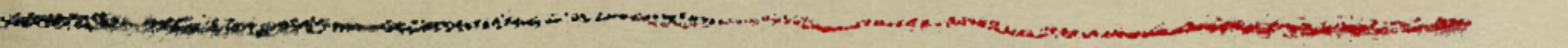




Part three: the cross and the process of 'dying daily'



*The mystery of the cross
is at work
throughout our lives*

Many christians have not even heard of the cross' work

- *They think adverse circumstances are always the work of the enemy*
- *They are always trying to find new methods to strengthen their faith*
- *They reject the baser flesh but respect and live in religious flesh*
- *They are unclear about the dividing of soul and spirit*

*Those who've tried,
failed, known
defeat and self-
hatred find the
cross as 'good
news' once again*



the riddle of the cross

- 1. you can come unto him by embracing his
but can only come after him by embracing yours*
- 2. you cannot bear it by yourself
another bearer waits to help*
- 3. it seems to be heavy but lightens with walking
yet without its weight you're too heavy to walk*
- 4. once taken you are never free of it
but only free under it*
- 5. its shadow so totally eclipses you
but others see son light reflecting in you*

Last time we solved this crucial mystery

2. *you cannot bear it by yourself
another bearer waits to help*

You cannot bear it by your 'self'

- *Only Christ (in you) can live the christian life*
- *He never expected you to defeat SIN by striving in your own well-intentioned energy*
- *He actually had to put up 'roadblocks' to teach you this l*



*Here's the mystery: the effect
of His cross on your cross*

*Until the victory of
His cross becomes
fixed in our understanding
we cannot carry
our cross*

The crisis is resolved by the knowing His cross' work Rom. 6.6-7

Rom. 6.6-7 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him,

- We see as finished that our old man 'has been co-crucified with Christ'*

in order that our body of sin might be done away with,

- Our sinful body no longer controls our life*

so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

- "sin" as a power is no longer master since the 'new man' is Christ in you*



*Now, because of His cross, you
are able to pick up your cross
and follow after Him*

Your identity crisis is resolved as you bear your cross

- *In baptism you testified that 'you have died and your life is hid with Christ in God' (col. 3.3)*
- *In witnessing you show that you now live for Him and not yourself*



*Your ability crisis is resolved
as you see who lives in you*

- *‘yet not I but Christ lives in me and the life I now live...’ (Gal. 2.20)*
- *‘I can do all things through Him who strengthens me’ (Phil. 4.13)*

*We have gone through two
crises and now come to the
daily process of dying*

*4. once taken you are never free of it
but only free under it*

What has to die now?

“I thought our worldly identity was dead”

- Gal. 6.14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world

“I thought our old man was dead”

- Col. 3.3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

What has to die now?

*You as a new creation in Christ still
have to die to self on a daily basis*

*There are daily disciplines of body, soul
and spirit*

*There are also daily sacrifices of love
and service rendered to the Master*

Therefore the cross works 'in you' daily

Do we have the long-range view?

John 3.30 "He must **increase**, but I must **decrease**

The way to fullness involves an emptying of self so that Christ can fill your life more and more

This transformation process in the hands of the Holy Spirit also takes us on a journey where we learn to live and serve in His kingdom

The daily process stated

Luke 9.23 # *And He was saying
to them all, "If anyone wishes
to come after Me,
he must deny himself,
and take up his cross daily
and follow Me.*

The daily process stated

- *Gal. 5.13 ¶ For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another*
- *By the grace of God you have been set free from sins and sin to live for Him*
- *You must choose what to do with your freedom*

The daily process stated

- Luke 9.24-25 *“For whoever wishes to save his life (soul-life) will lose it, but whoever loses his life (soul-life) for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”*
- *Your self now has the option of preservation, gratification or sacrifice*

*Your self has been redeemed,
cleansed, sanctified, set free*

- *so Jesus is not talking about denying your old self*
- *But you as a person must learn to walk in the Spirit not the flesh*
- *Your self must be trained in the unnatural art of living by the life of Another*
- *So if you want to follow the Lord there must be 'self' denial*

Jesus always had a 'self'

- *But his spirit told his body to get up without a full night's sleep to pray*
- *But he served the multitudes with compassion even when others told him to rest*
- *He had personal preferences but did not show partiality in dealing with others*
- *He had thoughts and judgments of his own but kept these to himself except at God's prompting*

You now have a redeemed 'self'

- *But discipline is necessary to serve the Lord*
- *Opportunities to minister to others often come when we are tired, preoccupied, upset, busy or generally not feeling too spiritual*
- *Still the flesh needs to be held back from ruling over your life's thoughts and actions*

