

Statement #6 "Father, into Thy hands I commit My Spirit"

Luke 23:46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit." And having said this, He breathed His last.

- Jesus is in the closing moments of His life on the earth after spending 6 hours on the cross. He is exhausted; He is hurt; He is lonely and He is soon to breath His last.
- He cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit." This was the last statement that Luke records in His account and often taught as the last words of the earthly Christ. I tend to lean toward the last words being spoken of in the Gospel of John for reasons that will be identified when we come to the text. Nevertheless, this was definitely in the last moments of His life.
- Notice it was not with a weak voice, but a LOUD VOICE. This is significant because it tells us that He was mustering up last great effort to cry out to God in His hour of need.
- This is a quote from Psalm 31:5 and also happens to be the closing line of the typical Jewish prayer at the end of the night. It was part of the pattern of prayer of entrusting their soul unto God as they planned to slip off into sleep for the night.
- This was also one of the favorite Psalms of the distressed Jew; and if you are reading this right, Jesus most certainly met that qualification. What does a man do while He waits to die on a cross? He reaches out to God. Listen to some of the lines of this Psalm and try to understand the trust He had in the power of the Father.

Excerpts from Psalm 31

- 1-5 In Thee, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be ashamed; in Thy righteousness deliver me. 2 Incline Thine ear to me, rescue me quickly; be Thou to me a rock of strength, a stronghold to save me. 3 For Thou art my rock and my fortress; for Thy name's sake Thou wilt lead me and guide me. 4 Thou wilt pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me; for Thou art my strength. 5 Into Thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.
- 9 Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; My eye is wasted away from grief, my soul and my body {also.}
- 12-14 I am forgotten as a dead man, out of mind, I am like a broken vessel. 13 For I have heard the slander of many, terror is on every side; while they took counsel together against me, they schemed to take away my life. 14 But as for me, I trust in Thee, O LORD, I say, "Thou art my God."
- 15-16 My times are in Thy hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. 16 Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant; save me in Thy lovingkindness.

- 22 As for me, I said in my alarm, "I am cut off from before Thine eyes"; nevertheless Thou didst hear the voice of my supplications when I cried to Thee.
 - 24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the LORD.
- It is quite humbling to look at the cross from this perspective. Jesus was entrusting His soul to the Father. He was not bitter; He was not confused; He was not mumbling. He was trusting in God that He would be delivered!
 - Notice that it is Jesus' spirit that He is committing to God. This carries with it an important lesson for our understanding of the afterlife. What is this "spirit" that Jesus was yielding back to God? There are many uses of "spirit" in the Bible.
 - the wind -Heb 1:7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. (KJV, NKJ)
 - a breath -II Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (KJV)
 - personal sentiment -Matt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - One's intentions -Phil 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
 - Holy Spirit -Acts 2:38 And Peter {said} to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - I am persuaded the "spirit" which is referred to in Luke 23:46 is not of the above, but yet another option, the spirit of life. Paul makes the statement in *1Thes 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Paul revealed that we not only have a body and a soul, but also a spirit. The spirit is not the body or the soul, but what it says, the "spirit". What is the spirit that Paul is referring to?
 - The spirit of life is what was God breathed into Adam and made man a living soul. *Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* Adam was formed out the dust of the ground but had not life until God breathed the spirit of life into him.
 - This is the same spirit of life that was driven from all living during the flood. *Gen 7:21-22 And all flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; 22 of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.*

- The spirit of life resides in the soul of a man and is the force that energizes the body of mankind. The body cannot live without the spirit of life. We find mention of it in other passages of the Bible.
- I am persuaded this is the same “spirit” that Jesus is entrusting to the Father, the spirit of life. This is the life force that keeps the soul alive after it leaves the body and goes on to Hades, the place of disembodied souls. I also believe this is why it is often synonymous with the soul, for both leave together at the same time. The soul lives forever in torment or blessedness for the spirit of life keeps the soul alive!

TO CANAAN’S LAND I’M ON MY WAY #867

To Canaan’s land I’m on my way, Where the soul (of man) never dies;

My darkest night will turn today, Where the soul (of man) never dies.

Dear friends, there’ll be no sad farewells, There’ll be no tear-dimmed eyes,

Where all is peace and joy and love, And the soul of man never dies.

- Ps 104:29 Thou dost hide Thy face, they are dismayed; Thou dost take away their spirit, they expire, and return to their dust.
- Job 33:4 "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
- Job 34:14-15 "If He should determine to do so, if He should gather to himself His spirit and His breath, 15 All flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.
- Luke 8:54-55 He, however, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Child, arise!" 55 And her spirit returned, and she rose immediately; and He gave orders for {something} to be given her to eat.
- Acts 7:59-60 And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon {the Lord} and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" 60 And falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And having said this, he fell asleep.
- The body cannot live without the spirit of life, neither can the soul. When our physical body dies, the soul heads off to HADES, taking the spirit of life with it. We all go to the place of disembodied souls, which is called HADES. It is in HADES that Christians wait for the new body, the incorruptible body, the imperishable body, which replaces the body of our humble state, and will serve God and eternity. It is there that *Rev 21:4 “He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be {any} death; there shall no longer be {any} mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”*
- Those who are not saved by the blood of the Lamb will be raised from HADES to be judged in the lake of fire. Everyone on the planet has a soul and this soul will live forever, either to eternal life or eternal punishment.

