**Crowder, “Red Letters” Devo**

*by Lindsay Williams*

“*He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant written in my blood, blood poured out for you*.’” Luke 22:20 (MSG)

In 1899, a man by the name of Louis Klopsch had an idea. What if there was a version of the Bible that highlighted Jesus’ words in red, in honor of the “new covenant” He made with His people during the Last Supper? He decided to undertake this project, and the first Red Letter edition of the Bible was born.

In Matthew 4:4 Jesus said, “*It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God*.’”

The words Jesus spoke during His 33 years on earth are transformational, and Red Letters highlight His promises. The Bible as a whole tells an epic story of rescue, and Jesus’ words weave a scarlet thread throughout the overarching narrative of His rescue mission. Red Letters reveal the prophesies in the Old Testament that became promises fulfilled in the New Testament.

We’re living in a culture that tells us there’s no such thing as absolute truth. Often, it’s hard to discern fact from fiction. That’s why, as believers, it’s so important for us to know *exactly* what Jesus said. We can learn to look more like Him and think more like Him by studying His words.

The Red Letters also display God’s power. The book of John starts by reminding us: “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* (John 1:1, NIV). Jesus is alive and well through His words. He’s still speaking to His children. Just like He spoke the world into existence, He’s speaking words over us—calling us *chosen*, *beloved* and *worthy*.

Throughout the Bible, every letter written in red is like an arrow pointing us toward Jesus, another clue helping us uncover His character, another chapter in His story.

God is still speaking today through His Word. And the best part? The same God who made those promises over two thousand years ago is the God who still keeps His promises today. Every letter. Written in a beautiful shade of red.

*Then I read the red letters / And the ground began to shake / The prison walls started falling / And I became a free man that day*

**Crowder, “I Know A Ghost” Devo**

*by Lindsay Williams*

“*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you*.” John 14:16-17 (ESV)

Graveyards aren’t normally a great place to hang out; but on the rare occasion that we visit them, they’re a great teacher. They remind us that life is short. Yet, hopefully, they also carry a reminder that there’s more to this life that we hold so dear. There’s something beautiful waiting for us on the other side.

Graveyards can also be a strange reminder of the hope we carry inside us. When Jesus ascended into Heaven, He promised us several things. He promised He would come back for us. He promised He would prepare a place for us. And He promised to send us a Helper here on earth. That Helper is the Holy Spirit, often referred to as the Holy Ghost.

When we accept Christ and invite Him to be Lord of our life, the Holy Spirit inside of us gets supernaturally activated. And He helps us along the way.

That still small voice you hear when you have a big decision to make? That’s the Holy Ghost. When you’re at a crossroads and forced to choose between right and wrong. That nagging feeling in your chest? It’s Him again. The Holy Ghost.

It’s crazy how God can be three in one. Father, Son *and* Spirit*.* Yet, all three facets reveal something about His character. His Holy Spirit side reveals He is always with us and always available to us. He’s literally as close as our next breath. His ghostly form also makes Him invisible.

2 Corinthians 5:7 reminds us, “*For we live by faith, not by sight*.” We can’t see the wind, but we feel it on our face; we see it rustle the leaves, and we know it’s there. The same is true in our relationship with Christ. We can’t see Him in the flesh, but we can feel Him in our spirit; and we know He’s present—leading us, guiding us, going before us.

The truth is, I know a ghost. Do you?

*I’ve been haunted by the things I thought I wanted / I never should have wandered / I let the devil get the best of me / When, oh, my God’s paid a debt for me / I know a Ghost*

**Crowder, “Let It Rain (Is There Anybody)” Devo**

*by Lindsay Williams*

“*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world*.” John 16:33 (NIV)

Farmers know the importance of rain. They can plant their crops at the right time, lining their rows nice and neat. They can fertilize and plow and labor, working hard to ensure every seed is properly planted in the deep, dark soil of the earth. But without rain, their crops will never grow.

*Is there anybody’s sunshine been turned to rain / Is there anybody’s blue sky been turned to gray*

Often, as believers (or just humans, in general), we tend to view rain as a bad thing. It’s inconvenient. It holds us captive indoors. It slows us down and changes plans. It keeps us scanning the horizon for sun. We pray for it to stop.

