

Life as God has it (2) – Bible Study

Objective

The objective of this bible study is to bring a powerful understanding of the life as God has it and as Jesus came to give us.

Introduction

Very few people will argue with the fact that it is God who gives us life. It doesn't take a genius to appreciate the miracle of life. However, what many of us fail to grasp is that Jesus came to bring us much more than life as most people know it. He came to bring us much more than the privilege of existing on this planet. He came to bring us life as God has it!

John 10:10 NLT - The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life

As we saw in previous sessions, this rich and satisfying life is not just about a good existence here on earth. It is really about life as God has it. Zoe life. Eternal life. The God kind of life!

Don't gloss over this truth. Don't minimise it. Take a minute to think about this. This is where your power is as a believer. It is in understanding that what we get when we accept Jesus as the son of God, who died for our sins and was raised up for our justification, is life as God has it.

We are assured of eternity because through faith we receive LIFE AS GOD HAS IT. We are assured of eternity, because in this life we received another kind of life, a life that defies death. Every believer has this life right now. That's why we will spend eternity with

God even after death. Have you put your faith in Jesus? Then you have life as God has it, right now!

John 5:25 - The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son.

John 6:57 Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies.

The real challenge for us then, is to live now, like we have the life of God. And it starts with actually believing that the life of God which we have through faith in Christ is the "be all and end all".

The challenge is to believe that because I have life, death has lost its sting. Death no longer has the last say in my life, because the kind of life I have, is not the ordinary kind of life which ends in death, instead I have the kind of life in Christ which is stronger than death!

The kind of life you have in Christ is able to resurrect dead things in your life. Which means when a "Lazarus" dies in your life, when a hope, a dream, a relationship...anything dies, you don't need to live in despair, you just need to believe in the power of zoe life over death. You just need to be brave enough to invite Jesus to have the final say in every one of these situations.

(Read John 11)

Alive to Zoe life

Ephesians 4:17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

In Paul's warning to believers, he implies that it is possible to live like the gentiles do with a way for thinking that does not produce results (futility of their thinking) and separated from zoe life...and he says we do this by being ignorant. We live in ignorance when our hearts are hardened to the gospel.

The Passion Translation puts it this way...17 So with the wisdom given to me from the Lord I say: You should not live like the unbelievers around you who walk in their empty delusions.[I] 18 Their corrupted logic has been clouded because their hearts are so far from God—their blinded understanding and deep-seated moral darkness keeps them from the true knowledge of God. 19 Because of spiritual apathy, they surrender their lives to lewdness, impurity, and sexual obsession.

19 Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion.

When we live life like the gentiles do, separated from the LIFE OF GOD...Separated from the LIFE THAT JESUS CAME TO GIVE US, we lose all sensitivity to the things that really matter, which is the things on the heart of God.

The Passion translation talks about spiritual apathy...that's a spiritual lack of concern, lack of enthusiasm, lack of interest. Even as Christians, we might not be living in sexual obsession or addicted to every sort of perversion...when live without a consciousness of

zoe life, we live like gentiles in spiritual apathy. This is where we are more given to seeking the satisfaction of our flesh than we are to live the life of God.

Sometimes in the passage of time, we become apathetic towards the God kind of life. We settle for ordinary. And I want to stir up that desperation for that life, because the will of God is that out of your bellies shall flow rivers of living water (John 7:38).

However, before we can give the life of God which we have received, the question is are we thirsty for that life? In John 7:37, Isaiah 55:1, we see God inviting us to this life, but like everything else, if you will truly go for, and hold onto anything good, you've got to really want it. You've got to get thirsty for that water.

In everything that you are doing in your life, are you reaching for ordinary, or are you looking to live that Zoe life. It reflects in our expectation, in our hopes, in our dreams, in our attitude to the things of God, in our willingness to share the gospel. This is what the Lord is trying to stir up in us in this season.

As human beings we have the ability to adapt. It's a gift. But in a perverted world, it is also a curse because we can easily adapt to things or ways of life that not God's will for our lives!

Bronze or Gold?

1 Kings 14:25 It happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam *that* Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. 26 And he took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house; he took away everything. He also took away all the gold shields which Solomon had made. 27 Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place, and [i]committed *them* to the hands of the captains of the [j]guard, who



guarded the doorway of the king's house. 28 And whenever the king entered the house of the Lord, the guards carried them, then brought them back into the guardroom

You see, what happens in life is that the enemy comes, he steals, he kills, he destroys. The king in the above scripture does what many of us do, we settle for bronze shields when the original plan was that we have gold shields!

We substitute the healing power of God for pushing people down!

We modify the life that Jesus brought to us to suit popular culture, so that there is no difference between the life of a believer and the life of an unbeliever! Are you satisfied with your bronze shields or do you want the gold ones back?

In **Matthew 13:24** Jesus tells the parable of how the enemy sowed tares among the wheat, this has always been the strategy of the enemy, to present us with a counterfeit - right from the garden of Eden...it's what He has always done...

God left Adam and Eve in the garden...and when he came back, they had eaten of the tree and now telling God, that they were naked! God asked them the question; who told you that you were naked? Where did you hear that from? Because the life that I gave you, covered you! You were covered by life as God has it, but somehow you have ended up with fig leaves for a covering.

Who gave you the life that you are living right now? Who convinced you that this was it? How did you get to settle here? How did you get to believe this thing that contradicts the life that Jesus came to give you? How did you end up with bronze shields? Do you know that God reserved Gold shields for you?



I believe that in this season God is raising up a generation of people who will live the ZOE LIFE! A generation of people who will not settle. A people who will reach for the very life of God that Jesus came to give them!

God is raising people who like Paul in **Philippians 3:12** will say thank God for all that God has done in my life, but I am pressing for the mark! I am reaching for the prize! God is raising a generation of people who will not conform to the world around them, a people who will not go with the crowd...he is raising a people who will get hold of the eternal life! A people who are determined to live out Zoe life.

How to get hold of Zoe life

John 3: 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

Believe! Look to Jesus. Not in a religious way. But look to Him for your next move in life. Look to Him to help you in your weakness. Look to Him to change your circumstance. Look to Him to guide you. Wait for His response to your dilemmas in life. Act out the Word. Let the Word have the final say in your life. **Don't get real if real contradicts His word.** Expect to live just like Jesus did. Work miracles. Believe for the impossible. Think with the mind of Christ. Let your logic be governed by God's ability. Believe!

1 Timothy 6:12-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

It will not be a walk in the park. Believing is not easy because there is some much in the world around you that is set up to get you to disbelieve the Word in you. That's why it is

a fight of faith. The work of a believer is the work of believing. Not just a believing that is an acceptance of the principle or an agreement with the theology, but a believing that is purposefully outworked in our life.

Conclusion

Throughout the history of Christianity, believe in the validity of the “God kind of life” those have accomplished great things in their lifetime. When you get hold of that life, the natural life loses its grip on you.

Jesus came to give us that zoe life because that zoe life was the life of men. His life is meant to be the light of our lives. His life is meant to be our guide. His life is what our world needs. The world doesn’t need theoretical Christians as much as it needs people who practically live out zoe life.

Discussion

- What hinders us from believing in the zoe life
- How should we approach life if we really believe in the zoe life?
- Do you believe you have zoe life?
- What corresponding action will you take in today in view of your confession of faith in the zoe life