

Worth it

“...For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2 NIV

1. Jesus was willing to walk through shame to get to you, his joy. He saw you as worth it.

“Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me. “Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But this is the very reason I came!”

John 12:23-27 NLT

2. When the seed died, it produced an abundance of fruitfulness and life.
3. Joy is on the other side of death to self
4. The cross is the key to life. Want real life? Die to self and selfishness and follow him.
5. Jesus did what he hated to get to those whom he loved.

“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Luke 9:23 NIV

“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”

Romans 6:8 NIV

“Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him;”
2 Timothy 2:11 NIV

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20 NIV

6. The key for us to experience the resurrection power is to die to self and walk in it.

Great ways to die for us

1. Get up in the morning early to read God’s word, pray, and fellowship with him even when you want to zone out on scrolling.
2. Fast. Even when you love cheeseburgers and donuts
3. Give your hard earned money to God. Tithe and give to missions even if your car just broke down
4. Play with your kids when you are tired
5. Kids, tell the truth to your parents when it seems like lying would get you out of trouble.
6. Listen even when you want to talk
7. Break up with someone you are dating because you know they will pull you into sin.
8. Tell someone about a sin you are struggling with even when you want to hole up
9. Do the dishes for your wife
10. Respond with kindness to a person who just was a jerk to you.
11. Have intimacy with your spouse even if you are tired.
12. Seek the presence of God, rather than the cheap hit of drugs or alcohol.
13. Share Jesus even if you are scared.(Go on a missions trip)

When we take up our cross and follow him, we declare to the world that Jesus is worth it.