

The Price of Freedom

Mark 8:34

*In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **1 John 4:9-10 (ESV)***

1) S_____ - {Deny Yourself}

After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He was spending time with them and baptizing. ²³ John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people were coming and were being baptized— ²⁴ for John had not yet been thrown into prison. ²⁵ Therefore there arose a discussion on the part of John's disciples with a Jew about purification. ²⁶ And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him." ²⁷ John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' ²⁹ He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

John 3:22-30 (NASB)

2) S_____ - {Take up your Cross}

*Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." **Mark 10:21 (NASB)***

3) S_____ - {Follow Jesus}

*We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **1 John 3:16 (NASB)***

God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him.

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Conclusion - A great danger that the nation of Israel faced in the days of the kings and the prophets is the same danger we face today...

*Yet I have been the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; And you were not to know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me. ⁵ I cared for you in the wilderness, In the land of drought. ⁶ As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, And being satisfied, their heart became proud; Therefore they forgot Me. **Hosea 13:4-6 (NASB)***