

# Stepping Outside Your Comfort Zone

## Matthew 16:24



- \* Christ asks His followers to \_\_\_\_\_ to themselves, to take up their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ after Him (Matt. 16:24). Taking up a cross and dying to self are not “\_\_\_\_\_” actions, and Christians should always be willing to step outside their comfort zone into any situation God may place them.
- \* In a certain sense, the very act of becoming a Christian can put one in unfamiliar territory. Christ calls His followers to stop seeking earthly \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 6:19), to not worry about the \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 12:22), and to live sacrificially to seek the good of \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 22:39), all of which run contrary to the values of the world.
- \* Placing one’s faith in Jesus Christ for salvation requires a big step \_\_\_\_\_ our comfort zone.
- \* To surrender ourselves completely to God, to place our faith exclusively in Jesus Christ to save us, requires us to \_\_\_\_\_ our instinct to save ourselves (Eph. 2:8).
- \* But what about our day-to-day lives? Having given ourselves over to Christ, how should we be stepping outside our comfort zones?
  - \* It may mean \_\_\_\_\_ with people we previously saw as uncomfortably different or even threatening—helping the homeless at a soup kitchen or taking part in a prison ministry.
  - \* It may mean being seen in \_\_\_\_\_ or with people that society looks down on—working at a halfway house or discussing Christ in a seedy bar with alcoholics.
  - \* It may mean \_\_\_\_\_ to a foreign country or simply breaching the subject of salvation with a group of irreligious friends.
- \* The point is we should not cease serving Christ merely because of our \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* The \_\_\_\_\_ sacrificed everything in order to serve God (Matt. 19:27), and they willingly went into situations where they could be arrested, threatened, and possibly killed (Acts 4:1–3; 7:54–60; 21:13).
- \* Undoubtedly, they put themselves well outside their \_\_\_\_\_ routine and did things far beyond their comfort zones.
- \* This doesn’t mean that every \_\_\_\_\_ we take as Christians should make us uncomfortable. What it does mean is that we are called to \_\_\_\_\_ God regardless of

our comfort level, and we should never shrink from a chance to serve God merely because it is “outside” our wonted routine.

- \* We should consider how we can best serve God through our talents, even if the best way to serve Him is in a new or daunting \_\_\_\_\_.
- \* If we can best serve God in a certain way, we must trust that God will see to it that things work out for \_\_\_\_\_ good and for \_\_\_\_\_ plan (Rom. 8:28).
- \* All Christians, then, should be \_\_\_\_\_ to step outside of their comfort zones, though that might mean a variety of things from person to person.
- \* Even when we are in a new and uncomfortable situation, His \_\_\_\_\_ is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9).