

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME: OR WAS IT (TAKE UP YOUR DELIVERANCE AND IMITATE ME)? (Matt 10:38 16:24 Mark 8:34 10:21 Luke 9:23 14:27)

“And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find “it”. (Matt 10:38-39)

“Enter by the narrow gate.... Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and few are they who find it.” (Matt 7:14)

Usually, there is an actual meaning to a Scripture and there is a symbolic or spiritual meaning also. When we are looking for one or the other meaning, we have to do a little studying and asking, knocking, and seeking. Sometimes the literal meaning of a Scripture doesn't make much sense; like taking up a physical cross made of wood and then trying to follow Jesus. Where would I look for Him so I could follow Him? There must be a symbolic or spiritual meaning to “take up your cross and follow Jesus”. Some folks would say for me to follow the Jesus-in-my-heart. And I could agree with that. But what cross do I take up to follow Him?

What I do when I cannot understand for sure what a Scripture is saying, I ask the Lord for the meaning and I start looking for my Strong's Concordance. The answer the Lord gives me may be more easily understood if I research the meanings of key words first. Sometimes the Scriptures are not translated in such a way as to help us have understanding about the meaning of the words used when we read it. And sure enough, there was a big surprise in the translation of the word “take”.

The word “TAKE” (G142 in the Strong's Concordance) means to “take up sin, to take up or away, and to EXPIATE sin. [The dictionary meaning for “EXPIATE” is to Atone for sin, and to give satisfaction for sin (to repent), and to put away and remove sin]. The correct translation might be this: **“Take up sin, your cross, and imitate Me.”**

This might also stand for getting rid of our sin through prayer-and-deliverance, and remitting the sins of others by intercession for them, in that Jesus repented for all our sins that were put upon Him, and then He prayed for us in the “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” prayer.

The word “CROSS” (G4716 in the Strong's Concordance) means “cross” like the one Jesus died on. Also means “exposure to death”, “self denial”, and the “atonement of Christ”. [However, the word “cross” that we have in the English language meaning “contrary, or opposed with a bad temper” came from the Jesus-CROSS as I understand it. Symbolically, ‘cross’, as it is used in the above Scripture in Matthew 10:38 may also refer to a person's “contrary and cross-wise opposition to God” in the form of iniquities and anti-Christ spirits. We are to take up any sinful opposition to Jesus and have Jesus remove it from us through prayers of deliverance.] Then, pray for others.

The word **"FOLLOW"** (G190 in the Strong's Concordance) means **"to be the same way with"** and to **"accompany"**, [or as Paul put it, to **"IMITATE"** Jesus (1Cor 11:1 NKJV)].

The **"Take up your cross and follow Me"** Scriptures are mentioned SIX times in the Gospels and are referenced in other Scriptures like Hebrews 12:2. In Genesis 41:32, Joseph tells the Pharaoh that since he has had a dream twice, that it will **surely come to pass**. Six times the Scripture about **"Take-up-your-cross-and-follow-Me"** is used, and means that it is a very, very important Scripture and we should take heed to its importance. I don't think that Jesus used any other Scripture that often.

We can connect the dots from the meanings of the word **"take"** and the word **"follow"** that there is a personal call from Jesus for each of us. We are to examine ourselves with the help of the Holy Spirit, getting rid of all contrary opposition and sin and iniquities we may have towards God through prayer, confessions, repentance, deliverance, Godly testimonies, and then we are to intercede for others. (Please see the John 16:8 and 2Tim 3:16).

"And when He (the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment". (John 16:8)

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness." (1Tim 3:16)
(reproof = conviction of sin)

It is interesting to note that the first two and Great Commandments that Jesus quoted in Matthew 22:37 and 39 seem to echo the **interpreted** meaning above on page one, of the **"Take up your cross and follow Me"** Scripture that Jesus spoke six times. Take a look:

The first and great commandment is, **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."** Now this Scripture is like saying, **"You shall have no other gods before Me"**, which actually, is the first of the Ten Commandments given in Exodus 20:3. So we ask the questions, are these two Scriptures **both** the First and Great commandment, but spoken in different words? Then we ask the question, **"How do you have no other gods before the one True God?"** Isn't the answer, **"THROUGH DELIVERANCE?"** Deliverance is used to change our heart into a heart that loves God.

The second and Great Commandment says, **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself"**. Now, if the word **"FOLLOW,"** used in **"Take up your cross and follow Me"** means to **"imitate"** me, like Paul the apostle was implying in 1Cor 11:1, then wasn't Jesus giving us an example of **"loving your neighbor"** when he died for us on the cross? It would certainly seem so.