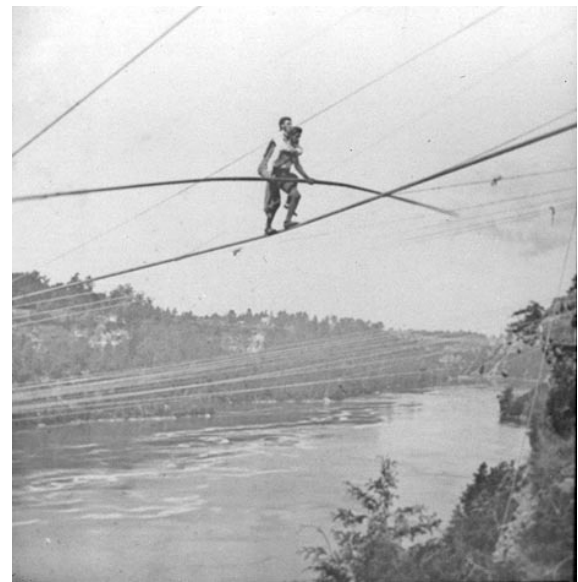
This is what Jesus referred to in *John 5:28-29* "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, 29 and shall come forth; those who did the good {deeds} to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil {deeds} to a resurrection of judgment. The soul of man does not die because the spirit of life is in it.

- The spirit of life is what keeps our mind thinking and our conscience working and our heart beating and our legs walking and our arms moving.
- This is what Jesus entrusting to the Father? I am convinced it is the very spirit of life itself. He did what all of us must do, entrust our very life to the Father. As Job would articulate in Job 1:21 "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." Turn it all over to God; Commit it all unto God! PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLACE THIS THOUGHT IN YOUR HEART TODAY! Jesus hung naked on the cross, nothing else to offer before the Father.
 - He had offered His prayers.
 - He had offered His possessions.
 - He had offered His earthly family.
 - He had offered His time.
 - He had offered His blood.
 - He had offered His body.
 - There was nothing else that He could offer!
- What does a person offer the Father when there is nothing else to offer? All there was left to commit to God was the very "spirit of life" itself, the one thing that was keeping His Him alive. **"Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit."** This is the faith and trust that Jesus had in the Father.

Closing Story:

Niagara Falls, New York has always been the location of the great daredevils of the day. If you studied the history, you would find that many have met their death trying to swim across the river, or going over in the falls in a barrel, or walking across the upstream water in stilts. Recently, there was someone who died trying to jet-ski over the falls. There have been hundreds of daredevils and dozens of deaths over the years at this location.

I would like to take you back to a hot summer day in 1860. This day, something very unique was about to occur. A Frenchman named Jean Francois Gravelot, better known as the "Great Blondin", the greatest tight rope walker of the century, was making yet another walk over the river canyon of Niagara Falls. On the American side of the falls there were a hundred thousand people cheering the "Great Blondin". After reaching the American side, he would turn around and walk the 1100-



foot rope back over to the Canadian side, being cheered another one hundred thousand plus crowd of Canadians. On the last crossing, he thrilled the crowds by pushing a wheel barrel across the falls.

The crowds were cheering wildly, begging the daredevil to one more walk. He yelled down to the crowds "Do you think I am able to carry someone in this wheel barrel over the falls. The crowds cheered wildly "Yes, we think you can!" The Frenchman yelled out again, "Do you think that I am talented enough to do this feat?" The crowds said even louder than before "Yes, we know you can because you are the greatest!"

The "Great Blondin" shouted below, "I need a volunteer!" Did you know he could not find a single volunteer out of hundreds of thousands of sightseers present? What is even more sad is the fact that on a previous crossing, he carried he carried his manager Harry Colcord on his back. Only someone who knew him best could trust him with his life.

Conclusion and Application:

When you kneel to your Father in prayers this week, be willing to season it with the fact that Jesus really did give it ALL for us. He had nothing left over when it was done. Be willing to say with a loud voice unto God, "**Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit.**" When you say it, live like you mean it. Jesus literally gave it all for us; we ought also do the same for Him. Be willing to fully trust Him with everything! Place yourself fully in the hands of the Father today and everyday.

Song 662 "All to Jesus I Surrender"

All to Jesus I Surrender, All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.

All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow;
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power, Let Thy blessing fall on me.