

So Much More Than This

Pastor Anthony J Shetley, Point of Life Church, July 18, 2021

Have you ever had a moment when you thought to yourself, “There’s got to be more to life than this?” For some, this is it. You live and then you die. There is no life beyond the grave. So, some believe.

1 Corinthians 15:19, 32 - If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.

Church, there is much more to life than this. We are so much more than the sum of our possessions, our careers, or our circumstances.

God has called us, chosen us, and “Blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3). We may be limited in what we possess of this world, but that has no bearing on the abundant life we possess in Christ.

The words “God has blessed us” means we have already been given these blessings from above. We need not pray if it is God’s will for us to have these spiritual blessings, but we need to seek after taking possession of all that God has promised to us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

In the same way, Joshua was not to pray for the land that God had already promised to His people. But he was to enter and take possession of it and to enjoy the provision of God.

Joshua 1:3 “Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.

God had spoken to Moses saying, “When you cross over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and you shall take possession of the land and live in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it.

Church, there is so much more for us than what this world has to offer. There is more to life than what meets the eye! Our heavenly possessions supersede the earthly ones. Our blessings are not somewhere in the indefinite future far out from our reach. Yes, there remains for us a full inheritance upon the eternal redemption of our soul, but there is an abundant life in Christ to be experienced by us today. So why aren’t we living it?

This is what I believe.

Many are not experiencing the abundant life **of Christ** because they are not living the abundant life **in Christ**. The abundant life in Christ is one given to the will of God.

Spiritual blessings are for the Spirit led life. Most professing Christians today are living a carnal life led by the flesh; therefore, they have set their minds on the flesh and on earthly things. This is enmity with God. However, if we would dare to deny ourselves and to take up our cross and follow Christ, then, possibly, we should find ourselves longing for the things from above.

Colossians 3:1–4 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

The abundant life is filled with the same Life-giving Spirit and power which raised Jesus from the grave. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been raised to life with Christ! ***“We have died, and our life is hidden with Christ in God.”*** We have forfeited this temporary life to save our eternal life with Christ. Our life is hidden in the sense of preservation and security, waiting for the soon revelation of Christ.

Unfortunately, many who profess faith in Jesus Christ have taken the course of the prodigal son who wanted his inheritance immediately. He chose to reject his father’s provision and wisdom and to spend his life for himself, and to follow the desires of his own heart. He soon found himself empty and starving, seeking to find help from a world that couldn’t even help itself.

As the prodigal son came to his senses, we, too, need to wake up, come to our senses and return to our Father. He was willing to humble himself and go to his father seeking repentance and his father’s forgiveness – (If we draw near to God, He will draw near to us).

The lost son thought to himself, “How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger?” Friend, our heavenly father has so much more for us than this world could ever give.

God has granted to the church every spiritual blessing from above according to the riches of His grace and glory.

If you choose to settle for the carnal things below, just know that the water of the worlds well will soon run dry. But if you know who Jesus is, and you have been raised to life with Him, seek from Him the water that only He can give. Drink from the well that springs forth from God.

An Encounter With Christ:

John 4:10,13-14 -Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water...Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

This living water is the Holy Spirit of God. In Him the fulness of God dwells. We need to pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit – a time of refreshing from the Lord – to resurrect the dead in sin, to bring back the wayward child, to awaken the slumbering saint, to restore strength to the weak, and to empower the faithful servant of God.

The Prayer of Ephesians 1:18–23

Lord, open the eyes of our heart so that we may see and know the hope of Your calling. Open the eyes of our heart that we may know the riches of the glory of Christ’s inheritance – Father, you have called us and chosen us to be the rich and glorious inheritance of Christ. Father, help us to know the surpassing greatness of Your power toward us who believe.

The Prayer of Psalm 119: 34–37

Lord, Give us understanding, so that we may keep your law and obey it with all our heart. Direct us in the path of your commands, for there we find delight. Turn our heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn our eyes away from worthless things; preserve our life according to your word.