



# TIRED OF DYING...

April 14, 2010

**Ever get like that?** *Am I the only one who gets tired of dying to self? Of course I'm not. I know I'm not alone because this stuff is hard for all of us. Still, as hard as it may be, as followers of Christ, we are called to this life of dying to self EVERYDAY, every hour, every minute. And even though we know that the Christian walk is a life of dying to self... it's still hard, so let's go to the scriptures to find some encouragement to do this. Let's start with Luke 9:23 (Jesus is speaking)*

And He was saying to them all, " If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." *Ok, case in point, this scripture clearly tells us that dying to self is a daily thing and there's a cross involved as well...that cross is an*

*implement of death, death to SELF, only when we die will we be equipped to follow Jesus. Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."*

*Again, we see that in order to let Jesus live through us, we must be crucified with Christ. Notice the past tense: I have been crucified with Christ....It is no longer I who live... There's that dying to self again. Have done it, do it every day, and will do it until I am free from this physical body. Here's another way of looking at it:*

**Gal. 5:24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the **flesh** with its passions and **desires**.

*Now, that's what I'm talking about. The passions and desires of the flesh...SELF. There's that death word again, "crucified the flesh."*

## **Now for the GOOD NEWS!**

*What if each time we deny ourselves, or count others as more important than ourselves, or not give the flesh its desires and passions, and make the right decision to follow Jesus to the cross.. what if a great thing happens? What if we experience the resurrection power of Jesus Christ that dwells within us?! The Apostle Paul touched on such an experience in Phil. 3:8-11 <sup>10</sup>that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup>in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

*Paul just got done telling us that he has gone through a lot of dying to self for the sake of the Gospel, but he's counting all things as loss so that he can know Christ AND the power of HIS resurrection....How can we be resurrected if we are not dead? I don't know about you, but I have experienced 'resurrection power' on more than one occasion and it always follows a death of me, or a denial of self, or obedience to the Spirit instead of the flesh.*

**Sure, we can get a little tired of dying....***but, what if dying is the only way to really live? What if Dying is the ONLY WAY TO experience that resurrection power that really does dwell within each Christian? I don't know, I think I'll just keep dying to self so I can live for Christ and follow Him right up out of that grave!!!! Peace IN, D*