

The Man Who Carries a Cross

"If anyone wants to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

Jesus





I carry an actual wooden cross, not because I believe I have to earn my salvation or do some kind of penance.

I carry the cross because I'm compelled to by the great love and sacrifice of the man who hung from one for me and for you 2,000 years ago.

It's led me on an incredible journey to share that love to tens of thousands in over a dozen nations for some four decades. I have no idea how many thousands of miles I've walked. But at nearly 75 years old I have so much more to do and so many more places to go and share why I carry my cross.

Let Me Tell you "Why"

I am continually asked why I carry a cross and I rejoice in answering, "Because Jesus carried a cross for me, therefore I carry a cross to remind everyone of what Jesus did on the cross for us all."

- † Jesus didn't have to save us, but He did.
- † Jesus didn't have to die on a cross for my sins, but He did.
- Jesus didn't carry His cross for His sins, because He was sinless. He carried my cross for my sins.
- † He gave His all for me; the least I can do is give my all for Him.
- † It wasn't nails that held Jesus on the cross... it was love for you and me.



- † He rose from the grave on the third day and gave eternal life to those who would receive Him as Savior.
- We are all born sinners and need a savior.

 Jesus didn't save us from hell; He saved us from our sins. Our sins send us to hell.



When we pray to the Father and confess that we are a sinner, repent of our sins, turning away from them to God, ask Jesus into our heart and give our life to Him, we become Born Again - a New Creature in Christ. Old things are passed away; all things are become new. Our salvation is in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Period. It's not in any church affiliation, good works, good





life, good deeds, or anything else other than Jesus's sacrificial death on the cross for us.

I carry a cross in obedience to the Great Commission of, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature", and His command of, "Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me." If no one reaches out... no one gets touched.

Everyone I talk to will spend eternity in either heaven or hell. On every tombstone is a date of birth, a small dash, and a date of death. That small dash is our entire life and only window of opportunity to decide where we will spend eternity. In the game of eternal life, second place is hell.

Let Me Tell you "How"

My favorite conversation is the way we can decide to spend eternity with the Lord, and it starts out, "Repeat after me. Father, in the Name of Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner. Forgive me of my sins. I repent of them. Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. Jesus, come into my heart as my Savior. I give my life to You to be Lord of my life. Baptize me with your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit I receive you now. Fill and consume me with Your Baptism of Fire, Presence, Anointing, and Boldness to tell others about Jesus. In Jesus's Name, Amen."

Now that you are a Believer, talk to the Father from your heart in Jesus's Name. Read the Bible, which feeds your spirit, like eating food feeds your body. Fellowship in a Bible-believing church. You have been Reconciled to God and have been given the Ministry of Reconciliation. Tell others about Jesus. We're called to be Fishers of Men. Till the nets are full... keep on fishing. The only thing that we can take to heaven is souls.

Will you join me?

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Mike Strosnider is an internationally recognized evangelist through the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. To learn more about Mike, have him share in your church, community, or nation, contact him at revmgstro@yahoo.com.