

## My Will, My Life And My Understanding Turning It All Over To God

3<sup>rd</sup> Step - Lesson 8

Luke 9:18-24 – Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God." Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."

Third Step: We made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.

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- Has your relationship with God ever gotten messed up because you were going by someone else's understanding of him?
- Has God ever shaken up your understanding of him?
- Has the cross and the resurrection of Jesus changed your understanding of God?
- Has the cross and the resurrection of Jesus had an effect on your recovery?

Note: When the Bible talks about "taking up your cross" it isn't talking about suffering; it's talking about *dying*. Compare Galatians 2:19-21 – "Through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

- Have there been some ways of thinking and living that have been so much a part of your life that changing them would be like dying?
- The biggest change that needs to happen is the change from thinking that you had to do something to get God to accept you, to believing that Jesus paid the price for your wrongdoing when he died, and now you are completely acceptable to God. How is your life different as the Holy Spirit makes that change in you?