



REDEMPTION

*The High Cost Jesus Paid
for Our Freedom*

Ram Krishnamurthy

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To Jesus, the

*“Son of God, who loved me and
gave himself for me.”*

–Galatians 2:20

THE LONGING FOR FREEDOM

EVERYONE LONGS TO BE FREE. We want to be free from regret and free from guilt. Some people strive to live a perfect life only to find they are never “good enough” to feel truly free. Others, knowing they cannot maintain such a high standard, do not even try. Whether through striving for perfection or living recklessly, the result is often the same: feelings of anxiety, depression, discouragement, shame, and hopelessness. Many people live in bondage, and beneath all these feelings lies one vital question: **Can I ever be truly free?**

The Bible answers that question with one powerful word: Redemption. This word

represents a very high cost, but it also shines with hope. To understand the beauty of this word, we must first understand the reality of our condition.

The Slave Market

In the ancient world, redemption was a term used in the slave markets. It described the price paid to buy a person out of slavery. A person in bondage was helpless to free himself. His only hope was a **redeemer**—someone with the wealth to pay his price and the mercy to set him free.

The Iron Collar

A missionary in West Africa once searched for the right way to explain this to a village. When he asked how to say “redeem” in their language, his assistant replied: “We say that God took our heads out.”

Years earlier, slave traders had marched prisoners through their villages with heavy iron collars locked around their necks. If a village chief recognized a friend among the prisoners, he could pay a **ransom** (the price for freedom). Once the price was accepted, the iron collar was unlocked and the prisoner's head was removed from the yoke.

*He was free because he
had been redeemed.*

Our Spiritual Condition

This is a vivid picture of our spiritual condition. We are born into a world of “iron collars,” enslaved to our sin, our pride, and our rebellion against God. We may try to ignore the weight or even “decorate” the chains to make them look better, but we cannot remove them ourselves.

The Bible says that God is **holy**. This means He is completely separate from sin and is perfectly good, pure, and righteous. This creates a serious problem for us. According to the Bible, even a wicked thought is a sin (Matthew 5:28). Sin is not only doing wrong things (1 John 3:4), but it is also failing to do the right things (James 4:17).

Because God is **perfectly pure and holy**, we can never meet His standard on our own, no matter how hard we try. No amount of religious effort or self-improvement can unlock the collar of our mistakes.

Since our debt is owed to a God who lives forever, the consequences of our sin also last forever.

We are in a state of bondage—carrying a debt far too great for us to pay. We desperately need a Redeemer from the outside to step in and set us free.

THE PRICE OF LIFE

THIS IS WHERE THE STORY of redemption takes a staggering turn. In a human slave market, freedom can be bought with money. But in the court of Heaven, the debt of sin is so great that earthly money is worthless.

Because sin leads to death, God has established that forgiveness requires the payment of a life. It requires blood.

*Life is the only payment for life;
blood is the only ransom for blood.*

This principle is found throughout the entire Bible:

- It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible. — Leviticus 17:11b
- Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. —Hebrews 9:22

The Greater Sacrifice

In the Old Testament, animal sacrifices were more than just rituals; they were lessons from God. Every sacrifice whispered a promise: “A greater sacrifice is coming.” That ultimate sacrifice was Jesus Christ—the sinless God-Man.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that the price paid to set us free from our sins was not silver or gold. Instead, it was the “precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18-19). In the book of Ephesians, the heart of this Good News is made clear:

In him [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,

*in accordance with the riches of God's
grace that he lavished on us.*

—Ephesians 1:7-8a

Our Freedom Purchased

To be “redeemed” means that Jesus Christ stepped into the slave market of this world. He paid the price for our sins by giving His own life on the cross. By doing this, He unlocked the iron collar of sin from our necks and set us free.

However, to truly value this freedom, we must look closely at the three ways our Redeemer suffered to buy it:

1. Physical
2. Emotional and Relational
3. Spiritual

THE STAGGERING COST: CHRIST'S THREEFOLD SUFFERING

#1 – Physical Suffering: The Brutality of the Cross

The Gospel writers describe the crucifixion with surprising simplicity: “They crucified him” (Mark 15:24). They did not need to add details because, in that world, everyone knew the unspeakable horror of the cross.

