

"And when He had called the people unto Him with His disciples also, He said unto them, 'Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.'" Mark 8:34 KJV



Taking up a Roman cross identified one as a “dead man walking” and there was no recourse nor escape. We can follow Jesus with our cross or stay behind. True faith is the point of no return and it will not consider even the life of the body over pursuit of God. Satan lures men into sin with comfort and ease and we have forsaken faith for frivolity. Freedom is never free. If you would be comfortable, then you will never be free. *“I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice...which is your REASONABLE SERVICE.”* It requires a “living sacrifice” to follow God. You can’t savor lust and eternal life at once any more than you can mix light and shadow. *“No man can serve two masters.”* God hates fence straddlers. *“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. He that gathereth not WITH me scattereth abroad.”* If you’re working not with God, you are against Him. More than that, passive negligence towards God’s Word is active aggression against God! Your non-acquiescence is actually loudly proclaiming to all that you believe God is a liar! The life of the soul is not found in obedience to the body, but to God’s Word through faith. God is Life. Without Him, there is only death. You cannot serve the life of the body and live eternally. You can’t have both. You must die to carnal desire to live eternally! *“So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (kill) the deeds of the body, ye shall live. Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep (obey) His commandments. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”* If you struggle for earthly comfort, your eternal life is lost. Only God can resurrect the dead! There is no Life without Him, physical or spiritual. Those pursuing pleasure are slowly killing their soul. The more you indulge the flesh, the stronger it becomes. Ask any alcoholic or drug addict if they are stronger than their desire. If you would be victorious over sin, you must bind the flesh with obedience to Truth. Obedience to Truth is the whip that subdues lust. You may fall in the mud, but you don’t have to stay there. There’s no reason to wallow in the filth of sin. Father will forgive and cleanse if we but come to Him and confess.

Leave lusts of flesh and sin behind,
And let the Truth command your mind,
Let Light from every action shine,
So men may see your Love divine. ~CGP

You cannot resist temptation. That is why we must flee from it. Through faith in Christ, obedience to God’s Word, you are “*more than conqueror.*” Staying away from people, places, and things that tempt you to sin is fleeing from it. Don’t wait till you’re tempted and then run. It’ll be too late! Taking up your cross will separate you from the world. We resist Satan by drawing nigh to God. We draw nigh to God by obedience to Truth.

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." Romans 6:11-12 KJV