We rarely ever *ask* God to send rain. Yet, God, being God, knows that to every life, a little rain must fall. Jesus never promised Christians a perfect life. In fact, hardship falls to both the God-filled and the God-less. However, as Christ followers, we know that Jesus walks with us through the hardship.

We may be soaking wet, feeling like the flood waters are going to overtake us at any minute, but we can rest assured that our help comes from the Lord; and He won’t let us drown.

Just like crops need rain, our lives need to be watered. It takes an equal amount of sunshine *and* rain for us to grow into all God created us to be. And just like a good farmer tends to His crops with care, our good Father tends to our hearts with a great deal of intentional care, plowing the fields of our lives—providing equal amounts of sun and water.

Think of it this way… A rainbow only appears *after* the rain. Sometimes it takes a storm to bring out the beauty in our life.

Are you feeling the rain today? Don’t be afraid of the drops. Allow each one to nourish your soul and wash you clean. There is vibrant beauty to be found on the other side of this storm.

*So let it rain, let it pour / Lord, I need You more and more*

**Crowder, “The Sinner’s Cure” Devo**

*by Lindsay Williams*

“*But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin*.” 1 John 1:7 (NLT)

Throughout the Old Testament, animals were sacrificed to the Lord as God’s people sought forgiveness. According to Hebrew law, blood had to be shed as an act of atonement for sins. This is one of the reasons Jesus is often referred to as “The Lamb of God.” Pure, perfect, spotless and sinless, Jesus was sent to the cross as the ultimate atonement for sin. His blood was shed for you and me.

His crucifixion opened the door for a new covenant. The cross eclipsed the law. Jesus’ sacrifice marked a new era. Christians would no longer be defined by the law, but by the cross. We would no longer live under a set of religious rules, but under the authority of a real relationship with the very God who took our sin upon His shoulders.

His blood ran red so that we could have life and live it abundantly. Yet, how often do we forget His sacrifice? How often do we take it for granted?

Sometimes, I wish we could bottle it. Bottle His blood… Not so much the blood itself, but what it represents: His sacrifice, His forgiveness, His love, His compassion, His kindness. I wonder if we had it in a bottle on a shelf in our medicine cabinet, if we would remember to take it like a prescription. I wonder if we would realize that Jesus is *always* the remedy. He provides the healing to any ailment we endure.

*When night’s so long / When everything you tried has failed / There is still return / There is still something pure / There is still love / There is the sinner’s cure*

As humans, I think sometimes we think there’s sin and then there’s SIN. We think God can forgive the lowercase sin. But the ALL CAPS sin? Well, it’s just too big, too ugly, too dirty to forgive. So we settle. We settle for a life of guilt, a life of shame, a life of bondage.

The truth is there is no sin His blood doesn’t cover. There is no sin too big, too ugly or too dirty. Thank God, Jesus Himself is the sinner’s cure.

**Crowder, “Hundred Miles” Devo**

*by Lindsay Williams*

“*Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”* Psalm 103:1-2 (NKJV)

I dare you to sit down and try to make a list of all the ways God has blessed you. I’m betting you’ll run out of paper. There’s a million little ways He blesses us each and every day. Even the sunrise, heralding the start of a new morning, is a blessing from above. Psalm 19:1 says, “*The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship*.”

A smile from a stranger. A helping hand when we need it most. The laughter of a child. The sunshine on our skin. The peaceful quiet of a summer evening. An unexpected kind gesture. A long dinner with friends. Our Creator is among us, if we only take the time to notice His presence.

The Psalms make it clear that David noticed God’s presence in everything. He spent a lifetime trying to wrap words around His beauty and majesty. He penned passage after passage describing God’s blessings and praising Him for them. He wrote line after line describing the character of God and His many attributes. Try making *that* list. You won’t know where to begin.