The Scourging and the Thorns

Before reaching the cross, Jesus endured scourging. He was tied to a post and beaten with a Roman whip that had sharp pieces of bone and metal tied to the ends. Each strike

tore the skin from His back. Many prisoners died from this beating alone.

After this, a crown of long, sharp thorns was pressed into His head. Mocked and spit upon, He was forced to carry His own heavy wooden cross toward the place of death. In the Roman world, carrying your cross meant a one-way trip; there was no turning back.

The Iron Spikes

Then came the nails—which were more like heavy iron spikes. They were driven through His wrists and His feet, crushing the nerves and sending shocks of fire through His body. Above Him, a sign was placed that read: *King of the Jews*. While this was the Roman legal charge and condemnation, the Bible tells us it was actually our sins that nailed Him there (Colossians 2:13-15).

The Struggle for Breath

When the cross was lifted and dropped into the ground, the impact sent waves of shock through His body. Every breath became a battle. To breathe in, He had to push upward on the nails in His feet, scraping His torn back against the rough wood. To breathe out, He had to slump downward, again stretching His wounded nerves.

Death came slowly—not just from blood loss, but from total exhaustion and the agony of the struggle to breathe. For six hours, Jesus endured this torment. Yet, the nails did not hold Him there. Love did—love for God the Father and love for us! As He said:

“No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily.”

—John 10:18

The nails did not hold Him there. Love did.

#2 – Emotional and Relational Suffering: Rejection and Shame

Redemption also required emotional and relational suffering. To buy our freedom, Jesus had to endure total isolation. He was betrayed by Judas—sold for the price of a slave. He was denied by Peter. Both of these men were His own disciples! His closest friends ran away in His hour of greatest need. False witnesses accused Him, soldiers mocked Him, and people walking by hurled insults at Him.

The Weight of Shame

Crucifixion was designed not only to kill, but to humiliate. Victims were stripped of their clothes and exposed to the public. The Son of God hung in shame before the very world He created. He took upon Himself the embarrassment and the “iron collar” of our disgrace.

The Deepest Wound

Yet the most painful blow was not human mockery, but being isolated from God the Father. The One who had always known perfect love and fellowship with the Father entered into total loneliness. This was the loneliest moment in the history of the universe.

Why did He do this? He did it so that we would never have to be alone.

- He was **forsaken** so that we might be welcomed.
- He was **condemned** so that we might be declared innocent.
- He was **cast out** so that we might be brought into God's family.

Through the loneliness of the cross, the bridge back to God was built.

*Jesus was forsaken so that all who
believe in Him might never
be forsaken.*

#3 – Spiritual Suffering: Bearing Sin and Wrath

As terrible as the physical and emotional suffering were for Jesus, it still does not fully explain the suffering of the cross. Many men have died by crucifixion, but only one person has ever carried the weight of the whole world's sin. This was a spiritual suffering that no human eye could see—it was the moment Jesus took our place to pay the debt we owed to God.

The Cup of Wrath

Before He went to the cross, Jesus spoke of a “cup” (Matthew 26:39). This cup represented God's holy and just anger toward sin. The thought of “drinking” this cup was so heavy

that it caused Jesus to sweat drops of blood in the garden of Gethsemane. Yet, on the cross, He drank it all.

He took the judgment we deserved until not a single drop was left. Because He suffered the full penalty for us, there is no judgment left for those who trust in Him. The “storm” of God’s justice has passed because the Savior stood in it for us.

Legal Abandonment

As Jesus hung there, a strange darkness covered the land. This was a sign of divine judgment. From that darkness, Jesus cried out: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).

For the first time in eternity, the Son experienced the loss of the Father’s comforting presence. This was not a break in the Trinity (the nature of who God is), but a “legal abandonment.” As the one carrying our sin, Jesus

was receiving the official sentence for our rebellion. He was experiencing the separation from God that we deserved—the agonizing pain of being totally alone and rejected.

This is the heart of redemption: Jesus was rejected so we could be accepted.

Our Debt Transferred

On the cross, a “legal exchange” took place. Jesus did not become a sinner Himself, but He took our place. He died as a substitute for us. Our guilt was **transferred** to Him—which means it was legally moved from our account to His. Every lie, every act of pride, and every secret mistake—past, present and future—was put on Jesus.

