

# Power of the Cross

by A.W. Tozer

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*The Lord's demands of self-denial and taking up the cross are necessary for salvation and deliverance from ourselves.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 10:39, Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23, John 12:24, Romans 6:6, 1 Corinthians 15:31, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 3:8-9, Colossians 3:3

**Topics:** "Discipleship", "Self-Denial"

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## Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes the profound demands of discipleship as set forth by Jesus, highlighting the necessity of self-denial for true salvation. He explains that only through the denial of self can one experience deliverance from the chains of sin and corruption. The cross, as an instrument of death, symbolizes the path to freedom, where taking up one's cross leads to liberation from the self. Tozer asserts that it is only through the power of Christ that individuals can overcome their own limitations and find true life. The sermon calls believers to embrace the rigorous yet transformative journey of following Christ.

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## Transcript

Only a person with a perfect knowledge of mankind could have dared to set forth the terms of discipleship that our Lord Jesus Christ expects of His followers. Only the Lord of men could have risked the effect of such rigorous demands: "Let him deny himself!" Can the Lord lay down such severe rules at the door of His kingdom? He can-and He does! If He is to save the man, He must save him from himself. It is the "himself" which has enslaved and corrupted the man.

Deliverance comes only by denial of that self.

No man in his own strength can shed the chains with which self has bound him, but in the next breath the Lord reveals the source of the power which is to set the soul free: "Let him take up his cross." The cross was an instrument of death-slaying a man was its only function. "Let him take his cross," said Jesus, and thus he will know deliverance from himself!

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