

*John 10 The Message – “This is why My Father loves Me. I freely lay down My life.....No one takes it from Me. I lay it down of My own free will.”*

*Acts 21 The Message – “You’re looking at this backwards. The issue in Jerusalem is not what they do to me, whether arrest or murder, but what the Master Jesus does through my obedience. Can’t you see that?”*

The true heroes of the Bible had a common characteristic that is little recognized as a warrior’s heart and an unbeatable weapon in the face of danger. Their life was not their own. Some time before they were called upon to display this Christ-following character, whether they lived during the Old or New Testament times, they had an understanding of the heart of God’s ways and gave their lives fully to His use and service, no matter what the cost.

The true church of Jesus Christ fully recognizes the work that is being done in open, teachable hearts. It is a work of unquestionable submission to the cross, and the life that it testifies of to the world. It is the crucified heart that beats in unison with its Lord as a prepared bride, waiting for the wondrous moment of meeting her mate.

As always, the enemy counterfeits a move of God to sidetrack its importance; in this case, the heart of full submission and sacrificial giving. He calls upon those who follow his plan to seek physical martyrdom for some sort of eternal gain, denying the eternal gain achieved at the cross. The suicide tactics displayed in today’s world show that distorted and misdirected zeal. His followers lay their lives down sacrificially in order to do harm to others and for their own gain. Jesus laid His life down for the benefit of others.

God is calling His people to return to the heart that led Jesus to the cross. Obviously He in no way condones purposeful, planned, physical death; but He does require the setting aside of all our own desires, replacing them with His desires - a death to our fleshly, carnal nature, which is accomplished in the spiritual realm. To the degree that this submission to His will at the expense of our own is achieved in each of us, will be the degree to which we will be able to be trusted and used by Him.

Wanting to submit fully to the ways of Jesus – Jim Corbett