This means that on the cross, Jesus wore our “iron collar.” The Bible says in Isaiah 53:5-6: “He was pierced for our rebellion,

crushed for our sins... the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.”

The Bible also says in 2 Corinthians 5:21: “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”

To put it simply: God the Father treated his Son, Jesus, as though he had committed every sin we have ever committed. Because the punishment was placed on him, the “legal debt” was paid in full. This means that **God is perfectly just**—He did not ignore our sins or pretend they didn’t happen. Instead, He made sure the penalty was met.

Now, because the law has been satisfied, God is free to forgive and set free all who accept the sacrifice of Jesus. No one can accuse God of being unfair or unjust for letting sinners go free, because the price has already been paid by another.

*On the cross, Jesus was treated as if
He were guilty of our sins, so that
we could be made right with God.
He was treated as a criminal so
that we could be treated as
children of God.*

THE RESULT: THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

EPHESIANS 1:7 TELLS US THAT THROUGH this blood we have “the forgiveness of sins.” In the original language, the word “forgiveness” means *release*—like a prisoner let out of a cell or a massive debt canceled forever.

The Debt Paid in Full

Imagine standing before a judge with a fine you can never pay. The evidence is clear. The judgment is fair. You are guilty, and you have no way to pay the penalty. Then, a redeemer steps forward and pays your fine in full.

The judge declares the case closed. The debt is satisfied. You walk out of the courtroom a

free person—not because you were innocent, but because your debt was paid by someone else.

Breathtaking Mercy

The Bible describes this forgiveness with images that show how complete God’s mercy really is. It is not a “partial” pardon; it is a total cleansing:

- **Removal:** Our sins are removed “as far as the east is from the west” (Psalm 103:12).
- **Burial:** Our sins are thrown into “the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:19).
- **Erasure:** God says, “their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more” (Hebrews 10:17).

When God says He will “remember no more,” it does not mean He has forgotten the facts of what happened. Instead, it means He has made a divine choice: **He will never**

**bring those sins against you in judgment
again.**

*The iron collar is not just
unlocked; it is gone.*

THE PROOF: A LIVING REDEEMER

IF THE STORY ENDED AT the grave, we would be left wondering if the payment was actually enough. But by raising Jesus from the dead, God the Father showed that the “High Cost” was fully accepted. The resurrection is like a **signed receipt**—it is the proof that our debt is paid in full and the legal exchange is complete.

Three days after his death, Jesus was raised to life. The Bible explains it this way:

He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

—Romans 4:25

God's Receipt

The empty tomb is God's proof that our sin debt is gone. It is His **receipt** to show that the payment for our sins was made in full. If the payment had not been enough, the grave would have held Him. But because He rose, we know that God's justice is satisfied.

The freedom Jesus purchased is not just a story from the past—it is a reality for us today.

*The empty tomb is God's proof to
the world that Jesus once-for-all paid
the full price for our sins.*

THE SOURCE: THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

WHY WOULD GOD DO THIS? Ephesians 1:7–8a says it was “in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us.”

In other words, God did this because His grace is so rich. The word “lavish” means to pour out more than is needed. God did not just give us a drop of mercy; He flooded us with it. He did not wait for us to become “better people” before He acted. He acted because He is rich in love.

The Ladder Versus the Cross

Most religions in the world offer a “ladder” approach to God. They teach that if you climb

high enough and do enough good things, you might eventually reach God. But the message of Jesus offers a **cross**. It tells us that we could never climb high enough, so God came down to us.

On that cross, Jesus cried, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). He did not say, “I have started the work, now you must finish it.” He did not say, “I have paid my half, now you pay yours.” He completed the work entirely.

*Redemption is not a wage you earn
through effort; it is a gift you receive
through faith.*

The iron collar has been broken by His strength, not your own.

The Work of the Triune God

This story of redemption is the work of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—working together.