It would seem like saying **"Take up your cross and follow Me"** is just another way of saying the First and Second great commandments of **"Thou shall have no other gods before**

Me”, and **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself”**. What do you think? Also, is He, Jesus, actually saying, **“Take up your sin, (deliverance, your cross), and imitate Me.”** ? I now believe I know what my “cross” is. It’s my sin and iniquity.

One of the ways we imitate Jesus by “taking the beam out of our eye first, and then we go to our brother to remove the speck out of his eye. I believe the cross was an example for us to follow. One of the many facets of the cross of Jesus is being clean enough and righteous enough in the sight of God to pray for others. We fulfill our calling to be a “Royal Priesthood” and a “Holy Nation” and are a special treasure unto God by our following the example of Jesus at the cross.

I believe what Jesus did at the cross, can be explained like this:

He spent 33 ½ years removing the beam out of His own eye, so that he could pray for us at the cross. He was made perfect through suffering prior to the cross. For the reason of “Being the ‘The Perfect Sacrifice of Praise’” (The Sacrifice without spot, wrinkle, or blemish) who was sacrificed for our sins.” While he was on the cross, under very brutal conditions, he took all our sins, from the past and for the future, upon himself, and for three hours made repentance to God for our sins.

At some point, God heard Him and granted us pardon because Jesus made intercession for us so that we would not have to pay the penalty of death for our sins. His flesh payed that penalty of death for us. He became sin for us. He paid the penalty for us and we were covered by the covering of His Blood. Now, when God looked down from heaven upon us, He would not see our sins, but instead, He would see the Blood of Jesus that covered us and would be reminded that the price for our sins had been paid in the death of Jesus’ sinful flesh.

He performed the “praying for others so that you can be healed” part, as he had already taken the beam out of his own eye before he was hung on the cross. This, most certainly was the order of things, because He, Jesus, was required to have been perfect within Himself before He was hung on the cross to be our sacrifice for sin. He would never have qualified to be the perfect sacrifice for us if He had not been perfectly sinless.

Jesus made it possible for us to take the sins of others upon ourselves, because he told us that it would by no means hurt us if “we were to drink anything deadly” in Mark 16:16-18. I don’t know if it had been possible up to that time for us to be in the Royal Priesthood. Maybe under the Old Testament Law with the old rituals, but under the new rules written because of the cross experience, we had to have Jesus leading the way for us to make it possible to be a Priest before God who interceded for others, because before the cross, the wages of sin were death, and we dared not to take the sins of others upon ourselves. But under the covering of Jesus, these sins of others that we intercede for, especially if we take the beam out of our own eye first (get right with God on the sin being prayed for), the sins we take upon ourselves

to intercede for them will not hurt us. Jesus payed the price for all those sins, so that now we can pray for others that have sins and who do not know how to pray as they should. Praise God for this gift.

Another revelation about what Jesus did for us might have to do with His praying to the Father, this prayer:

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34

At first, I thought that Jesus was asking the Father to forgive mankind for putting Him up on the cross. But the cross is what Jesus came for. The cross was his purpose. The more I meditated upon this short prayer that Jesus made to the Father, the more I thought about what Jesus had just done for us. So it seems to be in the nature and character of both God and Jesus to have consideration for man’s weak spiritual nature, to have an inclination to sin, and thereby adding spirits and iniquities to their flesh and into their heart (spirit). I believe that Jesus was asking God to have compassion upon mankind for not living a righteous life, and for taking on so many spirits and iniquities, doing great damage to themselves, because of the sin in their lives. Did Jesus want God to have compassion for our weakness of sinning? To some, this might seem to be a stretch of truth, but this also matches the compassionate nature of the God that I have come to know. God said:

“ And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children, to the third and fourth generation.” (Exodus 34:6-7)

For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. (Exodus 20:5-6)
(We are still held accountable in the day-of-judgment for how we have lived.)

