Here are some reflections I have revived from the Holy Spirit during my prayer times. If you find value - then give glory to God, if you find any errors then they will be mine. Rob

When we come to the cross and lay down our sin.

Jesus takes up our sin and it is crucified with Him on the cross.

He died to pay for our sin. This we all know

But we must not stop there, the price Jesus paid gives us forgiveness and a right relationship with God - yes a thousand times yes. But much much more

Jesus bought for us a new life.

Forgiveness is just the beginning - the starting point for our new life.

We have in our hands as it were - Willy Wonka's golden ticket - we just need to go in and live with God, now, moment by moment, hand in hand waking with Jesus, talking with Him and hearing Him and just being with Him, aware of His love all the time.

We have peace beyond circumstance,

joy, hope,

a family of brothers and sisters, healing, wisdom for the asking, God's love poured into us, we have a counsellor immediately available to us and access to the throne room of the universe.

We have a purpose and mission for our life.

We are in a larger world, full of The Holy Spirit and seeing as it were from the mountain top all that He will show us.

We have an understanding of who we are and why the world is how it is and the proper value and priority of things:

Money much lower, people much higher,

Comfort much lower, sacrifice and worship much higher.

History makes more sense, our place in the world makes sense. We know where we ultimately are going and who is travelling with us on the way

And I have just scratched the surface of God's generosity towards us and am not really doing justice to the full glory of what we have in Christ all that forgiveness and being right with God in Christ opens up for us.

Yet with all this I, we, slip back so easily into the mundane so quickly letting small things worry us and remove our peace. We take our eyes off Jesus and so easily are distracted.

But God is still by our side waiting to resume the walk we started, ready to heal again and forgive again, and continue our growth in Him, making us more like Jesus.

Jesus knows our frailty, He knows our future,

He knows the sin we will commit this afternoon, tomorrow, the silly, selfish and hurtful things we will do next week and next month.

He knows all the times we will wander off this golden road we walk on with Him to be distracted by a weed or a pebble of no value.

He knows all the evil we are yet to do AND HE STILL LOVES US SUPREMELY!

Knowing all this He still gently holds our hand and walks with us.

We can never surprise Him with our sin

He knew before He offered us salvation all that we would do wrong in the future, and still offered us salvation.

There is nothing you or I can do that will cause Him to turn his back on us! Nothing! Think on that!

With Paul I say:

Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

Rom 8:39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus said (paraphrased a little)

Joh 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they shall <u>never</u> perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. Joh 10:29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch [you and I] out of [our] Father's hand.

And in the book of Hebrews we hear these words

Heb 13:5b ... God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

So when doubts assail, when you sin again, when Satan lies to you that you are not worthy, that you are not a real Christian and that surely God can't forgive you again, when temptation comes, and worry steals your peace, when we are distracted by busyness and not spending time with God

Then RUN don't walk, Run, leap into Jesus arms, cry, confess and receive His forgiveness, cleansing and love, and resume walking with Him, and talking with Him moment by moment

In the words of Joseph Scriven:

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged—take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Saviour, still our refuge — take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In His arms He'll take and shield you, you will find a solace there.

Blessed Saviour, You have promised, You will all our burdens bear; May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to You in earnest prayer.

Soon in glory bright, unclouded, there will be no need for prayer — Rapture, praise, and endless worship, will be our sweet portion there.

(Scripture NIV)