There are two ways you take up your cross daily

- *Both allow the Lord to discipline and instruct your new life in Him*
- *#1 you present yourself daily as a living sacrifice*
- *#2 you yoke yourself with the Lord and sacrifice your independence*

#1: Sacrifice yourself to God every day

- *Rom. 12.1-2 ¶ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

#1: Sacrifice yourself to God every day

- *Because it is of your free will it is a living sacrifice and pleasing to God*
- *Basically you are surrendering your body, soul and spirit to God for His life to abide and rule your life ("he is Lord")*
- *God waits everyday for you to love him with your life*
- *This allows Him to transform you and prove what His will is as you walk with Him (Rom. 12.2)*

Are you a living sacrifice today?



*Are you a living sacrifice
today?*



*Warning: your
'default' mode is
self-governing self*

Are you a living sacrifice today?



*Promise: whoever
you 'present'
yourself to takes and
empowers you*

- *Rom. 6.19 ¶ I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh, for as you presented your members as servants to uncleanness and to wickedness upon wickedness, even so now present your members as servants to righteousness for sanctification.*

#2: *the sacrifice of independent living*

- Matt. 11.29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart; and you will find rest for your souls.*
- Matt. 11.30 *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

#2: “take my yoke”



- *We put our head in next to His*
- *He pulls most of the load*
- *He gently teaches us how to serve*

#2: “take my yoke”



- *Everyone imagines the sweetness of yoking with the gentle Jesus*
- *Trouble is he usually yokes us with himself ‘in another brother’ (maybe not so gentle)*
- *This yoke becomes a daily discipline in corporate life*

#2: “take my yoke”



*3. it seems to be heavy but lightens
with walking- WHY?*

*Because you learn to serve by His life
and thus your soul finds rest*

Matt. 11.30 *For my yoke is easy, and my burden
is light.”*

#2: “take my yoke”



4. *once taken you are never free of it
but only free under it- WHY?*

*Because you learn that freedom
is not doing what you want
but what you were created for*

*Now we come to a third and
different taking up of your cross*

*#3: the sacrifice of self
out of devotion
to the Master*

#3: the sacrifice of self out of devotion to the Master

- *The Lord asks us, “do you love me?”*
- *He then asks us to sacrifice something of our self for him*
- *This is the highest sacrifice, the most costly and the most precious*

#3: the sacrifice of self out of devotion to the Master

- *Remember two things*
 1. *We must first 'deny' our self before we can carry a specific cross*
 2. *We must 'choose' of our own free will to carry our cross*

#3: this sacrifice has us deny ourselves 'good' things



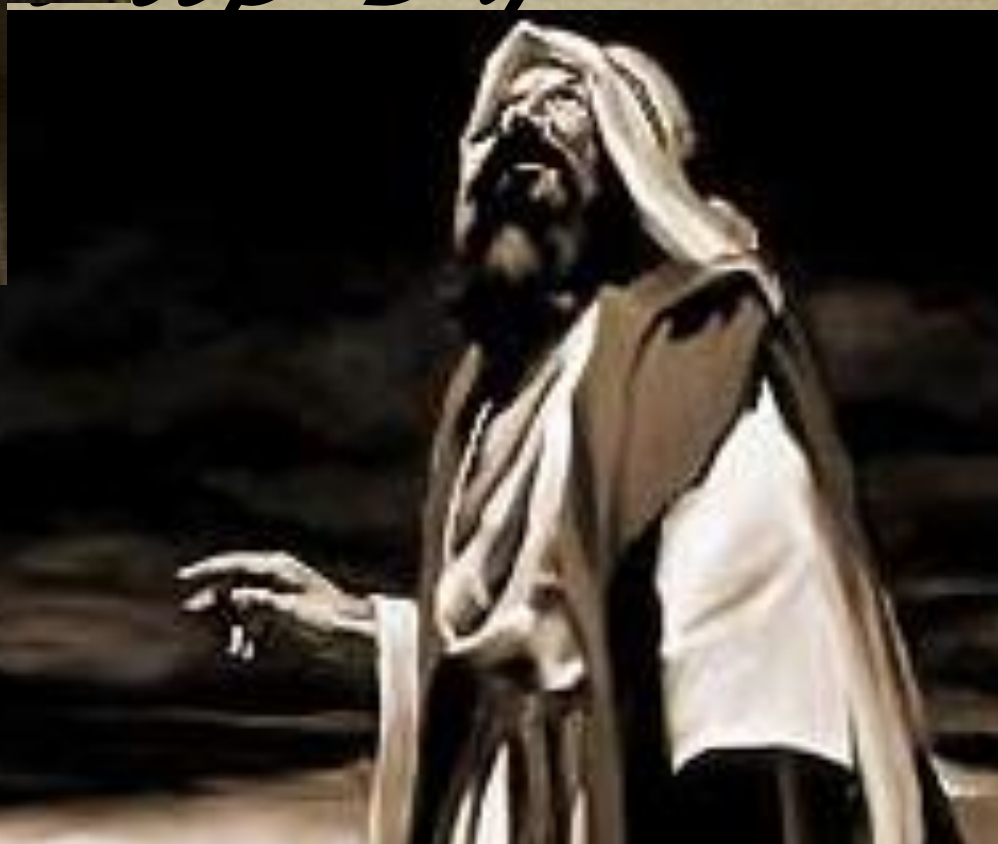
#3: the sacrifice of self out of devotion to the Master



