

Today I choose...



Luke 9:18-20

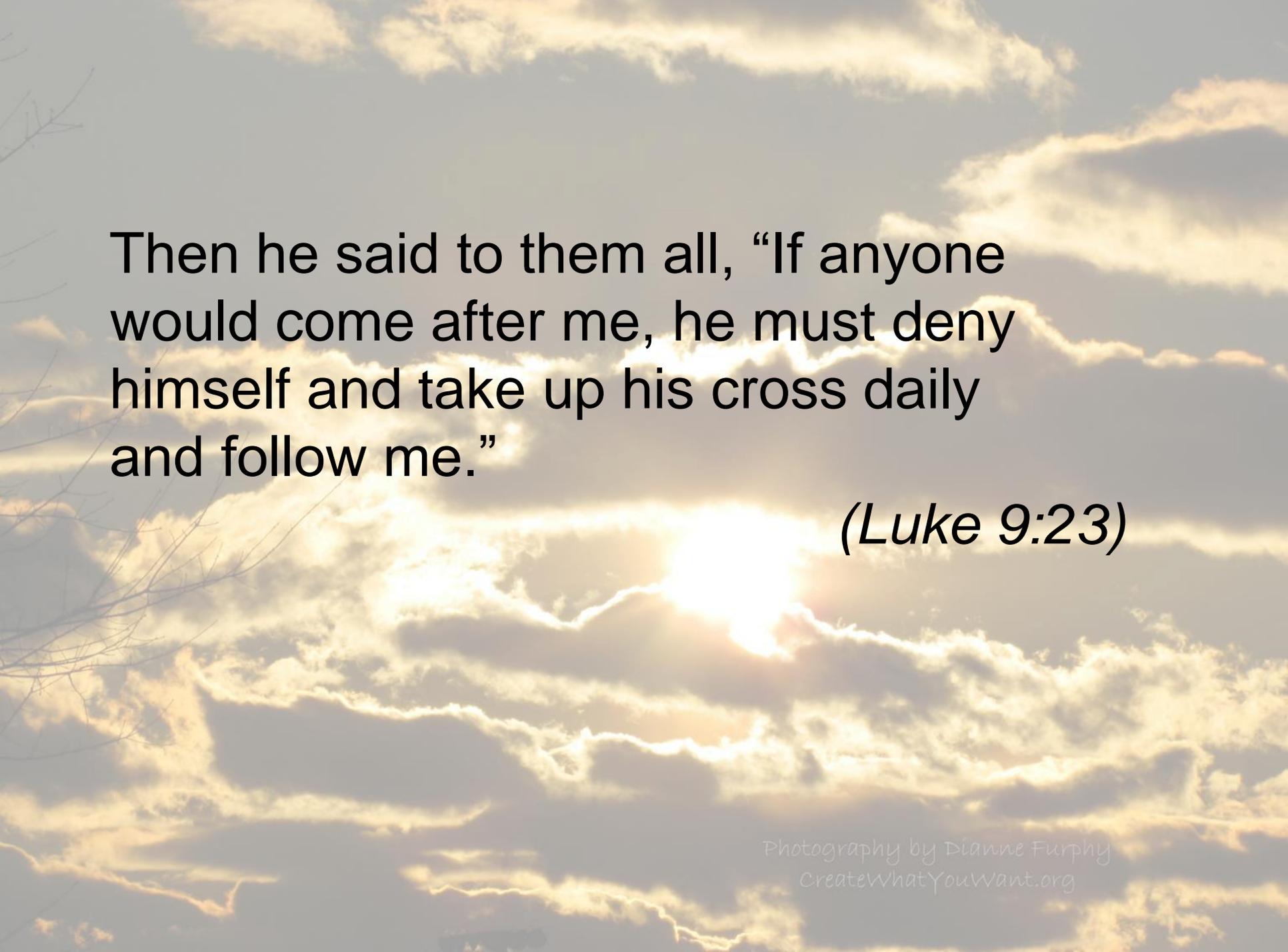
- Who do **others** say that I am?
- Who do **you** say that I am?

***To this question I cannot give
multiple answers.**



RECOGNITION demands **RESPONSE**

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Then he said to them all, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

(Luke 9:23)

- 
- **rejection** of self
 - **acceptance** of difficulty
 - **submission** to God



SELF DENIAL

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I MUST ACCEPT HIS TERMS

As fallen sinners and humans, we are in no position to set the terms under which we will receive Christ! We have no choice. We take Christ on his terms or not at all.

