

August 12, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Luke 9:23 *Then He said to them all: "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me."* (NIV)

As we continue to move more and more into complete surrender to Christ, we must realize that to serve Him, follow Him and live in Him must start with our sacrifice of self. To deny self means to replace it with something or someone else. In this case, it is making Jesus LORD of your life. He now holds the reigns of your heart and is given complete control. You have given Him the 'driver's seat,' and are now seated as the passenger. He will now direct your plans and your path. There is nothing better than seeing His face, listening to His voice and following His plan.

The second step is self-denial. Because our selfish nature refuses to die, we must put it to death daily. We must begin each day by offering up ourselves as a living sacrifice and an offering to the LORD. And when the offering is placed on the altar, it is put to death. We must die daily to our selfish motives and fleshly desires.

Lastly, we can then follow the One Who was the ultimate sacrifice for us. Consider today this profound word found in **2 Cor. 5:21** *God made Him Who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.* (NIV) To follow Him is a willful decision and a continuous one as well. We are so prone to selfishness that we must stay on guard against the god of self. **1 Pt. 5:8** *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* (NIV) Let's not let this be us. I am His and He is mine.

Dear LORD, help us today to offer ourselves up as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to You. In Jesus Name, Amen