



God So Among Us - Take Up Your Cross

**“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. “
Matthew 16-24-25**

We are chosen as Christians to take up our crosses, whatever they may be, for the sake of ourselves, for that of Christ, and for one another.

God chose to create us, He chose to save us, to adopt us, to forgive us... He chooses to love us beyond our willingness to acknowledge it.

Christ’s Cross embraced with love does not lead to sadness, but to joy! It leads to the joy of being saved and of doing a little of what He did that day of his death.” Pope Francis

God does thrust crosses upon us. He does not create burdens for us, rather He helps us through them. Jesus willingly accepted His cross so that He could take on all of our crosses as well, ALL OUR CROSSES, past present and future. Jesus takes on not only our sins, but all that burdens and all that distresses us. In other words, God does not seek to place crosses or burdens upon us, He longs to relive and eliminate them.

“We contemplate the sign of the infinite love of God for each of us and the source of our salvation. That Cross is the source of the mercy of God that embraces the whole world. Through the Cross of Christ the evil one is overcome, death is defeated, we are gifted life, hope is restored. This is important: Through the Cross of Christ hope is restored.” Pope Francis

In taking up our Crosses for the sake of Christ, we do so also for the sake of the world. When we take up our crosses, we unite ourselves to Christ and to all our brothers and sisters. We truly become one with the world, for we have denied ourselves and taken on life that holds deeper and richer meaning than one could ever dream to experience.

*O loving God,
who carried Your Cross for the salvation of all.
You carried not only Your Cross, but mine as well.
You have taken on all of me...
all my goodness, my joys, my accomplishments,
failures, pains and sorrows.
In Your mercy give me the strength to carry my Cross,
as I walk along with You.
AMEN*