all your works. I loose myself from you, in the name of Jesus, and I command you to leave me right now, in Jesus' name. Amen