

Something to Pray About

February 2014 – Cindy Sears

And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
—Luke 22:44 NKJV

I Stand in Awe of You

In the *Passion of the Christ* movie and others that depict the death of Christ, the emphasis is on the physical blows that our Lord suffered before and at His death on the cross. These were horrible and painful afflictions, yet there was something much worse that Jesus had to endure. It is good for us to know that Jesus has felt and understands the physical pain that we humans have been and continue to be afflicted by; but Jesus also dealt with a pain that we who accept Him as Savior will never have to endure.

Jesus literally went through hell for us. Don't think about fire and brimstone here. Even that figurative language can't truly describe what hell is really about. Hell is worse than being on fire for an eternity. Hell is worse than death. Hell is worse than the most awful torture that man can devise—and he has devised some truly horrific ways to inflict pain and suffering on his fellow humans.

When Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane, he began to taste the beginning of the worst thing that can happen to a human—and something that should never happen to the divine. Jesus, a man who had never sinned; Jesus, who relished communion with His Father in heaven more than any other person who ever walked upon the earth; Jesus, who had a perfect relationship with God—was about to feel the full, holy, and just wrath of God.

“So, now that we have been made righteous by his blood, we can be even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him” (Romans 5:9 CEB).

I think we forget that without God sustaining us and blessing us daily with life and sunshine and rain and many other blessings that He bestows on all, not only the saved, we could not, would not continue to exist. In the garden, Jesus sweat drops of blood at the awful prospect of total abandonment by God, His Father. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” was not only a quote from the book of Psalms. It was the reality Jesus endured on the cross when my sins and your sins and all the world's sins from and through all of time were poured out upon Him as He hung upon that cross—and God turned away. Jesus is the only man who was ever totally alone, completely without connection or opportunity for communing with God while on earth. So, not only did Jesus give up His divine glory when He came to live as the man/God upon earth; He also gave up His communion with the Father when our sins were poured upon Him at the cross.

You don't know what it's really like to have God completely turn His face away from you, to cut you off entirely from His blessings. While here on this earth, even the worst of us retains enough good in us to have the possibility of communion with God. And those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior are open to total communion with the Father, because in His eyes we are now sinless.

“He carried in his own body on the cross the sins we committed. He did this that we might live in

righteousness, having nothing to do with sin. By his wounds you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24 CEB).

I pray earnestly that you open yourself to this wondrous gift before it is too late. And I pray even more earnestly that we who are saved understand just what Christ did for us—how much He endured and how much He gave up to save us. None of us deserved even a small portion of that sacrifice, but that’s how much God loves us. I stand in awe of Jesus, who gave so much more than I can ever fathom.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life,” (John 3:16 NKJV). And that everlasting life will be in the presence of God because you have been washed by the blood of the lamb.

Hillsong United - I Stand In Awe Of You—by Hillsong United

You are beautiful beyond description
Too marvelous for words
Too wonderful of comprehension
Like nothing ever seen or heard
Who can grasp your infinite wisdom
Who can fathom the depth of your love
You are beautiful beyond description
Majesty enthroned above



And I stand, I stand in awe of you
I stand, I stand in awe of you
Holy God to whom all praise is due
I stand in awe of you.