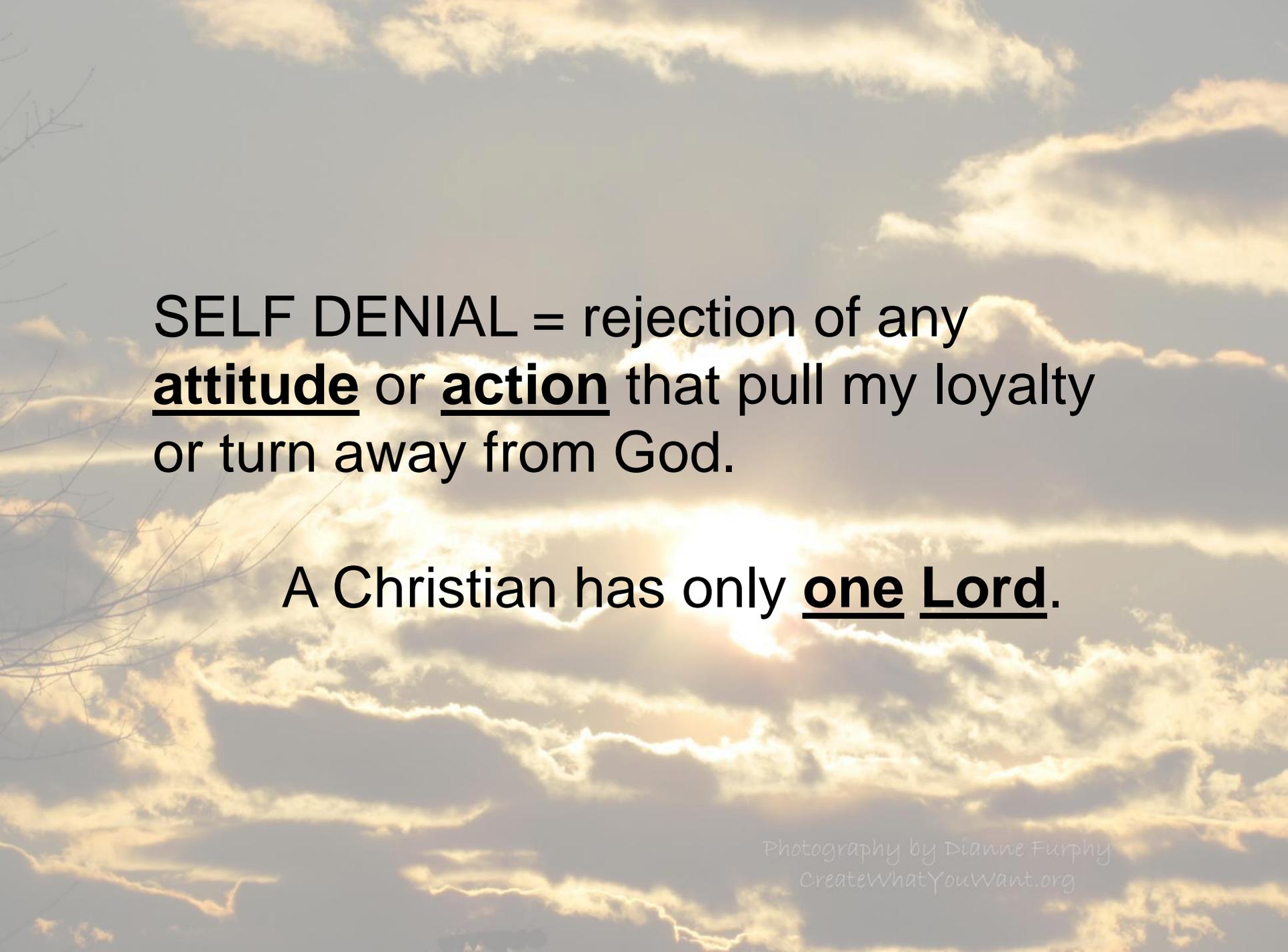
Deny self = accept his terms



I replace my own agenda with his agenda

Deny self = his agenda

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SELF DENIAL = rejection of any attitude or action that pull my loyalty or turn away from God.

