



I “WOOD”

Written by: Vivian Farid
St Mina Church, Clearwater, FL

We are very confident when we come to the conclusion that Almighty God does not do anything by chance. The more we study the Holy Bible, the more we are convinced that God plans everything, from the most obvious to the most minuscule detail. However, we believe that St Joseph's godliness was enough to rear a Godly Child, yet there is much more than meets the mind's eye when contemplating this intriguing idea further. St Joseph, being a carpenter therefore was not haphazardly chosen nor was his livelihood less considered. Why?

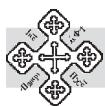
The first and foremost point that comes to mind is the clear recognition that a carpenter's life and the Lord Jesus Christ's death are both interwoven by a **transformed piece of wood**—the carpenters' work and the Lord Jesus Christ on the Holy Cross. I'm sure throughout His youth, the Lord Jesus Christ witnesses many times how His earthly father would concentrate, look from different angles, imagine the future, focus on his thoughts and ultimately shape an otherwise useless object to an essential part of daily life.

The Lord Jesus Christ, in equivalence, concentrated and looked beyond the death on the Holy Cross, focused on His Mission and ultimately altered the outcome by conquering death and resurrecting



St Joseph and the Godly Child

mankind with Him. He wants us to overcome our nearsightedness and afflictions as well. Not brooding on the trivial and fleeting moments of our earthly sojourn is a necessity. We need to have Heaven's



eyes instead of earthly ones, where we can see right through the physical barriers into the spiritual freedom.

As any craftsman knows, it takes a lot of thinking, energy, and plain hard work to accomplish anything that has worth. The carpenter at the Lord Jesus Christ' childhood had a few tools in his belt but they all needed man power, of course. The hammer, saw, and awl were useless, unless a man used his energy. By the end of the day, with sawdust on the floor and sweat rolling down his brow, St Joseph's muscles must have ached and his power completely spent, yet a warm feeling of accomplishment probably overtook him.

The Lord, as well, chose to take on the abuse, drops of sweat rolling down His brow in Gethsemane, the whip, the nails, the crown of thorns. The Lord Jesus Christ used all of Himself as a sacrifice to accomplish the salvation of His children. As a carpenter constructs an object through his painstaking effort, it becomes an important part of another's' life. He proceeds to destroy and peel away layers of **wood** to reveal its potential. Likewise, the Lord Jesus Christ had to destroy the flesh and tear away through sin to reveal God's Glory. Thankfully, He has become an essential part of our very existence.

Just as God redeemed Adam by being a man and redeemed Eve by being born from a woman, the Lord Jesus Christ redeemed the tree by the death on the Holy Cross. In the Garden of Eden, through the serpents' lies, Adam and Eve, both chose the bad from the Tree of Knowledge. Therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ overshadowed the bark of the tree, the core of its knowledge and chose the good, cleansing it with His Holy Blood.

The **gopher wood** used for Noah's Ark, the acacia wood for the Ark of the Covenant, and the almond

tree wood of Aaron's rod, all used as a tool to gather mankind towards God. Just as a rod of the Shepherd directing His flock in safety and reassurance to their Heavenly Home. And ultimately, the **wood of the Holy Cross** for whoever believes shall have everlasting life.

You would think that the occupation of the guardian was not an essential point when rearing the Lord Jesus Christ, but as you can conclude, it is quite the contrary. Plainly, God does not leave anything to chance. St Joseph, being a carpenter must have been meticulously been planned out. Our careers are eventually what we become, especially when we spend most of our time at work. For the ones who are choosing a profession, chose one with God in mind. For the ones who have a career, put God in it. I "**WOOD.**"

Crossword Solution

A	T	A	L	E		S	T	O	N	E
C	H	R	I	S	T	B	U	R	D	E
H	A	M	M	E	R	R	E	U	E	L
O	M		P	R	O	M	I	S	E	S
R	A	N		A	N		F	O	E	
	R	E	S	T	S	G	R	A	I	N
		B	A	R		E	I	N		
		H	A	D	E	S	B	O	R	E
B	A	T		O	I	L		R	A	M
E	T		G	A	R	M	E	N	T	M
D	E	B	A	T	E	S	A	Y	E	S
I	S	A	I	A	S	S	I	R	R	E
S	T	A	N	D		S	E	A	L	S