

DAILY READING: LIVE AS A DISCIPLE

Today I will ask, "What does love require of me?" and I will act on the answer. I am not content to just say that I am a Christian. I am a disciple. As a disciple of Jesus, I have chosen to identify completely with His message. His message is to "love one another" in the same way He loves me. My willingness to take up my cross daily, to love others as Jesus loves me in every situation, is a reflection of genuine faith.

A disciple is a student, an apprentice, a follower willing to learn and grow by obeying and imitating Jesus' life and obeying His commands. Discipleship requires effort and sacrifice. It is a character and personality changing process. As Jesus' disciple I will not spend all my time serving my own pleasure but I will look for ways to serve God and people the way Jesus did.

Today I will ask, "What does love require of me?" and I will act on the answer. As a follower of Jesus, I choose to deny selfish ambition and desires; I will not use all my time and resources for my benefit. Instead, I will take the same road of self-denial and self-sacrifice Jesus took. The truth, on the other side of self-denial, is a life that is richer, fuller and more meaningful. Instead I will take the same road of self-denial and self-sacrifice Jesus took; He is my example and with me always to encourage me, guide me and be my friend.

Recognizing Jesus as Lord of my life and putting my faith in Him for salvation is only the beginning of discipleship. Today, through love for God and others, I will take up my cross and follow Him; I will not turn back. My position in Him is permanent and I will do all I can to grow deeper in my relationship with Him each day and make Him part of every moment of my life. I want His will more than my own, knowing that I will experience the rich and satisfying life He came to give me. Today I will ask, "What does love require of me?" and I will act on the answer.

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 9:23

"Then he said to the crowd, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.'" Luke 9:23

DAILY STUDY: LIVE AS A DISCIPLE

DAY 1: Take Up Your Cross - Luke 9:23-25 (Page 790);

Matthew 10:38 (Page 741); 1 Kings 19:19-21 (Page 277)

DAY 2: Count the Cost - Luke 14:25-33 (Page 797); Proverbs 20:25 (Page 495)

DAY 3: Remain in Christ - John 15:1-17 (Page 824)

DAY 4: Live as Jesus Did - 1 John 2:3-6 (Page 941)

DAY 5: Lose Your Life to Gain it - Mark 8:34-38 (Page 769)

DAY 6: Deny Yourself - Luke 14:26-27 (Page 797); Matthew 16:24 (Page 748)

DAY 7: Live This Life -

Romans 8:13 (Page 862);

Colossians 3:5 (Page 903);

2 Timothy 3:12 (Page 915).

Read the Daily Reading once again and highlight things that stand out.

Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

ACTIVITY:

Think of a time, from this week, where you set aside your own desires for the good of others.

What are some ways you can do this more this week? Be actionable.

LIFE TRANSFORMATION QUESTIONS:

1. As you read the Daily Reading, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?