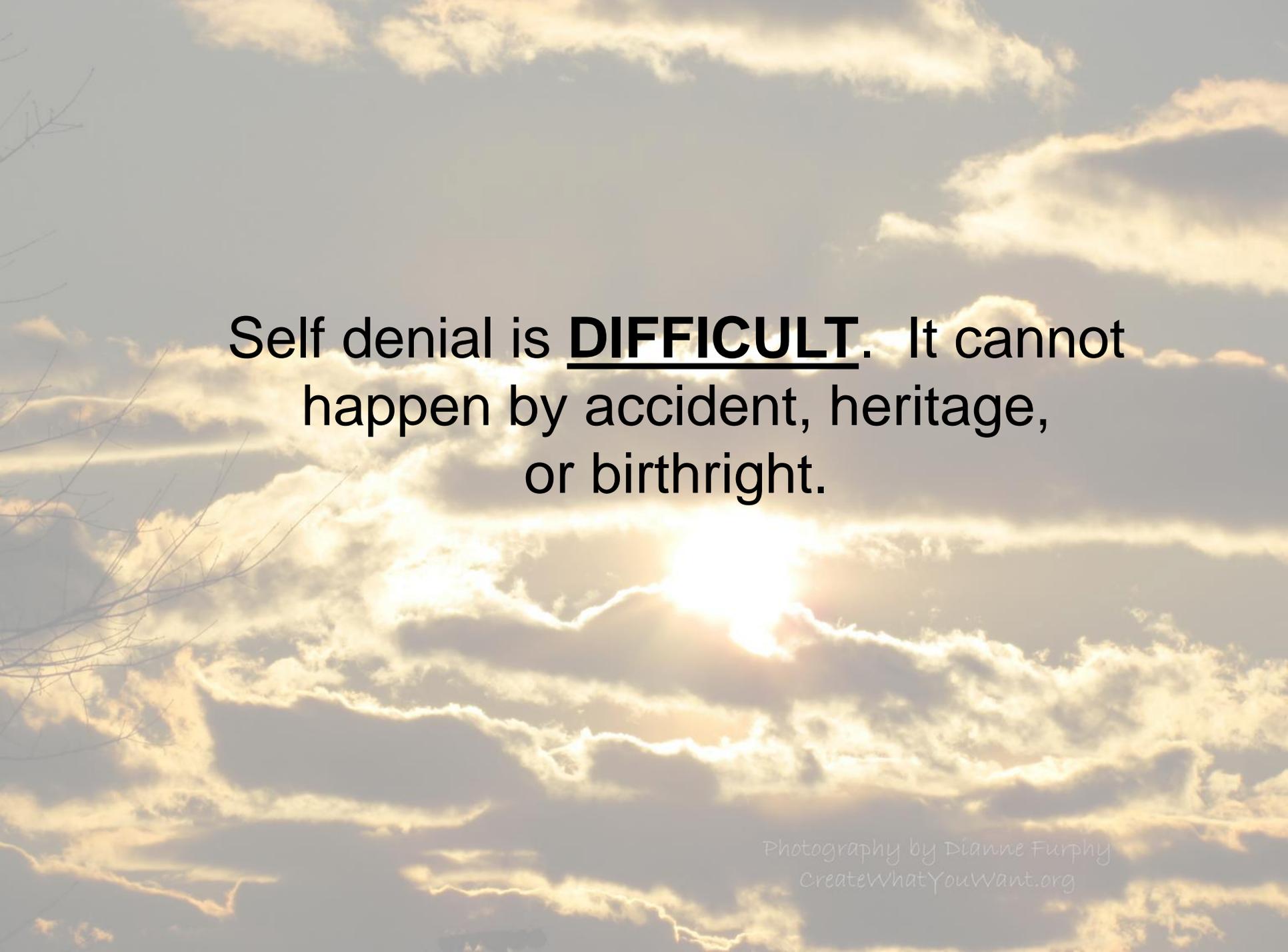
A Christian has only one Lord.

REPENTANCE

1. Metanoeo = thinking

2. Metamelomai = feeling

3. Epistrepho = doing



Self denial is **DIFFICULT**. It cannot
happen by accident, heritage,
or birthright.

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CROSS

Unlike many “crosses” that we nobly bear, this cross is willfully chosen.

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This cross is the **DENIAL**, **DISCIPLINE**,
DEATH, **DIFFICULTY**, or **DANGER**
imposed on self in order to follow Christ.

