

THE CROSS: A SIGN OF GOD'S LOVE, SACRIFICE, AND VICTORY

Opening

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today, let us pause for a moment and look beyond the difficulties, worries, and burdens that we carry in our daily lives. Each of us has a cross to bear. Sometimes our cross may be the struggles within our family, difficulties in our marriage, problems with our children or siblings, challenges at work, financial burdens, sickness, pain, or disappointments in life.

When these burdens become heavy, we may feel tired, hopeless, or even tempted to give up. But today, I invite you to do one thing: **look up to God and look at the CROSS.**

When we look at the Cross, we are reminded of the greatest love that God has ever shown us. We see the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who willingly suffered and gave His life for our salvation. The Cross reminds us that we are never alone, no matter how difficult our journey may be.

The Great Love of God

We can see how much the Lord God loves us. God gave His one and only Son for us, for the salvation of our lives. Because of the great love of our Lord Jesus Christ, He gave His life for us and endured death on the CROSS.

You are very precious to God! Do not focus only on your problems, your hardships, your losses, or the things you may not have in life. Do not focus on your pain. Instead, always look up to God—look at the CROSS—and you will see how much Jesus Christ loves you.

Jesus Christ loves you so much that He gave His life for you, for me, and for all of us. He offered His life so that we may be saved from evil, harm, disaster, and death, and most importantly, that we may be saved from eternal separation from God.

The Weight of the Cross

We can see the suffering of Jesus and the great weight of the Cross. Although it was not His cross to bear, He carried it for us.

Imagine Jesus Christ falling three times. Each time He fell, His wounds struck the stones, yet He did not complain. He embraced His suffering for our sake so that our lives might become lighter.

The Cross shows us that, despite the weight of the burdens we carry in our lives, those burdens can become

lighter through our love and faith in God. Just as the Lord Jesus Christ loves us very much, we are also called to love, forgive, and endure.

Our Crosses in Life

The Cross is a symbol of victory. No matter how heavy our cross may be—whether we are facing problems in our family, difficulties in our marriage, struggles with our children or siblings, or challenges at work—we must never give up, just as Jesus Christ never gave up.

He carried the Cross for us, endured suffering, and sacrificed His life so that we could have hope, salvation, and life.

How heavy was the Cross? Yet Jesus carried it. He endured it. He sacrificed Himself for us.

This means: **Never give up, no matter how difficult the hardship or how heavy the burden may be.**

Do not give up on your husband or wife, your daughters or sons, or your brothers and sisters. Stay, forgive, and continue to love them, because Jesus did not give up on us. He forgave us and patiently waits for us to repent and return to the grace of God.

Repentance, Forgiveness, and Grace

Let us repent of our sins and failures. When we turn back to God, His forgiveness and love are poured upon us. Through His grace, we receive the hope of salvation and eternal life.

In our lives, let us endure hardship and suffering for the sake of remaining good, faithful, and devoted to God. Let us carry our burdens with faith, never lose hope, and always remember the great love that Jesus Christ has shown us through the CROSS.

Closing

Brothers and sisters, when life becomes difficult, **do not look only at the weight of your cross—look at the One who carried the Cross for you.**

When you feel that you can no longer continue, remember Jesus.

When you feel that you are alone, remember Jesus.

When you are hurt, remember His wounds.

When you feel like giving up, remember that Jesus never gave up on you.

The Cross tells us that suffering is not the end. Beyond the Cross is victory. Beyond suffering is hope. Beyond death is the promise of eternal life.

Whatever cross you are carrying today, do not be afraid. Carry it with faith. Carry it with love. Carry it with patience. And most importantly, **carry it with God.**

Let us place our families, our problems, our worries, our failures, and our future into the hands of the Lord. Let us forgive those who have hurt us, ask forgiveness for our own sins, and continue to love even when it is difficult.

May we always remember that we are precious in the eyes of God, that we are never alone, and that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross is the greatest proof of His love for us.

So, whatever happens in our lives, **never give up. Never lose faith. Never stop loving. Never stop praying.**

Look to the Cross.

Look to Jesus.

And remember:

**Jesus carried the Cross for us because He loves us.
He endured suffering for us because He loves us.
He gave His life for us because He loves us.**

May the love, mercy, and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ remain with us, strengthen us in every trial, and lead us toward salvation and eternal life. **Amen.**