

Abundant Life: Eternal Life in Christ

A revelation of God's love, gives us empowerment in our identity, and by a strategy of faith, we triumph in our eternal purpose.

Losing Life & Rest

Genesis 2:15-17 New Living Translation

15 The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. 16 But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— 17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

Genesis 3:22-24 New Living Translation

22 Then the Lord God said, "Look, the human beings[a] have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!" 23 So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. 24 After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

- Sin caused humanity to lose life and rest.
- Life was lost both naturally and spiritually.
- Adam and Eve weren't born to die or to live outside of God's presence.
- Rest was lost as they were evicted from Eden, and made to work instead of reaping the benefit of what God had already done.
- There was no way back to life or rest that could be achieved on their own.

Romans 6:23 New Living Translation

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Because of God's love and His desire to make us His own again, by faith we can have victory and receive eternal life through Jesus Christ!
- This is the gospel.
- The writing is on our wall!

- ***A revelation of God's love, gives us empowerment in our identity, and by a strategy of faith, we triumph in our eternal purpose.***
- What is our purpose? It's multi-faceted but summed up in the message and mission we've been given.

The Message & The Mission

- God never sends us on a mission without a message!
- Noah built an ark; his message was that it was going to rain!
- Jonah was sent to Nineveh; his message was repent or be destroyed.
- Moses was sent to Pharaoh; his message was let God's people go!
- Esther was sent to the king; her message was spare my people.

2 Corinthians 5:19-21 New Living Translation

19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin,[a] so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

- Our mission is to be Christ ambassadors, our message is "Come back to God!"
- If you're born again, believer and the spirit of Jesus Christ lives inside of you, you're here with a purpose. God desires to show up in your life and the situations that you face and bring the kingdom of God there! There will be come back to God moments all around.

Matthew 3:1-15 New Living Translation John the Baptist Prepares the Way

- John the Baptist was sent from God, so if he is on mission he must have a message.

3 In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, 2 "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.[a]" 3 The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said, "He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the

Lord's coming! Clear the road for him!"[b] 4 John's clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. 5 People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. 6 And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. 7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize,[c] he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? 8 Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. 9 Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. 10 Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize with[d] water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.[e] 12 He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire." 13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" 15 But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.[f]" So John agreed to baptize him.

- "We must carry out all that God requires."
- What does this show us about Jesus, our leader?
- He knew what God required! How?
- He was in partnership with God.
- Not only did He know what God required but was determined that all of it must be carried out.
- If we want to live lives that please that Father we must imitate the Son.

Matthew 3:16-17 Amplified Bible

16 After Jesus was baptized, He came up immediately out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he (John) saw the [a]Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him (Jesus), 17 and behold, a [b]voice

from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased and delighted!”

- How many of you want that testimony? You are His beloved and He is well pleased with you!
- This testimony follows the L.I.F.E pattern.
- Love - This is my beloved
- Identity - Son
- Faith- Without what it's impossible to please God?
- Eternal Purpose - He is a rewarder of those in faith, and Jesus would go on to receive the highest of honors.

Purposed to Overcome in Christ

1 John 5 Amplified Bible

5 Everyone who believes [with a deep, abiding trust in the fact] that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) is born of God [that is, reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose], and everyone who loves the Father also loves [a]the child born of Him.

- ***“As a believer, I am born of God, reborn from above, spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose!”***
- Faith brings us into a new identity for a purpose!
- ***“God saved me on purpose, for a purpose!”***
- God didn't just save you for you, He saved you for Him!
- Never forget it was because of love!
- God's **love** for us displayed in Jesus Christ, brings us into a new **identity**, by **faith**, for an **eternal purpose**.
- Adam and Eve brought us into death through sin, but God brought us into life through love! (John 3:16)

2 By this we know [without any doubt] that we love the children of God: [expressing that love] when we love God and obey His commandments. 3 For the [true] love of God is this: that we habitually keep His commandments and remain focused on His precepts. And His commandments and His precepts are not difficult [to obey].