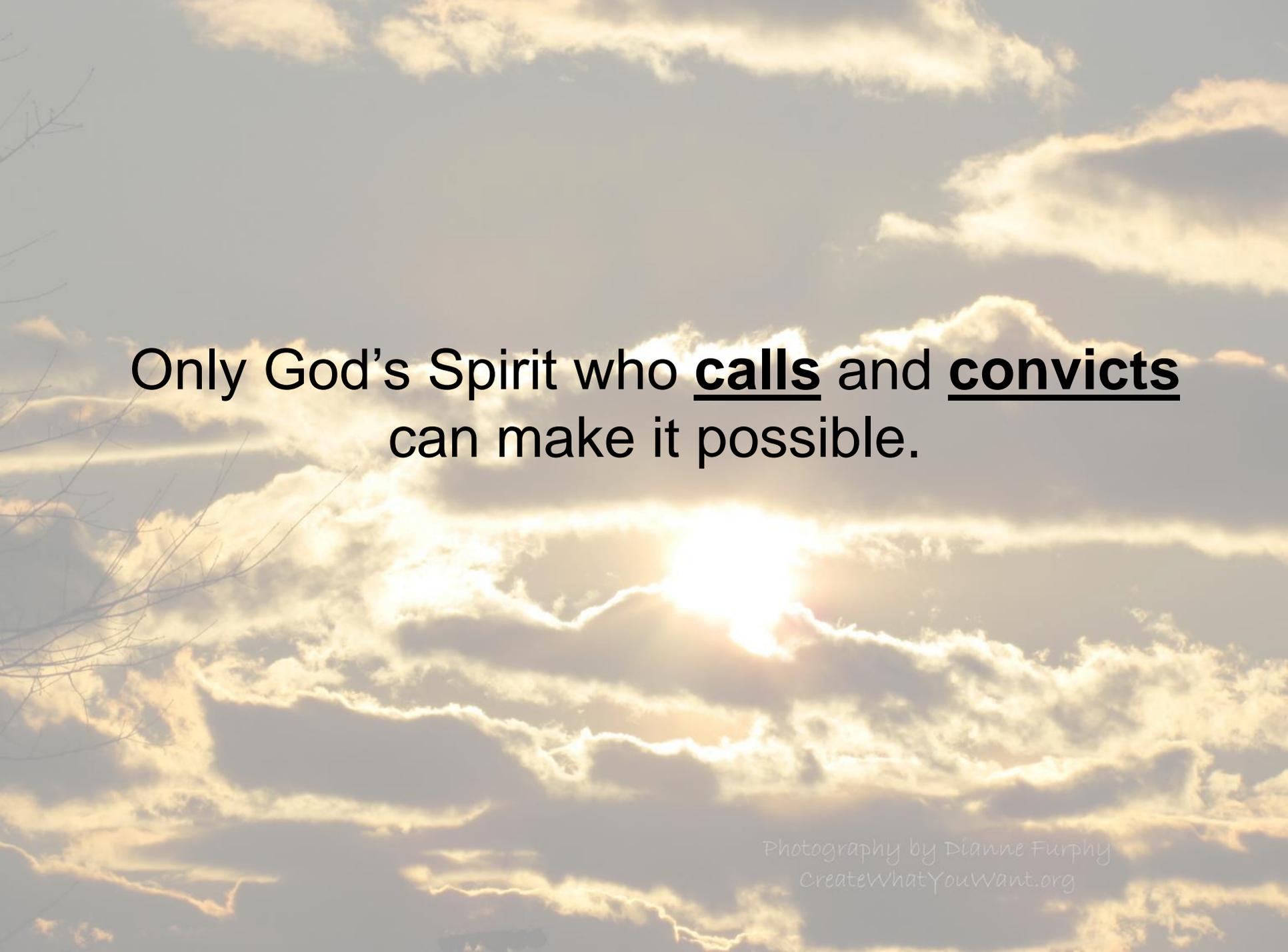
*I “crucify” all claims to
SELF and **SECURITY**.

Why the symbol of the cross?

- Following CHRIST rather than SELF involves a **mighty struggle!**
- Humanly speaking, it is **impossibly hard** to be saved!

Jesus loved him and said, “Go sell everything... “ At this the man’s face fell and he went away SAD because he had great wealth. Jesus said, “How HARD it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle...” “Who then can be saved?” Jesus replied, “With man this is IMPOSSIBLE, but with God all things are possible.”

