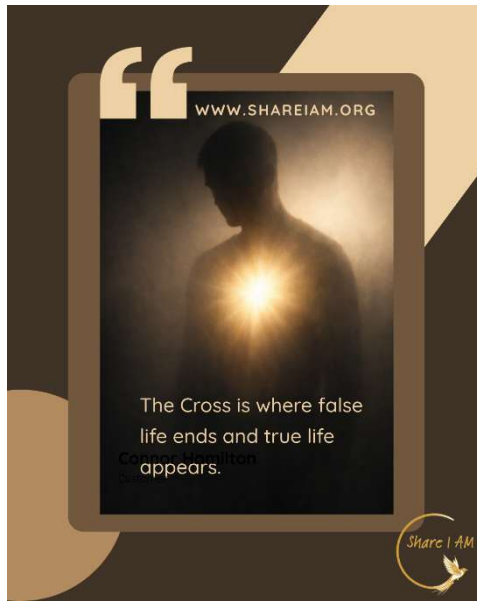




WHEN NOTHING BECOMES EVERYTHING

📖 “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” — Romans 8:6

The natural mind is a subtle enemy, especially when it dresses itself in religious clothing. It speaks fluently of God while quietly resisting His rule. The flesh is not always crude or rebellious; often it is polite, informed, and deeply religious. And so, Christians, sincere and well-meaning, can become gullible, mistaking activity for abandonment, doctrine for transformation.

Yet those who see clearly know this: we are not the treasure, but the carriers. The Gift of Life is wrapped within us. The prayer of the surrendered heart captures it well: “Lord, take me and break me until I’m

nothing... until all that I am is You.” This is not religious poetry; it is spiritual reality. The difference between religion and true spirituality is the difference between light and darkness, between self remaining at the center, and Christ becoming everything.

Moses understood this. He turned away from Egypt’s throne to identify with suffering slaves, choosing affliction over privilege so that God’s deliverance might come. Paul understood it too. Bound in the Spirit, walking knowingly into hardship, he could say, “*None of these things move me, neither do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy*” (Acts 20:22–24). This is not fanaticism; it is freedom.

Dying to self is not theoretical. It is discovered when insult no longer wounds, when neglect no longer stings, when the heart rejoices to be counted worthy to suffer with Christ. Scripture does not offer padded crosses. “*We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God*” (Acts 14:22). The modern hunger for a comfortable, concealed cross betrays a deeper problem: we want Christ without crucifixion, glory without surrender.

There is balance between God’s goodness and His holiness. **Justification** by faith restores the spirit. **Sanctification** restores the soul. **Glorification** will redeem the body. The Cross works in the soul now, exposing hidden places, dismantling self-rule, and forming Christ within us. This is not achieved by slogans, but by daily obedience, “*looking unto Jesus... who endured the cross, despising the shame*” (Hebrews 12:2).

Denying oneself is not self-hatred; it is grace at work. Grace that removes the false self so the true Life may appear. Amazing grace indeed.

🌿 **Reflection:** Where has my natural mind disguised itself as spirituality, resisting the deeper work of the Cross? Am I willing to become nothing in myself so that Christ may truly become everything in me?