*And I could sing a song / A hundred miles long / But it won’t compare*

Somehow when we measure our valiant efforts against the riches we discover in Christ, our praise pales in comparison. But that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t attempt to honor and glorify Him in our everyday lives. The songs we sing touch the heart of God. The prayers we pray delight Him. The needs we fill in His name bring Him honor. No, we could never thank Him enough for everything He is and all He provides, but we can offer the meager gifts we have. We can offer Him our time, our talents and our treasures. Above all, we can offer Him our hearts.

Psalm 34:1 says, “*I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises*.”

May His praise always be on our lips for the great things He has done. We may have 10,000 reasons to praise Him, but let’s start with one. What’s one reason to give Him praise today?

*Hallelujah, sing to the Lord / Hallelujah, my soul, my soul rejoice*

**Crowder, “Wildfire” Devo**

*by Lindsay Williams*

“*For our God is a consuming fire*.” Hebrews 12:29 (NIV)

There are numerous instances in the Bible where God’s love is compared to a fire. In fact, Acts describes a moment during Pentecost when God spread like a wildfire:

“*When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks…”*  (MSG)

Think about the characteristics of wildfire. Unbridled. Completely free. Passionate. Fierce. Unrelenting. Uncontrolled. All-consuming. Isn’t this an accurate description of what takes place when God consumes a heart?

The disciples once shared a conversation about how their hearts burned after hearing the Word of the Lord (Luke 24:32). What would it be like to live as if we’re set on fire? How would we live if we poured as much gasoline on our faith as we do on our work or our ambition? How different would our lives look if we allowed our passion for Christ to drive every decision?

Sometimes God lights a fire under us to get our attention and display His power. Just ask Elijah. He called down fire from heaven to prove that God was who He said He was. 1 Kings 18:38-39 shares the story: “*Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, ‘The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!’”*

Sometimes God lights a fire within us to propel us forward into the purpose He has for us; and other times, He lights a fire to show other people He is the way, the truth and the life. Either way, He is glorified by our burning hearts.

Where God’s fire falls, His Spirit’s usually not far behind. When the love of God starts to spread like wildfire, pay attention. It’s a sign He’s on the move. It’s a sign He’s sparking revival. And that spark can start with you and me.

*Testify, I'm living proof / Purified all thanks to You / Glorify is all I wanna do / Come alive, we burn for You / We burn for You*

**Crowder, “Crushing Snakes” Devo**

*by Lindsay Williams*

“*The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.*” Romans 16:20 (NLT)

The story of humanity began with a snake in a garden. God created a beautiful utopia for us to inhabit, but sin entered the garden the moment Satan slithered in and convinced Adam and Eve to eat that apple. Their eyes were opened, and we’ve never been the same since. Now, every day, God is working to restore all of Creation back to its former glory.

It’s interesting that Satan first entered the scene as a snake—a crafty, conniving creature. Temptation and evil are often equated with snakes because of Satan’s well-known appearance in the Garden of Eden. However, in Romans 16:20, God promises to crush Satan beneath our feet. Did you notice what will crush Satan? PEACE.

When we think of peace, we tend to think more of tranquility than trampling. Yet, the Bible advises us to put on shoes of peace to spread the Good News of the Gospel (Ephesians 6:15). That’s one way we can advance God’s efforts of restoration—by walking in peace. Through His peace, He gives us power to halt the devil’s advances.

In Luke 10:19, the Lord says, “*Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you*.”

Peace is a rare commodity in our culture today. It feels like we’re constantly at war, defensively drawing lines in the sand, definitively picking sides. But God calls us to be ambassadors of His peace.

There is a day coming when His peace will reign supreme. The book of Revelation is filled with whimsical imagery that describes Christ’s triumphant return.

*Eyes of fire / Voice of thunder / Tearing through the sky in wonder / Dressed in light we see Him coming / On a horse what’s white like lightning*

A day is coming when He’ll break through the sky, and on that day, Satan’s head will be crushed once and for all. God’s massive restoration project will be complete.

It’s simultaneously an electrifying and terrifying thought. But it’s important for us to remember this is the God we serve. The kind of God who triumphantly rides onto the battlefield on our behalf. The kind of God who victoriously slays our enemy. The kind of God who crushes snakes.