

Deny Self: Pick Up Your Cross: And Follow Me.

Isn't it wonderful how, when Jesus gives an instruction to us, He puts the content in perfect order, as one would expect from someone speaking from experience. The order of the instruction above, is in perfect order, and is a wonderful code or spiritual insight, that He gave us for daily living as more than conquerors.

Deny Self:

When I first got saved and had no idea about the true relationship between a human and God, where 'He that is joined to the Lord is One Spirit', made no sense at all to me, Jesus words deny self, to my understanding meant – 'deny self things', or at least that is how I read it. Of course I wanted to be a good follower of the Master, so immediately I set about denying myself things. I want to have this, or I want to go there, obviously meant I have to not have this and I must not go there, else I will not be denying self. What a struggle this turned out to be. Doomed to failure, (thank goodness), but it seemed right at the time. I want to smoke a cigarette, but I also want to be a good servant of Christ, so I will deny myself the cigarette and become a more spiritual person. Not. Couldn't do it (thank God). This was not denying self, this strangely enough was having the reverse effect, this mode of operation was actually enhancing self.

Then one day the Light dawned and the words 'deny self', said just exactly what they meant 'deny self', literally. "But surely if I deny self Lord, then I will cease to exist, won't I?"

No, No, the *self* you are to deny is the *self* I spoke of when I said, "If you lose your life (*self*), for my sake you will save it (find it). This self is merely the image you hold of yourself in your own consciousness, and is false, and is not the Real Self that you Truly are. You are to replace your false image of *self*, by recognising ME your True and Real Self. When you are seeing yourself in this Light you are denying self in the correct manner. For you are recognising who this ME, I AM truly is. Once you have recognised this, then you are in a position to carry out the next part – Pick up your Cross:

Pick Up Your Cross:

I see Lord; I have spent all this time in my reasoning and my human mind, trying to deliver myself from my problems. Trying to save myself from my fears. Trying to overcome my faults and warts. This trying to get rid of problems and fears and self improvement has failed because once again I have got it back to front. I am to Pick them up and embrace them, not try and drop them or get rid of them. But I don't like them, I want things changed around here. "Remember 'deny self?'" Oh I see Lord, you don't remove the problem, the fear, the faults or the warts, you remove me, the one who is believing in them, and you replace the Real ME, (yourself) into the scene, and You are the one Lord who can handle anything and everything, for you have said, "all things are possible to God. Is anything too difficult for God?" I also see now Lord why You said, "judge not by appearances". You are at work, whether the appearances say so or not, and You will complete, that which You have started. I see it is all in your time Lord.

“Now you are seeing with the single eye, that I promised would fill your whole being with Light, MY Light, Your Light, the ONE Light. Now you can complete the final stage and Follow Me”.

And Follow Me:

“ Now YOU can follow ME, for now YOU know the government is on MY shoulders and it is not so much a case of you following, but ME leading. I go before YOU and make the path straight. Before YOU call I shall answer. This is how I walked, all those many years ago, this is how I walked before Abraham was, and this is still how I walk in my beloved precious vessels”.

Isn't it Wonderful, how Jesus' instructions are so accurate, and in the correct order, and how He so graciously interprets them to us through His beautiful Holy Spirit.