(Mark 10:21-27)



Only God's Spirit who **calls** and **convicts**
can make it possible.

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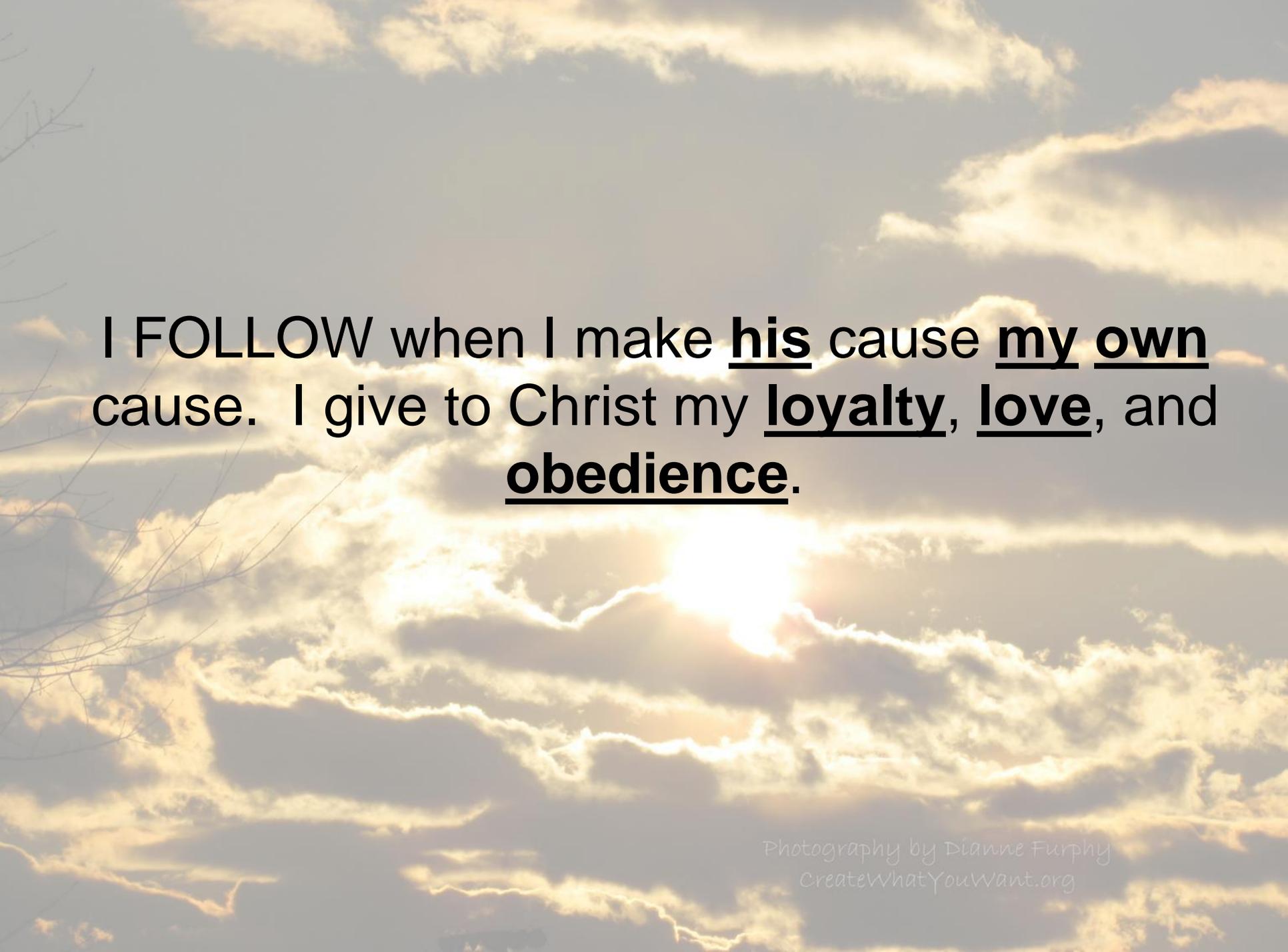
FOLLOWING CHRIST

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The chief goal of a Christian is to
FOLLOW Christ.

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I FOLLOW when I make his cause my own cause. I give to Christ my loyalty, love, and obedience.

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