

These believers were not looking for a crutch. No, they had something deep and essential in their hearts. They had a personal relationship with God—a relationship born of faith in the work of Jesus on the cross. As a result, they became children of the King—eager to sacrifice everything for the privilege of proclaiming Him. They were not limping along looking for something to hold them up.

A crutch? Hardly. Faith in Christ is not about safety and caution. It's about believing Jesus and trusting Him no matter what. It's about taking up a daily cross (Luke 9:23) and living for the Saviour.

“Take up your cross,” the Saviour said,
“If you would My disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart
And humbly follow after Me.” —Everest

Because Jesus bore the cross for us, we willingly take it up for Him.

We carry a cross; not lean on a crutch



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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A Crutch?

Have you ever heard sceptics say that the Christian faith is nothing more than a crutch—that the only reason people claim to trust Jesus is that they are weaklings who have to make up “religion” to get by?

Apparently those sceptics haven't heard about the doctor in one Far Eastern country who spent 2 ½ years in jail being “re-educated” because he professed faith in Christ. Then, after his release, he was arrested again—this time for his efforts at his church.

And perhaps those sceptics haven't heard about Paul. After trusting Christ, he was arrested, flogged, mocked, and shipwrecked (2 Cor. 11:16-29).



Baptismal Service

Baptism (and the Christian walk that follows) evidences two realities:

1. It is an evidence for _____ to Jesus, John 8:31

(Mark 16:16) *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*

(John 3:16) *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

(Ephesians 2:8-9) *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast."*

(Acts 4:12) *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

(Acts 16:30-31) *"... 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'"*

{31} *.. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

(Acts 8:36-37) *"... 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?'"*

{37} *.. "If you believe with all your heart, you may." ..."*

(Romans 3:23) *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"*

(Romans 6:23) *"For the wages of sin is death, ..."*

(Romans 10:9) *".. if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

(2 Corinthians 5:15) *"and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."*

(Revelation 3:20) *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*



2. It is an evidence for _____ Jesus, John 14:21

(Matthew 6:33) *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

(Luke 14:16-20) *"Then He said to him, 'A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, {17} and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' {18} But they all with one accord began to make excuses."*

The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'

{19} *"And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'*

{20} *"Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'"*

(Luke 9:23-26) *"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. {24} For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. {25} For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? {26} For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.'"*

