

2/15/26

Living The Crucified Life
Gal. 2:20

The Bible says we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10
* Jesus says He came that we may have life, and that we may have it more abundantly. Jn. 10:10d-e

In view of these two scriptures, God has declared that every believer has a new potential for life by virtue of being "in Christ" living by faith.

Listen to a poem entitled "By sight Not Faith".

Sometimes I'm sad, I know not why
My heart is sore distressed;
It seems the burdens of this world
Have settled on my heart.
And yet I know...I know that God
Who doeth all things right
Will lead me thus to understand
To walk by FAITH....not SIGHT.
And though I may not see the way
He's planned for me to go,
The way seems dark to me just
But oh, I'm sure He knows!
Today He guides my feeble step
Tomorrow's in His right...

He has asked me to never fear...
But walk by FAITH...not SIGHT.
Some day the mists will roll away,
The sun will shine again.
I'll see the beauty in the flowers,
I'll hear the birds refrain,
And then I'll know my Father's hand
Has led the way to light
Because I placed my hand in His
And walked by FAITH...not SIGHT.
* Ruth A. Morgan #1497

The question that we need to ask ourselves is, how can we live up to our potential?

Paul gives us three principles that will allow us to live up to our potential in our life of faith. Gal. 2:20

- I. The principle of death. vs. 20a
- II. The principle of life. vs. 20b-d
- III. The principle of Love. vs. 20e

I. The principle of death. vs. 20a

* "I have been crucified with Christ."

* If we are going to live up to our potential, we have to acknowledge that we have been crucified with Christ.

A. The metaphor of the crucified life implies death to my own direction in life and purposes before coming to Christ, if they are contrary to the

written word of God or the revealed will of God for me.

1. The word crucified is in the perfect tense, past completed action having present results.
2. The disciples were fishermen before, but Jesus had called them to be fishers of men.
3. Paul was a religious Pharisee persecuting Christianity, but now called to be a preacher of Christianity.
4. Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones was a practicing physician, assistant to Lord Horder, but God called him and entered the Ministry in 1927.

B. The metapor of the crucified life implies death to my old man and his bondage to sin.

1. Our old man was crucified when we were born again. Rom. 6:6
* “knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”
2. Our old man is to be reckoned dead daily. Rom. 6:11
* “Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
3. Our old sinful passions have been crucified. Gal. 5:24
* “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

4. Our thoughts need to be brought captive to the obedience of Christ. 2Cor. 10:4-5
* You cannot stop birds from flying over your head, but you can stop the from building a nest on your head!
5. Romans seven describes Paul attempting to obey God in the ability of the flesh, trusting in himself to accomplish what can only be accomplished by the Spirit. Rom. 7:13-25
 - a. Romans 7 is not describing the warfare of the believer, but a willful defeat of a believer by trusting in his own abilites to be vitorioius over sin-nature and sin that only God can accomplish!
 - b. Remember the context of our text is Law versus grace, as Paul has rebuked Peter before all!
6. Galatians shows us the warfare that will exist as long as we are in this body, due to sin nature, as well as the remedy for victory in the Spirit. Gal. 1:16-17
* “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

- C. The metaphor of the crucified life implies a slow, painful death that would always be certain and witnessed before all.
1. Crucifixion was practiced by the Phoenicians, the Persians picked up and the Romans perfected it.
 2. The Romans reserved this form of capital punishment for slaves and foreigners, never for a Roman.
 3. Our death to sin-nature and sin is a constant and a painful process that will one day be finalized, as we glory in the cross. Gal. 6:14
* “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”
 4. Our death to sin apart from the cross is impossible.
 - a. 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.” 1Cor. 2:2-5
 - b. “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in

the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.” 1Pet. 4:1-2

Illustration

Jesus illustrated this principle as a grain of wheat falling onto the ground; unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain or fruit. Jn. 12:24

Application (The Principle of Death)

1. Let me give you some ways we refuse to be crucified with Christ and forfeit living up to our potential.
 - a. We look back to regrets or enticements of the past! Lk. 9:62
* Jesus said, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God.”
 - 1) The word fit “euthetos” means well placed or useful.
 - 2) He or she is hindered and are not up to their best potential to accomplish the business of the Kingdom.
 - b. We look so far ahead that we lose our joy and trust in God for today. Matt. 5:25-34
* Jesus said, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than

food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble."