- *It may be a sacrifice for a short period of time or it may be for the rest of your life*
- *It may be a Saturday a month given totally to seek his face*

#3: the sacrifice of self out of devotion to the Master

- *Many self-centered christians today don't believe God would ask such a sacrifice*
- *Give up safety?*
- *Give up money? A bigger house?*
- *Give up recreation? Entertainment?*
- *Give up creature comforts? Forsake the avoidance of pain?*
- *Give up marriage? Having a family?*



The believer finds himself like Jesus in this sacrifice

- *Phil. 2.5 "Have this mind in you... form of a bondservant... even death on a cross."*
- *He. 5.8 "... learned obedience through the things he suffered"*
- *He. 10.7 "then I said, behold I have come ...to do thy will"*

#3: this sacrifice out of devotion to the Master takes one of two forms

1. God accomplishes His work through sacrificial giving of money and property by devoted servants

- Acts 4.36-37 ¶ Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

2. *God accomplishes His work through the sacrificial life of devoted servants*

C. T. Studd

1860-1931

**English missionary to China, India,
and Africa**

**Some want to live
within the sound
of church or chapel bell;
I want to run
a rescue shop
within a yard of hell.**



***"If Jesus Christ is God and died for me,
then no sacrifice can be too great
for me to make for Him."***

What does Paul mean by the term “I die daily”? 1Cor.15.31

*Paul has already died to the world
and he knows his old man has been
crucified and he lives by Christ-life*

*“I die daily” means Paul daily put his
life at risk to serve God*

- 1Cor. 15.30-31 Why are we also in danger every hour?
I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I
have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

*The cross' breaking of a vessel
brings forth fullness of life*

2Cor. 4.7-12 ¶ *But we have this treasure
in clay vessels, that the exceeding
greatness of the power may be of God,
and not from ourselves.*

*We are pressed on every side, yet not
crushed; perplexed, yet not to
despair; pursued, yet not forsaken;
struck down, yet not destroyed;*

*The cross' breaking of a vessel
brings forth fullness of life*

*always. For the body the
death of Jesus,
the life of Jesus
revealed in our flesh. We who
live are offered to death for
Jesus. The life also of Jesus
may be revealed in our mortal flesh.
So then death works in us, but life in
you.*

*heavenly thinking about
'your cross'*

*Does the Lord really
'need' our
sacrifice?*

*Is he asking it for
Him or for us?*

*What secret is
discovered through
the sacrifice?*



The sacrificial life of the cross

*We don't volunteer:
when we will sacrifice or
the way or
how much or
how long-*

*We willingly accept the cross from Him
when asked*

- *Are you willing to sacrifice your life?*
 - *That in itself is an aromatic sacrifice*
 - *Just live for Him today in free
surrender*

What do we gain?

- *Mark 10.29-30* ¶ Jesus said, “Most assuredly I tell you, there is no one who has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or land, for my sake, and for the gospel’s sake, but he will receive one hundred times more now in this time, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land, with persecutions; and in the age to come eternal life.
- *100 times + persecutions +*
- *the liberating joys of intimacy, revelation and power entrusted to His bond servants*

What does He gain?

- *a friend*
- *a vessel of honor that doesn't complain about his 'sacrifice'*
- *a broken vessel that exudes a sweet aroma by a sacrifice lovingly given*
- *a testimony on earth that God is loved for who He is and not just what he gives*
- *a vessel he can use to serve the larger matters of his eternal purpose*



its shadow totally eclipses you

but others see son light reflecting in you