

**CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
A DISCIPLINED CHRISTIAN (PART II)**

**Directions for a Disciplined Life**

**Scripture Reading:**

**“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 (Luke 9:23).**

- Gospel Parallels: Matt 16:24; Mark 8:34

**Introduction:**

**A.** A Disciplined Christian expresses self-control that is gained by being obedient to Jesus Christ. He lives by a pattern of behavior empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit.

**B.** There are many Bible verses about God’s Direction (“Path”) for our lives. According to the King James Version (KJV) Dictionary, the word “path” means course of life. Based on the Thesaurus Dictionary, the word “path” is a synonym for direction.

**1.** “He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake” (Ps. 23:3).

- God leads His children on the right path (right direction) which is found in Christ alone (Acts 4:12). Jesus alone is the path to salvation and eternal life.

**2.** “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Prov 3:6).

- As children of God, we must surrender to Him – every area of our lives must be turned over to His control.

**3.** “Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not” (Ps 17:5).

- In this prayer of David, he declared that in his dealings with others, he always watched and carefully heeded the Word of God. Consequently, he never strayed nor stumbled when he followed the path indicated by God.

For the remainder of this lesson, we will study the Directions for a Disciplined Life that comes from Jesus Christ as recorded in Luke 9:23. **These directions state that: (1) A Person Must Deny Himself, (2) A Person Must Bear His Cross Daily, and (3) A Person Must Follow Jesus.**

**I. A Person Must Deny Himself (Self-Denial)**

- **“Deny”** – to say no, disown, refuse, reject or disavow
- A. Self-Denial** is “the willingness to deny oneself of possessions or status, in order to grow in Holiness and Commitment to God” (The Dictionary of Bible Themes).
- B.** Self-Denial means that Jesus is in first place in the Believer’s life. Nothing comes before Jesus. He is first in friendship, love, fellowship, work and worship.
  - Exod 20:3; Matt 4:10; 6:33; 22:36-38; 1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:17
- C.** Self-Denial is overcoming the persistent demands of the body – crucifying the flesh with the “affections and lusts” (Gal 5:24).
- D.** Self-Denial is acknowledging that the Old self is dead and the New “Life is hidden with Christ in God” (Col 3:3-5). It is also putting off the old man and putting on the new man (Rom 6:4-6; Gal 3:27; Col 3:8-10).

E. Self-Denial is separation from worldly pleasures – “Love not the world ...” (1 John 2:15-17).

## II. A Person Must Bear His Cross Daily

- “Take Up” - bear, carry, to take upon one’s self
- “Cross” – The miseries of this life – trials, affliction and persecutions.
- “Daily” – according to the day, day-by-day, each day

A. In Jesus’ day, a cross was a symbol of torture and death and was highly feared. A condemned man had to carry his own cross to the place of crucifixion, and he knew that he was going to die.

### B. To Bear our Cross:

1. We should be willing to die for Christ (He died for you).
  2. We are to love our enemies, annoying co-workers, supervisors, neighbors and especially, other Christians.
  3. We must not be ashamed of nor deny Christ – Stand Up For Jesus! (Matt 10:32-33).
  4. We may be mocked, ridiculed, rejected or ostracized for being a Christian.
- According to Warren Wiersbe, Bearing our Cross “means to be identified with Him in surrender, suffering, and sacrifice.”

## III. A Person Must Follow Christ

“Follow” – to accompany attend, follow; to follow one who precedes; join as an attendant.

A. We are to “follow” Jesus, making Him Lord of our lives every day (total commitment).

B. Following Jesus means to obey His commands.

C. Following Jesus means walking closely after Him, going where He goes, doing what He does. It means making His will your will, not creating your own path but putting your feet into His footprints which will lead you home – Heaven.

### Points to Ponder:

1. To deny yourself means to say **No** to yourself and **Yes** to God.

2. To follow Jesus means the willingness to suffer for His sake. Commitment to Jesus means Bearing our Cross daily, giving up our hopes, dreams, possessions, even our life if need be for the cause of Jesus.

### Study Questions:

1. What has following Jesus cost you?

2. How closely are you following Jesus? What must you do to follow Him better?

3. Are you willing to deny yourself, bear your cross if it means losing some of your closest friends? Alienation from your family? Losing your job, reputation and life? How far are you willing to go for Jesus?

### Memory Verse:

“And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:27).

### Conclusion:

A. I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus  
I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back.

B. Roman Road to Salvation (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

From the Teaching Ministry of  
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**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).**