2. Let me call to your attention to the words of Jesus about His cross and living up to our potential.
- a. The cross is identity with Christ and the gaining of one's life. Matt. 10:38-39
 - * "Jesus said, "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of

Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

- b. To pick up our cross, we must loose sight of yourself. Matt. 16:24
 - * Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."
- c. The cross may cost you all material goods, not that it will for everyone. Mk. 10:21
 - * "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."
- d. The cross means love for Christ above all others. Lk. 14:25-27
 - 1) "Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."
 - 2) The hate is in the sense of loving or preferring parents over Jesus Christ!

The principle of death is foundational for spiritual living!

II. The principle of life. vs. 20b-d

* If we are going to live the life of Christ it is in this world not the next!

A. The life that I live is no longer I, “it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” vs. 20b-c

1. This implies that the present reality is a total submission to the person of Christ to the purposes and will of Christ, who lives in me and through me, as my Lord.

2. No longer do I simply live to please myself, but my Lord and others.

* “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.” Rom. 15:1-2

3. No longer can I say no and Lord in the same sentence.

* This is a contradiction, as Peter contradicted himself at Joppa. Acts 10:14

B. The life that I now live in this body is by faith, “and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God.” vs. 20d

1. This implies a mind set, a personal commitment of the word and will of God, trusting Jesus for this new life.

a. The words, “I now live in the flesh”, meaning in this physical body.

b. I do this here and now, today, a day at a time in this physical body where I experience daily warfare and difficulties.

1) Putting on the whole armor of God. Eph. 5:10-18

2) Paul makes this very clear, “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.” Phil. 3:12-16

3. This implies a manner of life, “I live by faith in the Son of God.”

a. Faith to be Biblical must be based on believing and trusting the revelation of God’s word, not some self imposed rituals or outlandish religious beliefs that contradicts God’s word.

- 1) “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Heb. 11:1
 - 2) “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb. 11:6
- b.** Faith has an object, the faith that allows me to live this particular life is the Son of God, Jesus Christ.
- 1) Confidence and trust in what the Bible says about His person, who He is!
 - 2) Confidence and trust in what He accomplished on the cross in my place, what He did!
 - 3) Confident trust in union, dependent on Christ, what He is able to do!
 - a)** Paul says, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that

the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.” 2Cor. 4:7-12

b) Paul again says, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” 2Cor. 4:16-18

Illustration

Someone asked John Wanamaker, who pioneered the concept of department stores and marketing in 1838 “How do you get time to run a Sunday school with your four thousand scholars in addition to the business of your stores, your work as Postmaster-General, and other obligations?” Instantly Mr. Wanamaker replied: “Why the Sunday school is my business! All other things are just things. Forty-five years ago I decided that God’s promise was sure: “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” #3099

Application (The Principle of Life)

1. If I am going to live up to my potential in Christ I need to live in obedience as He is Lord. Matt. 7:21-23
 - * Jess said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”
2. If I am going to live up to my potential I need to be as three people in Scripture:
 - a. The athlete who disciplines his body and brings it under subject, lest I be disqualified. 1Cor. 9:24-27
 - b. The soldier who pleases his superior and endures hardness as a good soldier. 2Tim. 2:3-4
 - c. The farmer who trusts God to produce the harvest and be a partaker to be able to impart to others. 2Tim. 2:6
3. If I am going to live up to my potential.
 - a. Christ is my example, not man. Heb. 12:2-4
 - * “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and

- discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.”
- b. Christ is my source. Jn. 15:4-6
 - * “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned.”
 - c. Christ enables and strengthens me to do all things He wants and calls me to do, not what I want to do at my own will. Phil. 4:13
 - * “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

The principle of life is the result of death to self!**III. The Principle of Love. vs. 20e**

- * If we are going to live up to our potential it will be through the love of God!
- A. God initiated His love to me a sinner, “who loved me.” vs. 20e
 1. The loving invitation for salvation of any sinner is recorded by John. Jn. 3:16
 - a. God did not save us by His love, His love could not save us in and of it’s self.