- **“There’s no love for God in my heart if I don’t consistently obey Him, and it’s not hard!”**

4 For [b]everyone born of God is victorious and overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered and overcome the world—our [continuing, persistent] faith [in Jesus the Son of God].

- This is our anchor verse!
- How do we know that we have a new life? That we’ve been born again?
- Everyone born of God is victorious and overcoming the world and here is the victory: continual and persistent faith in Jesus!
- **Galatians 2:20 New King James Version**
20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

5 Who is the one who is victorious and overcomes the world? It is the one who believes and recognizes the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. 6 This is He who came through water and blood [His baptism and death], Jesus Christ—not by the water only, but by the water and the blood. It is the [Holy] Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. [He is the essence and origin of truth itself.] 7 For there are three witnesses: 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three are in agreement [their testimony is perfectly consistent]. 9 If we accept [as we do] the testimony of men [that is, if we are willing to take the sworn statements of fallible humans as evidence], the testimony of God is greater [far more authoritative]; for this is the testimony of God, that He has testified regarding His Son. 10 The one who believes in the Son of God [who adheres to, trusts in, and relies confidently on Him as Savior] has the testimony within himself [because he can speak authoritatively about Christ from his own personal experience]. The one who does not believe God [in this way] has made Him [out to be] a liar, because he has not believed in the evidence that God has given regarding His Son. 11 And the testimony is this: God has given us eternal life [we already possess it], and this life is in His Son [resulting in our spiritual completeness, and eternal companionship with Him].

- When sinners die they go to hell, when believers die they go home!
- Part of our eternal purpose is eternal companionship!
- ***“My eternal life began the moment I received Jesus Christ as Savior and became one with Him!”***

12 He who has the Son [by accepting Him as Lord and Savior] has the life [that is eternal]; he who does not have the Son of God [by personal faith] does not have the life.

- If you have not confessed Jesus Christ as Lord you don't have eternal life!

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God [which represents all that Jesus Christ is and does], so that you will know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that you [already] have eternal life.

14 This is the [remarkable degree of] confidence which we [as believers are entitled to] have before Him: that [c]if we ask anything according to His will, [that is, consistent with His plan and purpose] He hears us. 15 And if we know [for a fact, as indeed we do] that He hears and listens to us in whatever we ask, we [also] know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted to us] the requests which we have asked from Him.

- This is why Jesus could stand in front of the tomb of Lazarus with a remarkable degree of confidence. His life was lived based on the principle He told John before baptism. We must do all that He requires.
- Powerful prayer point!
- Jesus had a remarkable degree of confidence because He knew the Father always heard and responded when He asked according to His will, plan, and purpose!
- **John 11:40-44 New Living Translation**

40 Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?” 41 So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. 42 You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.” 43 Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in

graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

- Because Jesus is inside of us, by His spirit, we should expect to do the same things He could. But do we even try?

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin that does not lead to death, he will pray and ask [on the believer’s behalf] and God will for him give life to those whose sin is not leading to death. There is a sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for this [kind of sin]. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death [one can repent of it and be forgiven].

18 We know [with confidence] that anyone born of God does not habitually sin; but He (Jesus) who was born of God [carefully] keeps and protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. 19 We know [for a fact] that we are of God, and the whole world [around us] lies in the power of the evil one [opposing God and His precepts]. 20 And we [have seen and] know [by personal experience] that the Son of God has [actually] come [to this world], and has given us understanding and insight so that we may [progressively and personally] know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true—in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children (believers, dear ones), guard yourselves from idols—[false teachings, moral compromises, and anything that would take God’s place in your heart].

1 John 2:26-29 New Living Translation

26 I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. 27 But you have received the Holy Spirit,[a] and he lives within you, so you don’t need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit[b] teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ. 28 And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame. 29 Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God’s children.

- We live in Christ, surrounded by His word, and our obedience to His word is our life expressed to Him.