



Dear Brother Faull,

I heard you say that Jesus was not fearful of the cross and the cup He wished not to drink was not the cross. I think you are wrong.

Answer:

It's okay to disagree with me, I've been wrong before about several things.

I wouldn't be surprised if you haven't been wrong once or twice in your life. It is not something to look upon the other as a false teacher.

Here is why I believe this prayer was not about His dying on the cross.

FIRST

Before the foundation of the earth, the cross was the plan of God and the Fathers' Will.

SECOND

He came to do the Father's Will and always did do the Father's Will and He knew that the cross was His destiny.

THIRD

He repeatedly had told His disciples that He would be crucified and raised from the dead on the third day.

FOURTH

He knew that there was no other way for sin to be forgiven but by the shedding of blood of the perfect, sacrificial Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world.

He came into the world to save sinners. Therefore, it is in my judgment, ludicrous to say, He was praying to the Father to remove the cup of the death on the cross.

This questions His manhood and Deity to believe He was afraid to face the cross.

We are told in all Gospels some amazing things in:

Matthew 26:37-38, "37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and **began to be sorrowful and very heavy**. 38 Then saith he unto them, **My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death**: tarry ye here, and watch with me."

Mark 14:33-36, "33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and **began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy**; 34 And saith unto them, **My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death**: tarry ye here, and watch. 35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, **if it were possible, the hour might pass from him**. 36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things *are* possible unto thee; take away **this cup** from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."

Luke 22:41-44, "41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, 42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove **this cup** from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. 43 And there **appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him**. 44 And **being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**"

LOOK AT THESE CAREFULLY:

- He began to be sorrowful and very heavy and claimed, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death."
- He began to be sore amazed and very heavy. And again, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful unto death."
- He asked, "This cup be taken from me, not My Will, but Thine be done."
- An angel appeared as they did at His first great temptation and strengthened Him.
- He was in agony, great drops as of blood fell down to the ground.

QUESTIONS:

- × What caused Him to be "sore amazed" and "very heavy"?
- × Was He or was He not exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death?

- × Was it necessary for Him to be strengthened by an angel or not, in order to be able to fight His battle with Satan?
- × Was He in great agony or not, in the garden?
- × Did He drop great drops as of blood to the ground, or not?
- × Did He pray more exceedingly for the cup to pass and was His prayers heard (that is, answered)?

Read **Hebrews 5:7-8** and ask yourself if these verses do not describe the garden event.

“7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him **that was able to save him from death**, and was **heard in that he feared**; 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;”

QUESTION:

What was He praying for?

ANSWER:

That He may be saved from death.

QUESTION:

Was He heard?

ANSWER:

Yes. He did not die in the garden, but was saved from death.

QUESTION:

Was He saved from death on the cross?

ANSWER:

No, because that was not His concern.

He was the author and finisher of the cross plan. He faced that with joy and endured the cross and despised the shame.

Hebrews 12:2, “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Jesus fought in prayer for His life in the garden as Satan made a desperate attempt to stop the plan of the cross by not letting Christ get to the cross. The cup He faced was dying in the garden before He could fulfill the Father’s only plan and Will to die on the cross and became a curse for us.

A perfectly healthy and emotionally stable God-man did not have an attack of fearful anxiety to what men were going to do to Him.

Many a man has sat in a jail cell and seen the gallows outside his window knowing that death would follow the next morning, and gallantly walked out to be hung or shot by a firing squad.

Jesus was no trembling coward. He was one greatly attacked by Satan, who sought His life in the garden. It was not ordinary. He sweat as if drops of blood. He was amazed and very heavy and troubled to the point of death. But Jesus overcame him and went on to die on the cross as planned of the Father.

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that **through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;**”

--**Hebrews 2:14**

Jesus had said these words: “But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!” **Luke 12:50**

The word “straitened” is the word *sunecho* (4912) to “hold together”.

Jesus was concerned until He would complete His assignment on the cross. He had told James and John of a baptism of suffering that they must endure.

Matthew 20:22-23, “22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. 23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but *it shall be given to them* for whom it is prepared of my Father.”

“The cup” is not always about the cross, for they did not endure a cross, but they did drink the cup of suffering He foretold of them.

John 12:24-27 throws further light on our subject. In verse 24, He had said the hour is come that the Son of man would be glorified. He points out that corn must fall in the ground and die or it cannot bring fruit and one must hate his own life in order to keep it.

He then demands that His servants must follow His example but “Now is my soul troubled and should I say Father, save me from this hour? Was it not for this cause I came into this hour?”

I, for one, cannot imagine that He would pray to avoid the cross when He came for this very cause. This does not mean, however, that I do not regard you as my Brother-in-Christ because you do not agree with me!