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Military Life and Faith

Submit to God's Will

The military requires a life of submission. When you began your military career, you put aside all your time, your hobbies, and your hair to submit to the authority of the military.

The Military and your Faith require that you submit to the will of the authority over you.

When you chose to be in the military, you chose a certain life. You chose to submit to the authority of the government in military service. In a sense, you submitted to the government authority and put to “death” many other career options.

What were some other career options you considered other than a military career?

What made you decide to choose a military career over the others?



Everyone lives under authority. Some choose the military, some choose a corporate job, some choose themselves as the only authority in their lives.

What does it mean to live under authority?

Jesus said, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*” - Matthew 28:18

What does it look like to live under the authority of Jesus?

In this study, we will discover that
we must submit to His authority, die to ourselves, and live for Jesus on a daily basis.

I. Being a follower of Christ requires us to submit to God's rule in our lives.

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and **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. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

What does it mean to "take up your cross?"



The Roman Cross	Jesus' Cross
Rome demonstrated its rule by having rebellious criminals carry their crosses through the streets of Rome to the place where they were crucified. Those who once rebelled against Rome were now walking in total submission to the authority of Rome.	Jesus died on the cross in total submission and obedience to God the Father. Jesus submitted to the will of God which was to die on a cross for our sins. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

When the disciples heard Jesus say, "take up your cross," they would have thought of the Roman cross. They would have pictured a person who had once lived a rebellious life toward Rome now in a position of submission which leads to death.

The Roman cross meant **SUBMISSION** to authority and **DEATH** to your rebellious life.

SUBMISSION
DEATH

The Roman Cross is the setting in which Jesus demonstrated the extent of His submission to God the Father. What was God's will for Jesus? Mark 10:45

What motivated Jesus to submit to the Father's will for His life?

Give three reasons why you are motivated to submit to God's will for your life while "dying" to your own will for your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

II. Being a disciple of Jesus requires us to daily submit to God's will by "dying" to ourselves and "living" in Jesus.

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and **take up his cross daily** and follow me." Luke 9:23

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20



You cannot live the life of a military person and the life of a civilian at the same time. When the military says "report", "move", or "deploy", you do not have the option to say yes or no. What motivates you to daily submit to the authority of the military?

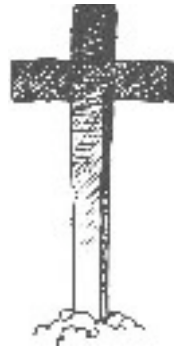
You cannot live a self-centered life and the Christ-centered life. You must choose one on a daily basis. Look again at Galatians 2:20 as it refers to exchanging our lives for Christ's life in us.

My Life

crucified with Christ

I no longer live

live in the body



His Life

Christ lives in me

I live by faith

What two motivations does the passage end with?

- 1.
- 2.

SUBMISSION DEATH LIFE

The Roman Cross meant **Submission** and **Death**.

The Cross of Jesus means **Submission, Death, and Life**. We **Submit** to the authority of God, we put to **Death** our sinful desires, and we allow Christ to **Live** in us.

If you were to make the conscious decision to submit to God, die to self, and live to Jesus right now, what would that look like?

What would it look like in your life to make this decision on a daily basis?

If it is your desire to "take up your cross" right now, take time to pray to God and ask Him to reveal and remove anything that is hindering you from living for Christ.

If we are going to do the will of God for our lives, we must give daily attention to the principles above. In Luke 9:23, Jesus says, *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and **take up his cross daily** and follow me.”*

Submitting to the will of God is a daily lifestyle. If we are going to live out a life of submission to Jesus, we must do it on a regular basis. This week, let’s apply the Bible study skills we learned from week two to a study of passages that will help us make a daily decision to die to self and live to Jesus.

	Day 1 Matthew 6:24	Day 2 1 Corinthians 6:19–20	Day 3 John 15:4–5	Day 4 Matthew 6:19–21	Day 5 Philippians 2:3–11
2 Timothy 3:16-17					
Teaching What is the Subject?					
Rebuke What is wrong with my attitude or action?					
Correct How do I correct my wrong attitude or action?					
Instruction What will this look like in my life?					



If possible, gather with one or two others each day to discuss what each of you have discovered and how you will apply it to your lives. Then pray for each other.