

expression of a true living saving faith. It is always revealed by real love and real love is always active and sacrificial. True love for God is expressed through obedience to the Spirit of Christ. It is revealed from day to day to become a daily death. A death that daily works to produce spiritual life. A living death that works to crucify the sin nature with or in Christ and produce daily in the Christian the life of Christ and with this life the salvation of Christ.

Romans 12:1

12 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.

This sacrifice of submission to God's will is our ultimate expression of true love for God. It is holy and what is acceptable to God. This is true worship and what is required of every Christian to be saved.

Romans 8:13

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit (obedience to the Spirit of God) you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live

How do we put to death the deeds of the body, the flesh or the sin nature? We do it by the Spirit. By living by the Spirit, by walking in the spirit, carrying our cross in communion with the cross of Christ and daily living a crucified life. This can only be accomplished by daily

obeying the Spirit. When we obey God we put to death our self life, our rebellion and our pride. This living a death walk, becoming a living sacrifice, puts to death the old man, the sin nature and at the same time raises the new man, the spiritual man in true holiness and resurrection life and power.

Romans 6:22

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

Paul says it this way, being a slave to God produces holiness and ultimately salvation. In the above verse of scripture he outlines these four steps 1. **free from sin** (the new birth by faith) 2. **slaves of God** (obedience to the will of the Father expressed by obedience to the Spirit, walking in the Spirit) 3. will produce **fruit to holiness** 4. and **the end everlasting life (salvation)**.

Hebrews 12:14

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Luke 9:23 - 24

23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross (your personal cross) daily, and follow Me.

24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life (natural man, old man, flesh, sin

nature) for My sake will save it. (Spiritual man)

We are to carry our cross. It must be God's personal cross for us. It is personal obedience that makes the cross of Christ ours. The scripture says that you are to take up your cross. It is not a religious cross, a ministry, mission or job you set up for yourself: pastor, worship leader etc. A religious cross is a false cross of spiritual pride. When speaking to the religious leaders of His time, Christ called them self righteous. He warned His disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees. A spiritual self exultation that produced spiritual pride. They prided themselves in the keeping of the law of Moses but did not understand the spirit of the law. Obedience to God's will, God's personal cross for us, must flow from our love for the Father and His will. It was love for the Father's will that took Christ to the cross. Not a religious spirit of spiritual pride. We express the same love and reveal the same heart, when we are motivated by love to follow Christ and carry our own cross of obedience like He carried His. (See the message "The Cross".)

2 Timothy 2:11

11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the

Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Paul is saying that to live for him is to do the will of the Spirit of Christ daily. It is to die to his own desires and will. He says, it is no longer I who live. I am no longer living for self. The life I now live, is Christ's life being lived through me. I die daily to myself through daily obedience to the cross of the Father's will for me. In this I manifest the life and power of the Spirit of Christ and in this I fulfill the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus and the righteous requirement of the law by not walking according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Paul lived the fulfillment of the law. He was motivated by love to choose to die daily to his life and live daily to the life of the Spirit by daily doing the will of the Father.

Matthew 5:17

17 Jesus said: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.