

"And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as He walked, he saith, 'Behold the Lamb of God!' And the two Disciples Heard Him Speak, And They Followed Jesus."
John 1:34-37 KJV

The true test of a man of God is: Who do his hearers follow? Who is it they revere and love? If they follow the man, he's not the "man of God." Too many preachers say, "At MY church..." and it may very well be "their church," but not the Church of Jesus Christ. If people follow a man, they do not follow Truth or it was never spoken. The Apostle Paul admonished his followers, "*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children.*" If all I talk about is my point of view, I point no one to Christ. John said this about Jesus; "*The Latchet of Whose Shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.*" What do people know of your Jesus? Your words must convince them they can reach out and touch the Hem of Omnipotence; not by virtue of your experience as much as by the Truth of God's Word you speak. Yes, it is important that you bear witness of how God Worked in you, but it is more important that you bear witness to the Grace, Love, and Mercy of Jesus for "*whosoever shall call.*" Let your obedience to God's Word give evidence to the "*Spring of Living Water*" indwelling your soul. It's what you do that lends veracity to your speech. If you do not love Jesus more than life, you will not obey Him, your words will have no passion, and your life will give no evidence. Who are your hearers following? If men are following me, I have robbed God of the Glory due Him. Never give a man credit for Truth. God is Truth and God alone! Learn from those close to God, but ultimately seek your own intimate relationship with the Saviour; unadulterated by human wisdom. The secret to following Jesus is the death of self. We crucify self through faith obeying God's Word. "*He must increase, but I must decrease.*" My desires are driven by who I follow; self, sin, and death, or Jesus, "*the Way, the Truth, and the Life.*" Jesus Said, "*Whosoever shall lose his life for My Sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it.*" How much does your life really matter to you? Following Truth will save your life, forever!

I love my Jesus more than life,
It matters not the winds of strife,
Because I know my life is naught,
Unless by Jesus' Blood 'tis bought. —CGP

In Roman times, those who carried a cross were the walking dead. Their life was over. If we would partake of "*Life more abundant*" while here on earth, we must "*deny [ourselves], take up [our] cross, and follow Jesus.*" He IS the "*Way, the Truth, and the Life.*" Do you follow your pastor or your Saviour? If he follows Christ, you will walk together. Our obedience to God's Word not only exhibits our faith to the world, but it crucifies self and proves our love of Christ! "*Hereby we do know that we KNOW Him, if we keep (obey) His Commandments.*" Paul wrote, "*Present your bodies a LIVING sacrifice unto God.*" What motivates your obedience to God's Word? Love of Christ or dutiful compliance? Do you want to obey, or are you just going through the motions? Do you rise each day with a fresh determination to "*abstain from all appearance of evil,*" because of what Jesus did for you? "*We love Him; because He first Loved us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ Died for us.*" God never demands your love, but Asked for it by Taking your place on Calvary!

"*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.*" Romans 6:6-7 KJV

