

**The Cross Without
the Crown**

Matthew 16: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16: 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Jesus loves you too much
to let you **settle** in your **faith**.

Matthew 16: 21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he **must go** to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he **must be** killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Matthew 16: 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “**Never**, Lord!” he said. “This shall **never** happen to you!”

Safety should never be our
number one priority

Faith (Discipleship) should be.

Safe mode always seeks to
**remove the cross from the
crown.**

Psalm 23: 4 Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me.

Matthew 16: 23 Jesus **turned** and said to Peter,
“Get **behind** me, Satan!

Luke 4: 13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an **opportune time**.

Matthew 16: 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter,
“Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block
to me; you do not have in mind the **concerns of
God**, but merely **human concerns.**”

Jesus affirmed Peter when he
was listening to God.

He turned his back to Peter when
he was listening to Satan.

Satan is always about the
shortcut. He wants to remove
your **conviction**.

The great thing is to **prevent his doing anything**. As long as he does not convert it into action, it does not matter how much he thinks about this new repentance... Let him do anything but act. No amount of piety in his imagination and affections will harm us if we can keep it out of his will...**The more often he feels without acting, the less he will be able ever to act, and, in the long run, the less he will be able to feel...**

(Screwtape Letters, Letter #13)

Some seek to control Christ to
move up in the world.

Peter sought to control Christ to
never be moved again.

Matthew 16: 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny**
themselves and **take up their cross** and **follow me.**

Matthew 16: 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. **26** What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

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