

THE CROSS BEFORE THE CROWN



(Text Passage: Acts 2:22-32)



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- Jesus experienced the cross before the crown of glory.
- Jesus hung on the cross, before He sat on the throne!
- Jesus knew what was coming. (**John 19:17-19; Matt. 17:22-23**)
- Jesus predicted His suffering, death, and resurrection. (**Mark 8:31; Mark 10:32-33; Luke 18:31-33**)
- Jesus wore a mocking crown given by men. (**John 19:1-5**)
- Today Jesus wears a victorious crown given by God! (**Heb. 2:5-9**)
- Which came first for Jesus? The cross or the crown?
- Text passage: **Acts 2:22-32**. (Peter's sermon on Pentecost)



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- **Our tendency to avoid the struggle.**
- Water seeks the least amount of resistance.
- Do people today seek the easiest way?
- The one talent man syndrome. (**Matt. 25:14-28**) What way did he seek?
- The prodigal son's insolence. (**Luke 15:11-12**)
- Jesus said; **John 9:4**; "**I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the night is coming when no one can work.***"
- **Luke 17:10**; "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. **We have done what was our duty to do.**' "

The son asked for his inheritance.

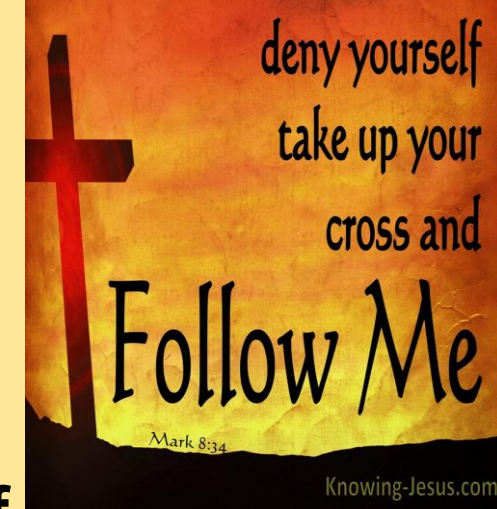




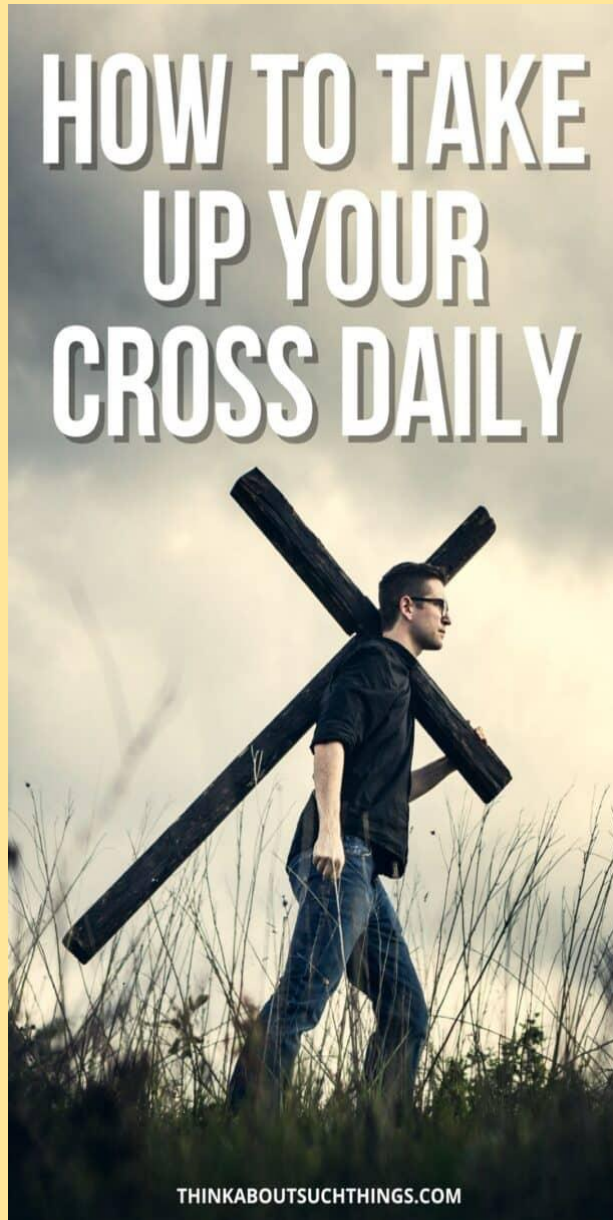
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- **Our cross to bear.**
- A Christian's duty—**Luke 9:23: “Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”**
- Christians live a life of denial and sacrifice.
- We should show “*sacrifice & service of our faith.*” (**Phil. 2:17**)
- Our sacrificial nature should be continual in nature. (**Heb. 13:15-16**)
- The daily bearing of your cross of faith includes denial and action and following Jesus!
- Our sacrifices include our spiritual worship to God. (**1 Peter 2:5**)
- How are you doing in denying and “*taking up your cross*” daily and following Jesus?



HOW DO I DO THAT?



WAYS IN WHICH A CHRISTIAN CAN TAKE UP HIS CROSS

- **Self-denial** — Choosing God's will over personal impulses.
- **Sacrificial love** — Putting others first.
- **Enduring hardship faithfully** — maintaining hope and prayer during trials.
- **Standing for truth** — Holding to biblical convictions even when unpopular.
- **Repentance and humility** — Admitting faults, seeking forgiveness.
- **Spiritual discipline** — Prayer, Scripture reading, worship, and accountability.
- **Serving the marginalized** — Caring for the poor, lonely, sick, or oppressed.
- **Forgiving others** — Letting go of resentment, even when deeply hurt.
- **Living counter-culturally** — Choosing purity, integrity, generosity, and compassion in environments that reward the opposite.
- **Sharing the gospel** — Speaking about faith with gentleness and courage.



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- ❖ The crown we desire.
- ❖ What is the greatest reward you can achieve?
- ❖ Man's crowns perish away. (**1 Cor. 9:24-25**)
- ❖ You want a crown of righteousness. (**2 Tim. 4:8**)
- ❖ You want a crown of glory. (**1 Peter 5:4**)
- ❖ You want the crown of life. (**Rev. 2:10; James 1:12**)
- ❖ Only God can present you with that crown of righteousness, of glory and of everlasting life.
- ❖ But you must remember your cross will come before your crown.



THE LORD'S INVITATION

“Come unto Me All ye that Labor”

- Hear the Gospel message, of Jesus dying for your sins. (**Rom. 10:17**)
- Believe that Jesus is the Son of God. (**Acts 8:37**)
- Repent of your sins. (**Acts 2:28**)
- Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God. (**Rom. 10:9-10**)
- Be baptized for the remission of your sins. (**Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21**)
- Live a faithful Christian life. (**Rev. 2:10**)