- **The Father planned it.** Before the world was even created, God the Father chose to love us and provide a way for us to return to Him.
- **The Son completed it.** Jesus Christ, God's Son, paid the high cost through His blood on the cross. He did the work that we could not do.
- **The Holy Spirit applies it.** God the Holy Spirit brings this redemption to our hearts. He awakens us to the truth, helps us to repent of our sins, and gives us the faith to trust in Jesus. Not only that, but He also comes to live inside of us permanently to assure us that we are forgiven and that we now belong to the family of God. He gives us

the strength to live a new life of obedience.

That is why our spiritual deliverance is not fragile or weak. It does not depend on our human effort; it rests on God's divine purpose. We live in this hope until the day when our redemption is final—the day we stand before Jesus, freed forever even from the presence of sin.

*The Father planned our redemption.
The Son completed it.
The Holy Spirit applies it.*

But a gift, no matter how expensive, must be accepted before it belongs to you.

THE RESPONSE: ACCEPTING THE GIFT

PERHAPS YOU FEEL A HEAVY weight of guilt. You may have tried to silence it by keeping busy, trying to be a “good person,” or becoming more religious. But the “iron collar” remains. Deep inside, you realize you are a prisoner to your own sin.

The Good News is that you do not have to stay that way. Redemption is a gift waiting for you to receive it. Here’s how you can receive it:

1. Admit your need. Admit you have sinned and that you cannot remove your own “iron collar.” The Bible says, “Only acknowledge your guilt—you have rebelled against the LORD your God” (Jeremiah 3:13).

2. Turn to God. Turn away from your sins and stop relying on your own strength. The Bible calls this **repentance**. Jesus Himself said, “Repent of your sins and turn to God” (Matthew 4:17).

3. Trust in Christ alone. Believe that the blood of Jesus was the full and final payment for your sins. Accept Him as your Lord and Savior. The Bible says, “If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

Redemption is offered freely because the price has already been paid. The door is open. Your freedom has been purchased.

*Will you receive God's
free gift of freedom?*

Or...

*Will you remain in slavery to sin
and face God's judgment?*

A Prayer of Faith

If you want to accept this gift of freedom from sin, you can pray directly to God right now. These words are not a magic formula; it is the faith and sincerity of your heart that matters. You might pray something like this:

Lord Jesus, I admit that I have lived in the “iron collar” of my own sin. I have gone my own way, and I cannot save myself. I am so sorry for sinning against You. Please have mercy on me, a sinner.

I believe that You are the Son of God who died on the cross to pay my debt in full. I believe You rose from the grave to give me new life.

Right now, I turn away from my sin and I put my trust in You alone.

Forgive me and make me Your child. Help me to live for You from this day forward.

Amen.

If you prayed this, tell someone who follows Jesus and find a Bible-teaching church to help you grow in your new freedom.

LIVING IN FREEDOM

NOW THAT YOU ARE PART of God's family, your journey has just begun. Because you have been redeemed—and Christ has taken your head out of the “iron collar” of sin—your life cannot stay the same. Redemption does more than change where you go after you die; it transforms how you live right now. This drastic change shows up in at least two main ways: **praise** and **obedience**.

#1 – Unending Praise — Even in Suffering

The first response to redemption is praise. The Apostle Peter wrote to believers who were losing their homes and their safety because of their faith. Even so, he began his letter with these words:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

—1 Peter 1:3

Praise in the Fire

It is important to notice that Peter wrote this during a time of intense suffering. Yet, he begins with praise. Why? Because redemption gives us something that pain cannot touch: a living hope and a secure future. He tells them: “In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials” (1 Peter 1:6).

Perspective in Pain

Redemption does not remove suffering, but it changes how we see it. We do not praise God because life is easy; we praise Him because the

Cross has solved our greatest problem forever. When our guilt is removed and our future is safe, we find a peace that the world cannot give. Even our deepest pain is placed in its proper perspective.

Faith Fighting Back

Consider Paul and Silas in prison (Acts 16). Their backs were bleeding and their feet were locked in chains. Yet, at midnight, they were praying and singing hymns to God. Why? Because the metal chains on their wrists were nothing compared to the “iron collar” of sin that Christ had already removed.

*Praise is not pretending that life
does not hurt; it is faith choosing to
trust God's love instead of
falling into despair.*

The heart of a redeemed person says: “If God gave His Son for me, He will not abandon me

now.” That is why we can say with the Psalmist: “I will praise the LORD at all times. I will constantly speak his praises” (Psalm 34:1).

