



(Stained glass window from United Methodist Church, Mountain Grove, Missouri.)

Matthew 16: 24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”



FOLLOWING JESUS

Following Jesus, an all encompassing total commitment, is making Him Lord of all

It's knowing Him so well, you recognize His voice, and obediently answer His call

Clothing yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, means the old self's dead to sin

It's denying the desires of the sinful nature, and letting your new life win.

Getting rid of self-will, requires time with Jesus, allowing Him to take the lead

Using prayer to talk and listen to Him, and on His Word to daily feed

Developing a strong relationship with Jesus, means you're willing to take up His cross

Giving up previous friendships and sinful habits; a hard and painful loss.

The more you become a mirror of Christ, the less in the world you belong

For paying the cost of being His disciple, means walking away from the throng

But the trials you face push you closer to Jesus, with each and every day

And serve to deepen your relationship with Him, as you learn to trust and obey.

Spiritual growth is a never-ending process; being a student your whole life-long

Through receiving Jesus and walking in Him, you'll discover a place to belong

In this life you'll always have trouble, but know this world He's overcome

And to know God and believe Him, means all your battles have been won.