Of course, I am not doing justice for the greatest story ever told. But it has taken me a number of years to understand and appreciate what God did for us through Jesus at the cross. Please forgive my attempt to describe this wonderful gift that God gave to us. The following pages are sample prayers we use as we “Take up our cross and follow Jesus”, (or put another way, we take the beam out of our own eye so that we can pray the effective, fervent, prayer from a righteous position, so our prayers will accomplish much). James 5:16. As you recall, Jesus told the apostles that: **“Whose ever sins that you remit will be remitted, and whose ever sins you retain, will be retained.”** (John 20:22)

PRAYER REMINDERS: After a sin or iniquity is revealed through some revelation, dream, rebuke, etc., or maybe you prayed the prayer for inward cleansing, (Prayer 1), these are Twelve Steps To Deliverance: (The steps below will make you “clean” and “new” where you’re not merely taught how to cope with the sin, because Jesus “heals” the problem.)

1. Confess the sin or area that God is showing you to “Jesus”. John 3:20-21
Take responsibility for that sin and iniquity. Don’t drag others through the mud with you. You must tell Him how and why “you” are wrong. (Do not blame others for your sinful ways)
2. Repent to Jesus for the sin or iniquity. If you can’t repent, Matt 5:23-24
it might be that you need to go get right with someone, first, before repentance is granted. (get their forgiveness)
3. Ask Jesus for forgiveness and wait for the answer. Heb 2:17
4. Pray the (Prayer-2) for protection during deliverance for yourself, Mark 16:16-18
your household, neighbors, and others. BIND AND CAST THE SPIRITS OUT OF YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS. (Prayer 3) 2Cor 7:1
Command the spirits that leave you to go into the pits of hell, and not to light on another soul. This can be a group payer.
5. Ask Jesus for the Baptism of Fire to burn out the iniquities that Matt 3:11
are in the area you are praying on. (Prayer 4)
6. Place the iniquity of that sin or area, with all its roots and Prov 16:6
parameters upon Mercy and Truth, and give thanks for the atonement they make for iniquity. (Prayer 5)
7. Ask Jesus for the opposite and good spirits to replace the Matt 12:43-45
evil ones you cast out. This new Army of God will protect you from the evil spirits when they try to return.(Prayer 6) Rom 12:21
8. Find the Scripture concerning the area cast out so that 1Tim 1:9
you may be filled with God’s Word. Read the Scripture into your heart. Luke 12:8
Matt 10:32
9. Find someone and confess the area of sin to them. 1John 1:9 James 5:16
Be God’s child of light who exposes evil to the light. John 3:19-21
10. Testify to them by faith of how you will live from this point on Rev 12:11
how you will live to avoid having the sin come back on you. Heb 11:2
11. Then pray (repent) for someone else who has the same James 5:16
problem. Be “healed” and join God’s Royal Priesthood. 1Peter 2:5, 9
12. Give God thanks and praise for delivering you from the sin 2Cor 5:17-18
and iniquity and for making you a new creation in Christ John 5:14

Jesus. THEN, WALK OUT YOUR DELIVERANCE. AMEN

PRAYER 1: PRAYER FOR INWARD CLEANSING

Dear Heavenly Father,
You are the deliverer of my soul,
You are the Father God
Who forgives forever all my iniquities,
Who healeth all my diseases (Ps.103:3).
Father, You said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart,
You will not hear me" (Ps.66:18).
For You, Father, desire truth in my inward parts,
And in the hidden part
You shall make me to know Your wisdom (Ps.51:6).
For I know that the sacrifices that You require
To be acceptable unto repentance, O God,
Are a broken spirit,
A broken and contrite heart (Ps:51:17).
Try me and know my thoughts,
And see if there be any iniquity found in my hidden parts
And lead me in the way of the everlasting (Ps.139:23).