When we truly understand the high cost of our redemption, praise becomes the natural language of the soul. This is the spiritual vision that led Fanny Crosby to write her classic hymn: “*Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!*”

#2 – JOYFUL, GRATEFUL OBEDIENCE

Redemption does more than change the songs we sing—it also changes how we live every day. The Apostle Paul writes, “You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness” (Romans 6:18).

A New Ownership

Redemption means ownership. We “were bought at a price” (1 Corinthians 6:20). To some, this sounds like a contradiction: we are freed from one master only to belong to

another. However, we must realize that no one is truly “independent.” We are all following something—either the “iron collar” of our selfish desires or the leading of a King who loves us. The difference is not in the fact of being owned, but in the heart of the Master.

Our new Master is not harsh. He is the One who suffered for us. Because of this, obedience is not a cold duty—it is a grateful response to the One who gave everything.

*He did not buy us to use us simply
as an object; he bought us to
love us as His own.*

The Rescuer

Imagine a man drowning in the ocean. As he sinks, a rescuer dives in, pulls him to shore, and nearly loses his own life in the process. If that rescued man later ignores or insults his rescuer, we would say something is terribly

wrong. But if he honors and trusts his rescuer, we see the natural response of a grateful heart.

This is how we follow Christ. Our first step of grateful obedience is to publicly tell others about our faith through **water baptism**. By going down into the water and coming up out of it, we show the world what has happened in our hearts: we have been joined with Christ. Just as he died and was buried for our sins, we are “buried” to our old way of life. And just as he was raised to life, we are raised to live a brand-new life following him.

Baptism does not purchase our freedom.

It is simply an act of obedience that shows we have already been set free by Jesus. (More details on baptism can be found here: english.biblebasedhope.com/water-baptism).

It is important to remember that we do not obey to **earn** our freedom—we obey because our freedom has **already been given**.

This changes how we face daily life:

- **We fight sin** not because we fear being rejected, but because we have already been accepted.
- **We live holy lives** not to impress God, but because we belong to Him.
- **We forgive others** because we have been forgiven so much.
- **We endure difficult times** knowing that God is not cruel; He is lovingly training us because we are His children.

Even in hard times, our obedience has meaning. We can say, “My Savior obeyed God even when it meant death. By His grace, I will follow Him.” Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commands” (John 14:15).

Love is the engine of obedience.

*The more clearly we see the cross,
the less we want to rebel.*

REMEMBER YOUR FREEDOM

AS YOU GO FORWARD, KEEP these three truths close to your heart:

- **Never forget what you were rescued from.** Remember the “iron collar” of sin that you were helpless to remove.
- **Never forget what it cost.** Remember the staggering price Jesus paid to set you free.
- **Never forget who now owns you.** You belong to a King who loves you with an everlasting love.

A New Identity

When praise rises from a heart like yours, and when you obey God out of love, the world begins to see the beauty of his message reflected in a human life.

You are no longer defined by your past failures. You are defined by a finished redemption.

A Global Song

This beauty is not for us alone. The song of the redeemed is a global song that will one day fill the heavens:

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy... because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation."

—Revelation 5:9

REDEMPTION

The price has been paid for people of every kind—including you.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Scan here to learn more:



*Never forget what you were
rescued from.*

Never forget what it cost.

*Never forget who now
owns you.*

*A PDF of this booklet is available at
english.biblebasedhope.com.*

A debt you could not pay.

A price He chose to pay.

Imagine a slave bound by an iron collar he could not remove—until a stranger paid a price he could never afford. This staggering story is the picture of our own redemption.

Discover the astonishing depth of what Jesus endured to purchase freedom for sinners. Written for both believers and those exploring faith, this clear and powerful study answers vital questions:

- **The Meaning:** What redemption truly means.
- **The Cost:** The physical, spiritual, and relational suffering of Christ.
- **The Result:** The wonder of full and final forgiveness.
- **The Gift:** How you can personally receive this freedom.
- **The Power:** How God's redemption transforms your life today.

Compelling and clear, this booklet invites you to see the Cross—and your own life—through the lens of God's amazing redemption plan.