

# The Way of the Cross Leads Home

*“Being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord – we prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord”  
(2 Corinthians 5:6, 8).*

# Surrender

- *“If any man wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself . . .” (Luke 9:23a).*
  - *We are not good at self-denial, including American saints who are caught in a culture of acquiring whatever we want.*
  - *We will go to great lengths, often at great harm to ourselves and others, to achieve what we believe we need or deserve.*
  - *Yet, the voice of Jesus says, “If you wish to come after Me . . .”; three examples of men who said “No” (Luke 9:57-62).*

# Suffer

- *“... and take up his cross daily...” (23b).*
  - *Sometimes we suffer innocently (John 9:1-3).*
  - *Sometimes we suffer as a consequence of our sins: “I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake” (Acts 9:16).*
  - *Sometimes we suffer because we are determined to stand firm in our faithful service and commitment to Jesus: “I suffer and am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed” (2 Timothy 1:12).*

# Sacrifice

- *“... and follow Me” (23c).*
  - *Not, “How much can I get, but how much can I give?”*
  - *Not, “What is the safe thing, but what is the right thing to do?”*
  - *Not, “What is the least I can do for the Lord and people, but what is the most I can do in the time I have left?”*

# Secure

*God will be with us and supply our needs.*

*Jesus will protect and intercede for us.*

*The Spirit will abide with us.*

*The love of God will keep us.*

*All things will work to our ultimate good.*

*The defeat of sin and death is sure.*

*We will see God and Jesus face to face.*

*Our mortal bodies will become immortal.*

*Sorrows will be no more.*

*We will be united with loved ones in Christ.*

*Must Jesus bear the cross alone,  
And all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for everyone,  
And there's a cross for me.*

*The consecrated cross I'll bear  
Till He shall set me free,  
And then go home my crown to wear,  
For there's a crown for me.*