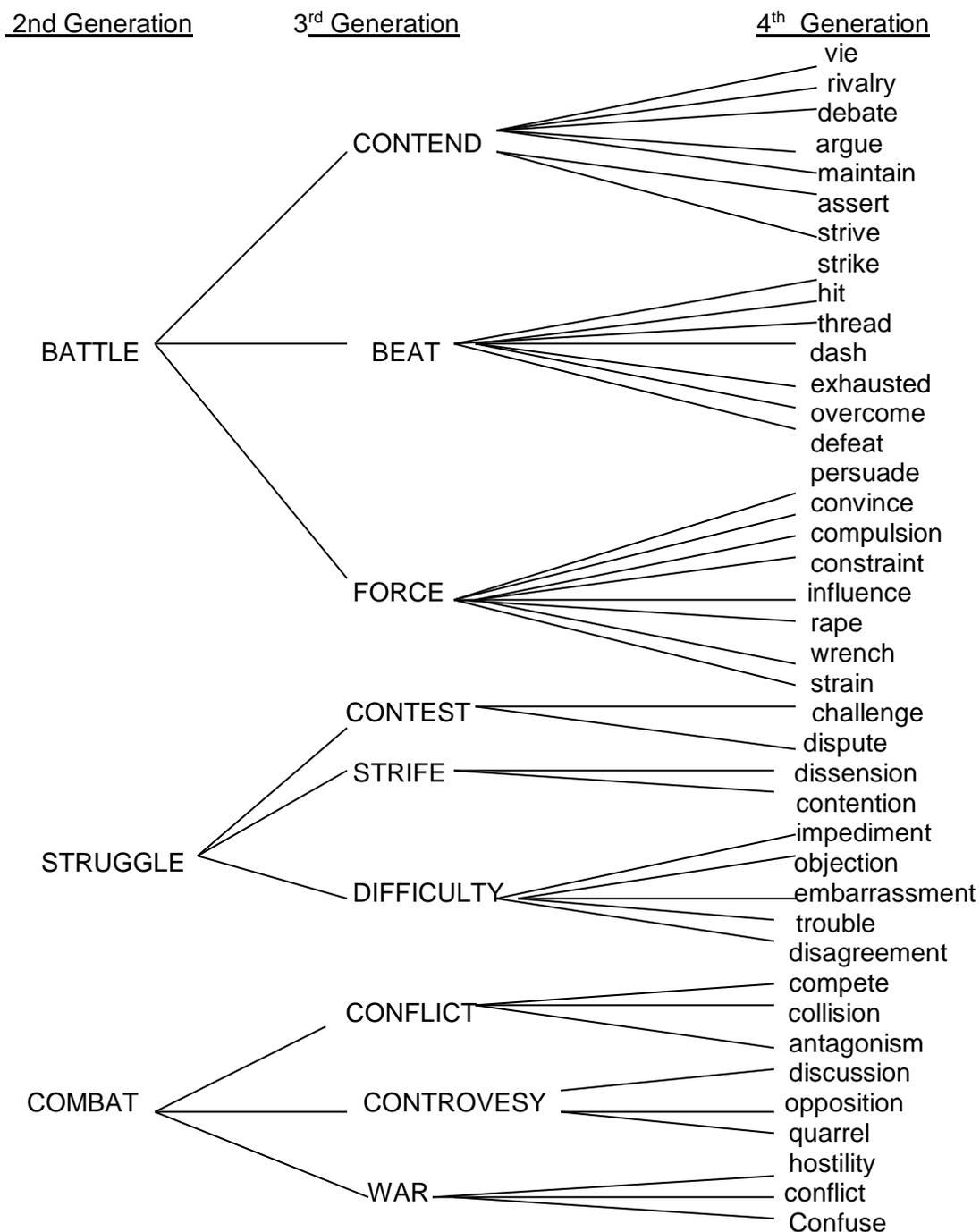
I ask You now, Father God,
To name my iniquity and remove it
From the very midst of my hidden parts
As I name each iniquity,
And create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me (Ps.51:10).
(pause and listen and name your iniquities)

Father God, purge me with hyssop
And I shall be clean;
Wash me, O Lord,
And I shall be whiter than snow; (Ps.51:7)
Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity
And cleanse me from my sin (Ps.51:2).

Father God, I ask that You now open my lips,
And let my mouth speak forth Thy praise
Unto all Your people (Ps.51:15).
Thank You, oh thank You, wonderful Heavenly Father,
Blessed by the Lord God of Israel
From everlasting unto everlasting!
Amen and amen (Ps.41:1).

Father God, I thank You now for hearing my prayer
And creating within me a clean and wonderfully new heart
After Your own.
In Jesus name, amen-amen

“FIGHT” TREE (first generation genealogy) Chart showing a word study on the word “fight”.



There is a total of 53 spirits shown in this genealogy of the word “**FIGHT**”. (Depending on the dictionary used) **“For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me”.** (Ex 20:5b)

1stGen- Principalities 2ndGen- Powers 3rdGen- Rulers 4thGen- Wicked spirits in heavenly places.

PRAYER 2: PROTECTION DURING DELIVERANCE

**I plead the blood of Jesus
Upon this entire household
And upon all those in this vicinity,
And upon all my physical and spiritual family members.**

**I command you evil spirits when you come out
To go straight to the pits of hell
Without stopping on another person
And remain there until your day of judgment
And never return to this soul,
In Christ Jesus' name.**

PRAYER 3: BINDING AND CASTING OUT THE SPIRIT

This prayer is to be used after:

1. Repenting on the sin as necessary.
2. Asking for God's anointing.
3. Pleading the blood of Jesus over the family.
4. Submitting the iniquity to the baptism of fire.

