

Law of the Cross and Surrender to God's Will

Keep foremost in your mind, Isaiah 55:8-9 *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways—oracle of the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts higher than your thoughts."*

Matthew 16: 24-25 "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me **must deny himself, take up his cross**, and follow me. *For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."*

Matthew repeats this Cross-Talk of Gaining/Losing Life in both Matt 10:37–39, & in 16:24–25
Matthew 10:37-39 "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not **take up his cross and follow after me** is not worthy of me. *Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."*

God uses self-sacrificial love to be our means of fulfillment. Similar to radical forgiveness that brings peace, we must surrender will to overcome trial & opposition.

Philippians 2:3-8 "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him....."

John 12:24-25 "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." *(Problem of preserving, yet sterilizing and removing from experience)*

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 "Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me." Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Henri Nowen ""In the end, a life of prayer is a life with open hands — a life where we need not be ashamed of our weaknesses but realize that it is more

perfect for us to be led by the Other than to try to hold everything in our own hands.” (from his book With Open Hands)

Alanis Morissette “The moment I let go of it, Was the moment I got more than I could handle” (Lyrics of song ‘Thank You’)

Gerald May “God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them.” (from his book Addiction and Grace)

Peace Prayer of St Francis “O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, To be understood, as to understand, To be loved, as to love For it is in giving that we receive, And it’s in pardoning that we are pardoned, And it’s in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen”

Our pride and conceit leads us so often to overdo it. Our human nature (desire for control) tends to undo itself, over-managing and taking the life out of good work.

Attempting to Dominate, we over-control and squeeze the life out of efforts.

Jesus’ call to sacrifice is the challenge to shake our ego loose of its deadening grasp

Galatians 2:19-20 “I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me.”

2 Corinthians 4:11 “For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.”

Matthew 23:12 “And whosoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted”.

Matthew 20:16 “So the last shall be first, and the first last”.

Matthew 20:26-27 “ whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.”

Mary’s Magnificat Luke 1:52 “He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones, but lifted up the lowly...”

Luke 6:38 “Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

Proverbs 11:24 “One person is lavish yet grows still richer; another is too sparing, yet is the poorer.”

Luke 14:10 “When you are invited to a banquet, take the lowest seat....”

From another Pop Song..... “You have to give, to live....”