

Have you Died Today

This is the Life we want to live

Every one of us wants the life we read about from the gospels to Revelations. The signs and wonders the exploits etc are what we would like to see happening all around us.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 “...And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

We all want that life. So how do we get from where we are today to the life we want to live and are destined to live day by day? People often ask; “How do I get the life I want to live, the one that has no limitation in the things of God?” I have heard these questions many times in different forms over the years.

To often people want a simple answer of; do this, do this and this. The truth is the answer is simple and difficult at the same time. So how do we get this life, this life of power and victory? The life of power we want can only come through **intimacy**. **A life of intimacy** requires our daily death to the power of sin or the sin nature and our daily living in and for and through Christ. **A life of intimacy** causes us to have a life of power and victory.

Matthew 16:24-25 “...Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.”

Have you died today

So my question stands; “Have you died today?” That seems like a strange, mean and possibly stupid question to ask. The reason for the question is that we are going to look at our death in Christ and our life in Christ. I am not talking about some near-death experience; I am talking about clear statements throughout the Word of God, and what it means to you and me. I am talking about what the Word of God has to say about the Christians death and how that death causes us to live.

Romans 6:8-11 “...And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.”

In short, if you are a Christian, you have died and you should be living as *dead in Christ* dying to self on a daily basis. This is not a subject we really want to talk about; we want the messages on victory, power etc. Yet the message of dying to self and sin and living for Christ is the ultimate message of victory and power! Because Christ died we now live through Christ for the glory of God. Death has no power, sin has no power over Him and so if we died with Him we also have been made victorious through Him.

Death causes life

John 12:24 *"...I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels – a plentiful harvest of new lives."*

Here we see an important principle of life in Christ, to give up your life to have life.

When a farmer plants a grain of wheat in the ground he expects that grain of wheat to die; it has to die to germinate to live in order to produce a crop. The farmer knows unless that grain of wheat actually dies it can never live to produce a harvest. Archaeologists have found grain that has been stored for thousands of years yet it has never been planted and so the grain remains alone. Yet when planted it some of the grain starts to grow (unless it has lost its power to live).

1 Corinthians 15:36 the Apostle Paul said this *"...What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first."*

You and I have been planted in the kingdom of God brought out of the kingdom of darkness brought into the glorious light of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 3:9 we are God's fellow workers; we are God's field under cultivation, and God's building. We have been put in this earth to live for Christ on a daily, hourly, minute-by-minute existence.

Live and Die

1 Corinthians 15:31 *"...I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."*

Here Paul wants us to understand the importance of dying daily so that we will live daily. He also said in **Romans 8:36** *(As the Scriptures say, "...For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.")*

We are killed – We are subject to, or exposed to death. We endure sufferings equivalent to dying.

We are accounted – Our enemies judge that we ought to die, and deem us the appropriate subjects of slaughter, with as little concern or remorse as the lives of sheep are taken.

Romans 14:8 *"...For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."*

I love this scripture if I live in Christ I am living to or for the Lord and if I die for Christ I am dying to or for the Lord I am the Lord's. Awesome thought!! Why wouldn't I want to die and live for the Lord! In this state I am bearing fruit for the Lord.

Made alive after death

1 Corinthians 15:22 *"...For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."*

If Christ Jesus is your Lord you are made alive right now in Christ. This is something that many of us talk about but very few of us actually live our lives from within, *the absolute fact of being made alive in Christ*. So what always holds us back? The knowledge that we have made mistakes and people or the enemy remind us of what we have done.

Romans 6:7 *"...For he who has died has been freed from sin."*

We have already been freed from sin the power of sin. That guarantees us the ability to live this life in power and in victory. When a man dies he is exempt from the power and dominion of his master, the one who

reigned over him. The Christian had been subject to sin and under the dominion of the devil before his conversion. But he has now become dead to it. And as when a servant dies, he ceases to be subject to the control of his master, so the Christian being now dead to sin, on the same principle, is released from the control of his former master, sin.

Die and Gain

Philippians 1:21 “...For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Doddridge – For to me to live is Christ – My sole aim in living is to glorify Christ. He is the supreme end of my life, and I value it only as being devoted to his honour.

Paul’s aim in life was not honour, learning, gold, pleasure; it was, to glorify the Lord Jesus. Paul’s purpose was to know as much of Christ as it is possible to know – to become as fully acquainted as he could with Christ’s position in the Godhead, to become as fully acquainted as he could with Christ’s character, to become as fully acquainted with Christ’s plans etc. Paul’s purpose was to imitate Christ – to make him the model of his life. Paul’s purpose was to make Christ known, as far as possible, among mankind. Paul’s purpose was to enjoy Christ; Paul drew his comforts from him, his happiness was found in communion with him.

Colossians 3:3 “...For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

This is a straightforward statement of fact; what isn’t straightforward is your belief in it. Are you going to live a life of power and victory or will you be the one who live an ineffective life wishing they could see signs and wonders never actually being a part of bringing signs and wonders?

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