**I bind and rebuke you spirit of _____
In the name and blood of Jesus
And I command you to leave me now
Totally and wholly
(cough and blow it out as required).
Thank you Jesus.**

Speak directly to the spirit. Then cough and blow it out. Coughing is often necessary to release the spirit. Look inside and you will know when the spirit is gone. Cough as necessary until it is out. If the spirit manifests disruptively or violently, it may be commanded,

“In the name of Jesus, hold your peace”.

Stand fast and command the spirits. The spirit has to obey.

PRAYER 4: THE BAPTISM OF FIRE

**Father God,
I give you my will over the iniquity of
(name and describe the iniquity fully)
With all its roots and parameters
(all its children to the fourth generation as defined in
Webster's and the Concordance),
And Father, I ask You to go back
To the moment of my conception
To include those iniquities I have inherited
From my parents and grandparents
To the fourth generation,
And then, Father, go forward day by day through my life
In every thought, word, deed, and action,
And even the intent of the thought of my heart,
And burn out by the baptism of fire
All this iniquity from my body,
My mind, my soul, my heart, my spirit,
And from all my hidden and secret parts,
So that it be found no more within me, forever,
Now and throughout all eternity,
Not even in the intents of my thoughts.
Thank you Heavenly Father
For cleansing me of this iniquity,
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

(Ps.51; M't3:11; Ps.32:1; Ex.20:5; Ex.34:7; Eph.5:27)

When you submit your will over an iniquity according to this prayer to the baptism of fire, the Lord will burn it out of you (For further understanding see the chapter on the baptism of fire.) As you give the Lord your will over each iniquity, you should reflect inwardly on its meaning and its extent in your life. Desire that it be out of your life completely.

Parents may take authority of their children's will over an iniquity and give it to the Lord for the baptism of fire. As soon as the child is able, he should begin to recite the prayer.

Your entire household is part of you in the Lord's sight and must also be cleaned out. Any physical thing in your possession that is an abomination to the Lord gives the enemy a foothold in your life and must be removed, destroyed or burned before you can find freedom (see De.7:26). Demons can remain in your household as long as these things are present. Plead the blood of Jesus over them and curse them in the name of Jesus. Then destroy them.

PRAYER 5:

FATHER, IN THE NAME OF JESUS,

**I PLACE THE INIQUITIES (THAT I JUST NAMED, or the
INIQUITIES OF THE SPIRITS THAT I JUST NAMED) of**

**Down to the 3rd and 4th GENERATION UPON MERCY AND
TRUTH ACCORDING TO PROVERBS 16:6, AND ASK THAT
ATONEMENT BE MADE FOR THESE INIQUITIES.**

THANK YOU HEAVENLY FATHER.

PROVERBS 16:6

**IN MERCY (JESUS) AND TRUTH (HOLY SPIRIT) ATONEMENT
IS MADE FOR INIQUITY;**

**AND BY THE FEAR OF THE LORD ONE
DEPARTS FROM EVIL.**

The spirit must leave unless somewhere in your heart you want to keep it, or unless some unforgiven sin remains in that area of your life. Do not allow the demon to speak and alter the words of this prayer. If it is altered so that it is no longer within God's word, the demon does not have to obey and knows this. You be firm and directive, letting the words of His power perform the deliverance/

PRAYER 6: REFILLING WITH GOOD SPIRITS

Now I ask you, Holy Spirit,

To name the Christ-like spirits

To replace the spirits cast out (wait for the Holy Spirit to give the spirits for replacing).

I ask you Holy Spirit for the spirit of (name spirit) .

(Breathe it in.)

I receive the spirit of _____.

I ask you, spirit of _____,

To begin to manifest within me now

And forevermore,

According to the word of God.

(When they manifest, you must yield to them to keep them.)

When an evil spirit is cast out it leaves an empty place. In Jesus' words:

“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that man is worse than the first.”

(Lu.11:24-26)

These verses show that a spirit may try to return after it has been cast out. If it returns and finds the house EMPTY, it brings with it spirits even more wicked than itself, and the man's state becomes worse than before deliverance. But in a following verse, Jesus says, “More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Lu.11:28) This is how you fill the house left empty! You must fill it with the Word.

Without this, deliverance should not be undertaken. One must read the Word and keep the Word or deliverance is in vain: