

THE GIFT OF ABUNDANT LIFE
Genesis 2:4-24 | John 10:7-10 CSB

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:1-5 (CSB)

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:16-17 (CSB)

1. God CREATES life.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

Genesis 1:26-27 (CSB)

These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation. At the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ no shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground. ⁶ But mist would come up from the earth and water all the ground. ⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:4-7 (CSB)

"God made us out of the most mundane material imaginable, so we shouldn't be conceited. But God also infused us with his Spirit, which gives us tremendous value. Like Adam, we are all a fusion of the divine and the dusty."

Dr. Tony Evans

Remember what happened long ago, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and no one is like me. ¹⁰ I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: my plan will take place, and I will do all my will. ¹¹ I call a bird of prey from the east, a man for my purpose from a far country. Yes, I have spoken; so I will also bring it about. I have planned it; I will also do it.

Isaiah 46:9-11 (CSB)

He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts, but no one can discover the work God has done from beginning to end.

2. God SUSTAINS life.

The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had formed. ⁹ The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river went out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon, which flows through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² Gold from that land is pure; bdellium and onyx are also there. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon, which flows through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which runs east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

Genesis 2:8-14 (CSB)

The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, making the heart glad; the command of the LORD is radiant, making the eyes light up. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are reliable and altogether righteous.

Psalms 19:7-9 (CSB)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴ He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:1-4 (CSB)

3. God ORDAINS life.

The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden..."

Genesis 2:15-16 (CSB)

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him." ¹⁹ The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found corresponding to him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. ²² Then the LORD God made the rib he had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called "woman," for she was taken from man. ²⁴ This is

why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 2:18-24 (CSB)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 (CSB)

4. God RESTRAINS life.

"... but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."

Genesis 2:17 (CSB)

Someone from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."¹⁴ "Friend," he said to him, "who appointed me a judge or arbitrator over you?"¹⁵ He then told them, "Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions."¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "A rich man's land was very productive.¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What should I do, since I don't have anywhere to store my crops?'¹⁸ I will do this," he said. "I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there.¹⁹ Then I'll say to myself, 'You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.'"²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?'²¹ "That's how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:13-21 (CSB)