



# Fresh Oil



January 2018

Dear Fellow Servants,

As we launch out into another fresh set of months I want to encourage you to make a conscious decision, right here at the outset of the year, to reaffirm your attention on the cross of Christ. The message of the cross is a message of power to the believer in Christ Jesus, as 1 Corinthians 1:18 clearly says:

***“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those  
Who are perishing, but to us who are being saved  
It is the power of God.”***

Trends and fads abound in our world today, and many of these have seeped into the North American Church. The pressure to conform to the pattern of this world and disregard the timeless truths of Scripture has never been greater. It is for this very reason that we need to draw that proverbial line in the sand and declare once again our allegiance to the cross of Jesus Christ.

I have been listening to an excellent song recently that has renewed my sincere appreciation for the cross. It is called “Crowns” and it is sung by Hillsong. I want to share just a few of the lyrics here for you:

***“How is it I should profit, while He is crucified?  
Yet as His life was taken, so I was granted mine.  
My wealth is in the cross, there’s nothing more I want  
Than just to know His love. My heart is set on Christ,  
And I will count all else as loss. The greatest of my crowns  
Mean nothing to me now, for I counted up the cost  
And all my wealth is in the cross.***

To have a casual and careless view of the cross is to have a casual and careless view of our Saviour who died on that cross. If we had been there that day that Jesus was crucified and had been eyewitnesses of that horrid spectacle, I am quite certain that we would forever have that image burned upon our consciences. Would it not then cause us to reconsider some of the things we do and say? Would I be as free to criticize others or disregard the needs of the poor or give free reign to my sinful passions if the cross was my focus? No, I think not! The cross changes us, transforms us – *if we so allow it!*

Let’s take time at the start of this year to thank our Lord and Saviour for going all the way to the cross for us, and then let us keep focusing on that great sacrifice throughout the year, allowing its powerful message to make us more like Him.

Your fellow servant,

***Pastor Brian***

*... I have been anointed with fresh oil*

PSALM 92:10

