

HE TOOK MY PLACE

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In life, those who know you too well are the ones who can betray you. Most times, these are best friends. Your best friend has the power to hurt you more than any other person, possibly because they have been exposed to what you think and feel. In **John 18:1-8**, Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus knew Him inside out. He was one of His twelve disciples. 2 He knew where Jesus prayed and rested. **Psalm 55:12-14** even describes how close a friend who betrays you can be.

Jesus was betrayed, yet, He gave Himself up. **John 18 vs8** says ***“Jesus answered, I have told you that I am He: if therefore you seek me, let these go their way”*** Jesus is saying here I am, I’m available, you can arrest Me, but let My people, My children who are called by My name go their way. He’s saying take Me, but leave My own alone. **Jesus took our place.** He was arrested, so that we can be liberated, He suffered hunger, so that we can be fed. He died before His time, so that we will live to fulfill our time even with abundant life.

What exactly has Jesus done for me?

1. Gave His life a ransom for me (**Mark 10:45**): No one was qualified to do that for me; only Jesus was. He paid for my sin with his own life that I might live and be free forever (**1 Cor. 15:3**). Jesus made His blood shed on the cross available for me and through His blood I am clean.
2. He delivered me from this present evil age (economic crisis, war, natural disasters e.t.c) according to the will of our God and Father (**Gal1:4**).
3. He came to seek and save me: (**Luke 19:10**), (**1Peter 3:18**). He reconciled me to God: Sin separated me from God and from His love and mercies. He re-established the relationship and fellowship between God and me. (**2 Cor. 5:18-19; Eph 2:14-17**).
4. When Jesus Christ came into my life, he took away the sorrow that I may know peace. (**Isaiah 53:3-4**). He bore my iniquities: (**Isaiah 53:11-12**). He forgave my sins and never remembered them.
5. He brought me healing: He did not only receive the stripes met for my back; he paid duly for my sins and brought healing to my battered soul and body. (**1 Peter 2:24**).
6. He gave me eternal life, Jesus Christ came that I might have life and have it abundantly. **John10:10-11, (John 3:16, John10:28)**. He came with salvation and joy and through Him, I can boldly enter His throne of Grace.

He blesses His own and can do the same for you today, **John 10:14** Jesus said ‘ I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me’ He is knocking the door of your life, waiting for you to have Him in your life. Will you keep him on hold for ever? Time is ticking and it may be too late.

To surrender your life to Jesus, say the following prayers;

Dear Jesus, I recognize Your love for me, and the fact that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I believe that You are the only Son of God, and You came to this world to die for my salvation and you rose from the grave the third day having defeated the devil for my sake. I want You to be My Savior, come into my heart to stay. I have sinned and I ask for forgiveness. You paid for my sins on the cross, and now You live inside of me. Thank You for forgiveness. Restore to me all the things the enemy of my soul has stolen from me. Thank You for Saving Me. I have a fresh start with my life. You have set me FREE from everything in my past and now I am a NEW PERSON. I belong to Jesus. Thank you, Jesus for saving ME.

Lord, give me the grace to live a sinless life, to be fully committed to you and to remain faithful until You come for Your elect. I appreciate Your mercy and Your grace, thank You Lord for being there for me, in Jesus name I pray.

AN UNUSUAL MAN OF FAITH

And The LORD said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you; that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” **Luke 22:31-32.** ‘An Unusual Man of Faith’ is a man/woman who knows how to humiliate, the devil and not the other way round. When Satan attacks a believer, his aim is to destroy the believer’s faith. 1 John 5:4-5. ‘For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world- our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God’. - It takes your faith to be an overcomer in this world. No wonder the devil is after the believers’ faith, with his faith; he overcomes the world, fulfilling his divine destiny and bruising the devil’s head as he does that. **Matt 9:22.Ephesians 6:16** talks about the importance of a believer’s shield of faith – “above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one”. The Bible advice us to take on the shield of faith when arrows from the enemy come. How do you take on the shield of faith? Believe in God, have faith in Him, trust Him, stand firm, let His joy be your strength, don’t waiver, knowing that Jesus Christ has conquered the devil; the devil is only fighting a lost battle- **Ephesians 6:10-20. Heb 11:1** says ‘Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. It is faith to see negative situations as if they were positive. God is not bound by your words, but by His own WORD. Faith is released by studying God’s words and regularly applying it to every situation, putting your faith to work.

A Christian who is not prayerful cannot stand against the enemies. **Job 5: 12** –says “he frustrates the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot carry out their plans”. You can only frustrate the devices of the wicked one, through your prayer and praise. 2. A believer must not take his eyes off Jesus. **Heb 12 :2-** “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3. A believer must avoid the killers of faith at all cost. ***The Killers of Faith include;***

- i. Fear- **Matt 10:28-33; Luke 5:10.**

- ii. Guilt of sin. **Heb 4: 16, Ps 66:18, Proverbs 6: 16-19;**
- iii. Lack of love- **Gal 5:6. 1 Corinthian 13:16. -1 John 4: 7-8, - 1 Cor. 13: 4- 7, John 13: 34-35.**
- iv. Unforgiveness, bitterness and loneliness- **Mark 11: 25, Matt 6:12, Heb12:15, 2 Cor. 2:10-11, John 20: 21-23, Luke 23: 33-34.**

If you have never given your life to Jesus, or you have surrendered your life number of times, but still continued living in sin. He says in one of the promises in His Word that, **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).**

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