

Luke 9:23 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.**

His cross is where everything culminated. His blood flowed and our sins were washed away – it was finished. The emblem of suffering and shame. Father, thy will be done. Your love for me knows best. If you have accepted Jesus you are a child of God. Only sons will take up their cross. This is how we know Him. It's the only way we will finish with joy. Just as His life couldn't be made perfect or complete except through the sufferings appointed to that cross, so it is that our life cannot be made perfect without embracing the cross that Christ has for us. See the joy He's set before us.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

2 Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

The world is trying to distract us to steal our crown. He said hold it fast.

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Just as His cross caused Him to cry out – it is finished, the same power is for us, until we say I have finished my course. Daily, not once a month or once a week. This is not work, its grace. Grow daily, from glory to glory.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Christ is your life, you are bought with a price. Sometimes we may want another's cross instead of our own. God gave you the life you have, everything that came your way. There are things that make us despair of our life. God gave us exactly what we need; strength, weakness, talent, emotions, just look to Him. There is only one thing that will give us strength and encouragement to take our cross. It's called joy, which is to delight with gladness, and to have peace and rest. The same inspiration that caused Jesus to take up His cross – Joy.

Nehemiah 8:10 . . . the joy of the LORD is your strength.

We joy in His cross – He rejoices in our cross. He knows it's your cross that will enable you to reign with Him. Let Christ be magnified in me. He will show her glory. A Bridegroom that loves His wife.

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Taking up the cross is to hold it high, this is praise. You're my joy unspeakable and I'm full of Your glory. Why do we marry and have children? You know you will have increased heartache and sorrow. We go through it because the suffering isn't worthy to be compared with the joy. How much more infinite, God is offering you your cross. Oh, that I might be His bride. This is for you. It's the will of God. Not just to know Him as Father and friend – but as your Bridegroom. Take your cross from Him daily. Be strengthened in joy. Christ in me the hope of glory!