

Grace in Action: Serving through God's Love
Follow Jesus to the Cross

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for what you have given us today and praise this flock for what you given to them from above

Thank you for our strength for our spiritual growth in your kingdom

Help us remain humble and distant ourselves from the sinful world forever.

Help us resist temptation and start depending on your guidance

Help us with our vision and direction in our life that is right and humble for your kingdom

Help us avoid being a tax collector to this sinful world and society

Help us love your kingdom more and not mammon.

Lead us from fear in what we do even during dealing with trials and tribulation

If we fear something, guide us to continue to get up and try again to continue to be faithful to your kingdom.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus' journey to the cross symbolizes his willingness to sacrifice himself for the sins of humanity. It highlights the concept of selflessness and others before your own. The cross is seen as an instrument of redemption where Jesus death atones of human sin. It offers forgiveness and reconciliation with God. Jesus' act on the cross is the ultimate expression of love for us. It demonstrates God's love for humanity and the lengths to which he would go to save us. We need to follow Jesus and provide sacrifices in your life to be humble to God like Jesus did for us to the cross. We need to do the following things to remain humble to God and Holy Spirit daily.

1. Embrace a life of sacrifice and service.
2. Carrying your own cross by facing challenges and hardships with faith in God.
3. Live a life that reflects Jesus through the bible and teachings. That is why prayer and religious curriculum needs to take place in schools now.
4. Hope in God daily

Jesus says, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me."-Matthew 16:24

Denying yourself includes overcoming the persistent fleshly demands of the body, also known as the carnal self or the natural man, and bringing them into submission to God's Word so that you don't give in to sin. The idea of self-denial might seem daunting at first, but it opens the door to a relationship with God that nurtures spiritual growth. Following Jesus means not merely believing in Him but actively living according to His teachings and example. Step indicates embracing our struggles and challenges, all while remaining committed to Christ. The imagery of the cross is crucial, as it symbolizes sacrifice and suffering for the sake of a higher purpose. Jesus invites us to follow Him even through the trials and tribulations we may face along the way.

Jesus instructs his disciples to take up their cross and follow him.-Luke 9:23

Jesus is teaching the disciples. They have been following him for a while, and Peter has even confessed Jesus as Lord. Jesus lays out a clear call for those who desire to be His followers. The first call to deny oneself challenges us to examine our lives critically. Devotion to Christ often opposes the natural desires of the human heart. We might want to pursue selfish ambitions, social standing or material possessions. Jesus asks us to surrender those to Him. This act of denial requires self-awareness, humility, and the readiness to place Him at the center of our decisions.

Jesus says, "Wherever I go, I will be in your heart and in your mind, having come from Galilee, and having in Galilee, I will be in your heart and in your mind."-Mark 8:34

Mark 8:34 captures a profound essence of what it means to be a true follower of Christ. When Jesus speaks about denying oneself, taking up the cross, and following Him, He is conveying a powerful message about the cost of discipleship. The act of denying oneself signifies placing God and his will above our own desires and ambitions. We often live in a world that encourages self-indulgence and personal gain, but Jesus calls us to make sacrifices for the sake of following him. We must consider the implications of the instruction that Jesus gives. When He asks us to deny ourselves, it can be tempting to think about this in terms of simple sacrifices, such as giving up certain pleasures or hobbies. Are we willing to set aside our own plans, our ambitions, and our desires for the greater purpose that God has for us? Are we ready to embrace a lifestyle that reflects Christ's values rather than societal ones?

Jesus says, "Whoever wants to be my follower must be willing to give up his life for me."-Luke 14:27

This verse challenges us to consider what it truly means to be a disciple of Christ.

The apostle Paul emphasizes that Jesus, through his crucifixion and resurrection, became the cornerstone of all the prophecies and that all the prophecies were given through him, so that the purpose of the ages might come to pass, as glorious as it is.-Galatians 2:20