



Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

Pastor Mike Suarez Sr.

Monthly Newsletter

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**Luke 9:23** - “And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me” Jesus commands every born-again Christian to take up his Cross daily. Jesus has already paid the full price for every man or woman to come to Him for salvation. Jesus has done everything for us at the Cross so that we can live a Victorious Christian Life. John 19:30 says, “Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ***“It is finished!”*** And He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.” All we have to do as Born-Again Christians is believe and by faith the victory is ours.

### HOW DOES A CHRISTIAN TAKE UP

#### HIS CROSS DAILY?

**DENY YOURSELF:** “...If any man will come after Me, **let him deny himself...**”

Self-denial is a battle that says, “Sin ends today”. You have made up your mind to deny any sin that will separate you from a Holy God. (Isa.59:2) In order for you to take up your Cross daily you must be willing to surrender your all to Jesus. When Jesus was given His Cross and was being led to be crucify, He was not thinking of changing His mind and not dying for mankind after it got hot. Jesus denied Himself at the time He left heaven so that He could die for the salvation of every lost soul. Today we must also deny ourselves at the very moment of our salvation and must continue denying

ourselves daily if we are going to be like Jesus. You must be willing to deny whatever comes between you and Jesus. Before you can even “TAKE UP YOUR CROSS” you must be willing to deny yourself. Deny what? Self, World, Sin, Comfort Zone, Your Will – whatever will keep you from taking up your Cross. When a Christian is living in sin, he cannot take up his Cross and follow Jesus. It is impossible for him to take up his Cross because when you take up your Cross, it means that you have died with Jesus. A Christian who refuses to deny himself is still carnal and cannot “take up his Cross daily”. These types of Christians are not willing to let go or repent of sin or sins or bad habits. You cannot enter the second stage of Luke 9:23, if there is no true repentance of sin. “He that covereth his sins sha lot proper” Proverbs 28.13a KJV In other words, “You cannot take up your Cross daily” and live the new life in Christ. When the Christian is playing with sin he is alive to the sinful nature. If the Christian repents of his sins with all his heart he will prosper. “... **But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.**” Prov. 28:13b KJV When the Christian surrenders his all to Jesus and forsakes his sins he is now able to take up his Cross daily, like Jesus. When you take up your Cross there is no turning back. You are a dead man walking! The Christians who now are taking up the Cross daily have been “**Baptized into His death.**” Rom. 6:3 God has prospered you spiritually where you can now see that when Jesus died on the cross you also died. Galatians 2:20 has now become real to you when you decided to go all the way and to deny yourself. “**I am crucified with Christ..**” You decided once

and for all to crucify the sinful nature by faith. “They that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” Galatians 5:24 Once you have denied yourself and by faith died with Christ you can take up your cross.

### **TAKE UP YOUR CROSS -DAILY “... and take up his cross daily,**

When a real Christian has taken up his cross daily it means a **DEATH TO EVERY SIN**. When you come to the Cross it is the only door to Life, the very Life of God, for everyone who accepts Jesus as Savior. But it is also the starting point of **DEATH** when you take up your Cross daily (death to every sin) for the Christian that has surrendered his all to Life. In the days of Jesus when they saw a man carrying his Cross, it meant that the man was on his way to be crucified. There was no way out for him. He was a “**Dead Man**” walking. Today, many so-called Christian talk about carrying their Cross, but are full of the devil and indulging in the desires of the sinful nature. They claim that they have died to self, but their actions prove different. When a Christian is really taking up his Cross daily, it means that Jesus’ death is his death. He understands that when Jesus died, he also died with Jesus (His sinful nature) 2,000 years ago. The true meaning of the Cross is that Jesus bled and died to break every chain of sin that had us in bondage. The Christian that has taken up his Cross is set free from the power of sin and the sinful nature. You are free from whatever bondage or stronghold, because you now believe the Word of God when it says; “For if we have

become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that **our old self was crucified with Him**, in order that **our body of sin might be done away with**, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.” Romans 6:5-6 So, the Christian that is taking up his Cross daily is now walking a **New Life with Christ**. (2Corinthians 5:17) After the Christian has by faith denied himself and takes up his Cross **DAILY**, he now walks a Victorious Christian life.

### **FOLLOW ME - “And follow Me.”**



You have been crucified on the Cross by faith. Dying in Christ is an act of faith and we have to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God through Jesus Christ. By faith we are in Christ. The moment we were **Born Again**, we have been in Christ and we entered into everything that happened to Jesus. All His victories as well as His crucifixion. The Bible says that once we embrace the cross, we are crucified with Christ and we are resurrected with Him into a New Life. Sin no longer has any dominion over us. **WE ARE NOW WALKING IN THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION.** His anointing is ours by faith! When Jesus said, “FOLLOW ME,” He was saying,

**“AFTER MY RESURRECTION”** you will be able to walk the Christian Life in Victory, if you do MY WILL by Faith. All the benefits of the Cross are yours by