

The Ultimate Sting

1 Corinthians 15:15:50-57

1 Corinthians 15:55 - "O death where is your victory? O death where is your sting?"

Josh Barnett of Nashville, TN, tells of a stressful episode in his life when his wife came running in, holding their crying one-year-old son. He had been stung by a wasp! Sobbing tears, their son looked up at them wondering why they couldn't take away the sting. Josh's first concern was for his son's swollen finger. Since that was the first time to be stung, he wondered if he would have a life-threatening allergic reaction. Thankfully, there was none. His second reaction was anger. He wanted to burn the old dog house where the wasps had their nest.

His fatherly anger brought to mind another son who received the ultimate sting. Paul recounts the death of Jesus' victory as God's deadly sting. He stated, "O death where is your victory? O death where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The ultimate sting of sin was considered to be death. Christ bore this sting through His death on the cross. Can you imagine the Heavenly Father allowing His only begotten Son to be stung on purpose? A sting which we deserve . . . but which Christ took for our sake. How does the Heaven Father feel when we reject this ultimate sacrifice?

God's Plan for Man's Salvation