

# WORD OF THE DAY



## WORD OF THE DAY ( [Hebrews 12:2](#) )

*"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"*

### Seeing beyond your cross.



**We all have a cross.** Jesus told His disciples -- those who desired to follow Him -- that they needed to pick up their cross. The cross for Jesus was a literal cross, the place where He would be crucified. Jesus lived His whole adult life with this imposing dread of an agonizing death in the back of His head. Just as Jesus had a cross, all Christians have a cross too. For some it may be the cross of anger, for others it is a cross of lust. Yet and still for others, it is the cross of covetousness. In the days of the Roman empire, the cross was the instrument on which crucifixion would take place. For the Christian, the cross symbolizes an instrument of death -- think **electric chair**. Therefore when we speak of "your cross", we are speaking of those things which require the **death of self** in order to live a holy life.

**Despise the shame of the cross.** When we carry our cross, whatever we have to die to ourselves for in order to live a holy life, there will be shame associated with it. The shame may come internally as the enemy harasses our thoughts, and the shame may come from external sources, such as concerns with the perceptions of others. The response of Jesus to this shame was to despise it. Jesus despised the shame that would be associated with His cross, the crucifixion. The Greek word translated to despised is **kataphroneó** ([Strong's 2706](#)). It means to regulate one's behavior from an inner mindset, to view negatively, to esteem as light or insignificant or detestable. To treat with contempt, disregard, to pay no regard to. The application of this word to the text means that Jesus' looked at the crucifixion as light, as insignificant, and of no regard in comparison to the joy that awaited Him beyond the cross.

**Fix your gaze beyond the cross.** Our verse of the day tells us that, **for the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross**. The joy set before Jesus was not the joy of the cross but the joy beyond the cross, the joy of the salvation of the world, and the joy of doing the Father's WILL. As we carry our cross in this life, let us not look at the cross or the shame of it, but let us look beyond it to the joy that God has for us. Some may struggle with dark thoughts or feel overwhelmed with living another day. Endure! Focus on the joy that Jesus has prepared for His children in heaven. Others may struggle with their love of money, constantly stealing, lying, and cheating to get more, for such individuals being honest is difficult. Endure! Focus on the joy that Jesus has for you which comes from having a clear conscience where you don't have to be weigh down by guilt. Yet others struggle with being patient, easily upset or irritated by the frustration behaviors of others. Endure! Focus on the joy that Jesus has for you, remembering that one day the Prince of Peace will bring permanent peace to this world. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, focus beyond your cross, despise the shame, fixing your eyes of the joy set before you to take you through.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Your cross is **not** the final destination, it is the doorway through which you enter into your destiny.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, thank you for the joy that you have set for me beyond my cross. Please fix my gaze on this joy that you have for me so that I will endure and despise the shame associated with my cross. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

*Your brother in Christ, WNL*

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