

RISE

“7”

How Can Jesus' 7 Cross Sayings Raise My Christian Performance?

1. By habitually praying for those who misunderstand & mistreat me.

- **Luke 23:34-37:** “‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.’ ³⁶The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷and said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’”

2. By speaking into the lives of those who are hurting & helpless.

- **Luke 23:39-43:** “One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: ‘Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!’ ⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don't you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.’ ⁴²Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ ⁴³Jesus answered him, ‘I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.’”

3. By communicating crazy love toward my friends & family.

- **John 19:25-27:** “Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, ‘Dear woman, here is your son,’ ²⁷and to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.”

4. By staying faithful to God when He is silent or seems absent in my time of need.

- **Matt. 27:45-46:** “From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’—which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’”

5. By thirsting for God through expressing my ultimate need for His thirst-quenching presence.

- **John 19:28-29:** “Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I am thirsty.’ ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.”

6. By unswervingly accomplishing my God-given life mission.

- **John 19:30:** “When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’”

7. By tenaciously persevering until my journey's end.

- **Luke 23:46-47:** “Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, ‘Surely this was a righteous man.’”