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4. The Comfortable Cross

The world pursues _____ as a value or an entitlement - sadly our _____ often follows suit.

²³Then he (Jesus) said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.'"
Luke 9:23-24 (NIV)

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... ²²Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles... ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NIV)

Who but God could take a CROSS representing...

Defeat and turn it to Victory?

Guilt and turn it to Grace?

Condemnation and turn it to Freedom?

Pain & Suffering and turn it to Healing & Hope?

Death and turn it to Life?

What God did for the cross,

_____.

²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 1 Corinthians 1:27 (NIV)

When I acknowledge my weakness and humble myself before God, I put myself in a position to _____.

⁹“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

Divine Paradox:

When I am _____ - He is _____!

²⁴Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. John 12:24 (NIV)

³⁹Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39 (NIV)

¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. James 4:10 (NIV)

Next Week: **not a fan:** [completely.committed.follower](https://www.completelycommitted.com)

5. More Than Rules