

# Take Up Your Cross

**“And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).**

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To take up the cross does not mean to endure some irritating burden, but to renounce self-centered ambitions. To put the interests of the Kingdom first.

When the Lord Jesus issues an invitation to “Follow Me,” it is accompanied by certain conditions. First, it requires a total commitment of our lives to Him. He said, “IF any man will come after ME.” Committal has the meaning of deposit. When we deposit money in the bank, we leave it here for safe keeping. In committing (depositing) our lives to Him, we give them to Him unreservedly.

Jesus said that we must deny self to follow Him. We must give up all rights to our lives, relinquishing our interests, ambitions, goals, desires, even our own ability.

As we deny self, we must take up the cross of submission to His will for our lives. Paul wrote, **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).**

Jesus said there must be consistency in following Him. We must follow Him daily; not just when we want to, or when we feel like it. It costs something to deny self, take up our cross, and follow Him. However, he doesn't force this commitment on us, the choice is ours.

One day the well known Evangelist George Mueller was asked the secret of the power of God working in his life. He replied, “There was a day when George Mueller died, died to George Mueller, his opinions, preferences, tastes, and will; died to the world, its approval or censure, died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends. Since then I have studied only to show myself approved to God.”

Jesus' invitation is to all. **“Then He spoke to them ALL: If anyone wants to follow in my footsteps, he must give up all rights to himself, carry his cross every day and keep close behind me” (Luke 9:23, Phillips).** God can use anyone who is willing to do this.