



365 days of devotion to Christ

devoted - Given over to the display, study, or discussion of

...I am with you always, even
unto the end of the world...

March 31st 2013

[Http://www.myemanuel.com/devoted](http://www.myemanuel.com/devoted)

Day 24 of 365



Week 4 – walk an inch He'll take you a mile

Seeing the Lord at work in the lives of those He touches is truly one of the most breathtaking and amazing things ever seen. Christ makes all things new and with each regeneration the creature standing after the entering in of the Holy Spirit is so different that glory is given to God as those around them realize "something is different". It is by the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit that men are able to break the bonds of addiction, to turn their back on the lives of sin, and become Holy through the working of the Holy Spirit, the promised comforter. This should not be a surprise... the Lord Himself has made the promise and time and time again demonstrated His power through the changes in the lives of those who surrender all.

Day 24 – pick up your cross

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (Matthew Chapter 16 verse 24 KJV)

Walking with Christ is not easy, living a holy life, walking the straight and narrow, seeking desperately to glorify and live your life surrendered to Christ can be hard. The pain and suffering of this world becomes clearer and clearer each day and I see the need for Christ more and more as I walk through the dark and fallen world. With sin and apostasy raging all around us it is critical to know that once you come to a full and right relationship with Christ your struggles WILL NOT suddenly disappear and fade away... Christ never promised it would be easy, Christ never promised you wouldn't fall on your knees in pain and desperation and cry out to Him for mercy. He actually uses the most clear analogy for the pain we are called to suffer and endure in the picture of the cross... as you fight for victory know this truth: the war is won! Over 2000 years ago on the cross at Calvary it was won! We must face the day, we must "take up" our "cross" and "follow" him!

I wish I could say that serving Christ is easy, I wish I could say its all sunshine and rainbows but the truth is this is a war. Our enemy is very real, the devil seeks to consume you, he seeks to destroy you and it is by God's mercies that we are not consumed! I have found more struggle and more battle since I started to fight for my Christ than I ever knew before... why? Its not easy! The cross gets heavy! The burden gets more than I could ever

bare, alone, but I'm not alone! As you enter day 24 of the 365 day devotion I wonder, do you feel alone? God has made the promise that He will never leave nor forsake us! Trust in the promise of Christ "I am with you always!" Not just in good times but "til the end of the earth" (Matthew 24:20).

Today's prayer:

Today pray the Lord would give you strength to continue to fight the fight. Pray the Lord would shower you with His mercy and that He would pour out His grace in your life. Pray He would protect you from the enemies snare and that He would direct and guide your every step. Pray He would help you bare your cross and glorify Him each day.