- b. God's love is the motive that prompted God to make a way for our salvation.
 - c. God saved us by having His Son Jesus die in our place.
 - d. God's grace is manifested through Jesus His Son.
 - e. God's righteousness is revealed in the gospel revealing the power of God unto salvation to all. Rom. 1:16-17
2. The miracle is that God loved us as sinners, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us. 1Jn. 4:10
 - a. God is the initiator of salvation.
 - b. Man is the responder for salvation.
 3. The love of God is distinct from the love of man, in that it is unconditional and does not disqualify as man does, due to the following:
 - a. Physical appearance.
 - b. Economic status.
 - c. Cultural difference.
 - d. Past sins.
 - e. Personal weakness.
 - f. Educational accomplishments.
 4. The love of God is also conditional.
 - a. It is true and correct that God loves sinners, but their sin hinders God from imparting the benefits of His love to them.
 - b. It is necessary for a sinner to repent of his or her sins, trusting Jesus as the sacrifice in their place. Eph. 2:8-9

- B. God verified His love in a tangible way, "and gave Himself for me." vs. 20e
 1. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the Ungodly. Rom. 5:6
 2. The Son was sent and became the propitiation for our sins and not for us alone but for the entire world, this is love. 1Jn. 2:2; 4:10
 3. The Son laid His life down willfully of His own will. Jn. 10:17-18
 - * Jesus said, "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Illustration

Jesus illustrated the principle of love as He washed His disciples feet and said, "I have given you an example." Jn. 13:15

* Listen to this poem.

They say the world is round--and yet
 I often think it's square.
 So many little hurts we get
 from corners, here and there.
 But there's one truth in life I've found
 While journeying East and West:
 The only folks we really wound

Are those we love the best.
 We flatter those we scarcely know;
 We please the fleeting guest,
 And deal full many a thoughtless blow
 To those we love the best. #3215

Application

1. If we have not “agape” love we say nothing, are nothing and benefit no one, love for self is a worse death. 1Cor. 13:1-3
2. If we yield to God’s agape love, we will be walking in the Spirit, a choice of the will, to manifest the Fruit of the Spirit which is “Agape” love. Gal. 5:22
3. Some of the practical ways agape love is to be imparted are as follows’
 - a. Love doesn’t work ill to one’ neighbor. Rom. 13:10
 - b. Love serves one another. Gal. 5:13
 - c. Love speak the truth in love. Eph. 4:15
 - d. Love is the bond of perfection, able to forbear and forgive as Christ. Col. 3:13-14
 - e. Love for one another is to be with a pure heart. 1Pet. 1:22
4. The distinguishing mark of the believer and the church of Jesus Christ is to be “agape’ love. Jn. 13:35
 - * Jesus said, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - a. Knowledge is legitimate.
 - b. Works have their place, after coming to the cross. Ja. 2:24-26

* “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

- c. Faith, hope are great virtues, but agape love is the greatest of them all. 1Cor. 13:13
 - 1) “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
 - 2) The crucified life by faith is merely principles of sowing and reaping. Gal. 6:7-10

The principle of love is the life of Christ in me as I give myself to Him!

Conclusion

If you are going to live up to your potential:

- I. We must be crucified daily: The principle of death is foundational for spiritual living!
- II. We must let Christ live through you: The principle of life is the result of death to self!
- III. We must yield to God’s agape love: The principle of “Agape” love is the life of Christ in me as I give myself to Him!

