

1  **Bearing Our Cross**2  **If anyone desires to come after me...**3 

(Matthew 16:24) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (NKJV)

4 

(Matthew 16:24) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (NKJV)

5  **Deny Self**

Deny self-directed

- Thoughts
- Standards
- Inclinations

-

6  **Deny Self**

Deny Selfishness

- What am I getting?
- vs. Concern for Others
- Seeking God's Will

-

7  **Take up your cross**

Jesus uses this concept many times

8 

(Matthew 10:38-39) "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. (NKJV)

9 

(Mark 10:21) Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." (NKJV)

10 

(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. (NKJV)

11  **Jesus Bore His Cross**

Greek - *Strong's #941.*

bastazw bastazo, bas-tad'-zo

...to lift, literally or figuratively (endure, declare, sustain, receive, etc.):--bear, carry, take up.

12  **Jesus Bore His Cross**

- To bear = to carry, to take up
- Jesus took the weight of our sins
- Jesus went through pain & agony

13  **His Cross**14  **His Cross**

- Only Jesus could bear
- What He had to go through
 - to fulfill the Father's will
 - to provide redemption
 - to provide reconciliation

15  **Anticipating the Cross**

(Matthew 26:39) He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." (NKJV)

- 16  **His Cross**
(Matthew 26:39) He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."
(NKJV)
- 17  **"not my will, but thine"**
- 18  **His Cross**
(Luke 22:42) saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." (NKJV)
- 19  **Your Cross**
- Only you can accept the burden
 - There are unpleasant things you must endure
- 20  **Tribulations**
(Acts 14:22) strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." (NKJV)
- 21  **Persecutions**
(2 Timothy 3:12) Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
(NKJV)
- 22  **Endure**
(Hebrews 12:1) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (NKJV)
- 23  **Bear Our Own Load**
(Galatians 6:4-5) But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load. (NKJV)
- 24  **Your Cross**
There may be things that run contrary to your "nature"
"That's just the way I am"
"That's just the way God made me"
- 25  **"natural" vs. "spiritual"**
(1 Corinthians 2:14) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
(NKJV)
- 26  **God Will Help**
(1 Corinthians 10:13) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (NKJV)
- 27  **God Will Help**
(1 Corinthians 10:13) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (NKJV)
- 28  **God Will Help**
(1 Corinthians 10:13) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (NKJV)
- 29  **Brethren Can Help**
(Galatians 6:1-2) Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (NKJV)
- 30  **Brethren Can Help**
(Galatians 6:1-2) Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (NKJV)

- 31  **Brethren Can Help**
(Galatians 6:1-2) Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (NKJV)
- 32  **"Follow Me"**
(John 6:38) "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. (NKJV)
- 33  **Doing God's Will**
(Acts 13:22) "And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' (NKJV)
- 34  **Doing God's Will**
(Mark 3:35) "For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother." (NKJV)
- 35  **Doing God's Will**
(1 Peter 4:1-2) Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. (NKJV)
- 36  **Doing God's Will**
(Matthew 7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. (NKJV)
- 37  **Doing God's Will**
(John 7:17) "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. (NKJV)
- 38  **Doing God's Will**
(Romans 12:1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (NKJV)
- 39  **Doing God's Will**
(Romans 12:2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)
- 40  **Doing God's Will**
(Ephesians 6:6) not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, (NKJV)
- 41  **Doing God's Will**
(1 John 2:17) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (NKJV)
- 42  **Do you want to follow Jesus?**
- Have you DENIED SELF?
 - Have you TAKEN UP YOUR CROSS?
 - Do you FOLLOW HIM (DO HIS WILL)?
- 43  **You can follow Him...**
- Into Heaven
 - In a meaningful life of service to others
 - In conforming to His Death, Burial & Resurrection
- 44 
(Romans 6:3) Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (NKJV)
- 45 
(Romans 6:4) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as

Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (NKJV)

46 

(Romans 6:5) For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, (NKJV)

47 

(Romans 6:6) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (NKJV)

48 

(Romans 6:11) Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)