

Christ Is Life Ministries

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Is What You Believe The Truth?



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Christ Is Life Ministries

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dependence upon Him or else continue trying to make the Christian life work apart from Him. My prayer is that you will choose dependence upon Him. As you do, you too will begin to experience His supernatural work in your life.

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

Jesus

Do You Want To Know More?

This study may have given you answers to some of your questions, but it may have generated more questions as well. If so, I hope that you would go to our website www.christislifeministries.com and look under the **Store** section. The next booklet in this discipleship series that I would recommend that you read is called *Living Life From A New Source*. You can either purchase this booklet online or you can download it for free. You will also see a small group study by the same name. I would recommend this for use by individuals, small groups, married couples, or for Sunday school groups.

In addition to these materials, you can go to the **Discipleship** section of this website and find more discipleship materials under the section titled **Discipleship Studies**. I want to thank you for taking your time to go through this study. I trust that the Lord will make what you have learned become an experiential reality in your life as He has in mine.

Where God Has Brought Me Thus Far

My desire through this study is for you to understand the foundational truth that the Christian life is truly a “WHO” and not a “WHAT.” It is the very life of Christ Who wants to live His life in you. It is a life that you cannot live for yourself. After struggling for so many years and living from lying beliefs, God brought a man into my life on October 4, 1998 who said these words:

“God never intended for you to live the life that only Christ can live in you.”

I was stunned as I heard these words because this was the first person who told me that it was not up to me to live the Christian life. As I mentioned before, after thirty years as a Christian I was not experiencing any real victory, freedom, or abundance. The truth was that I was in total despair. I was just about to walk out on God and my Christian life. However, God, in His grace, knew at that precise moment that I was ready to hear these words. As a result, God has freed me of my chronic fear, anxiety, and inadequacy. Please don't hear that I have arrived. God's process of transformation is a life-long process. However, He has done enough transformation in my life that I can say with Paul in Ephesians 3:20 that God:

“..... is ABLE to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works within us.”

You may be where I was for so many years. If so, I trust that through this study God has brought you to a place where you are ready to allow Him to live His life in you. Eternally more than you can imagine, He wants to live His life in you and to radically change your life. The choice that you now have to make is whether or not you will choose to live in

Introduction

You may be wondering at this point what truth I am referring to in the title. Therefore, let me add the rest of the question:

Is what you believe about living the Christian life the truth?

It has been said that you will not live beyond what you believe, which brings me back to my original question, “Is what you believe the truth?”

I have written this booklet because after several years of ministry I have discovered that many Christians do not know the truth about living the Christian life and are therefore not experiencing the Christian life that God intended. I would encourage you to compare what you believe with what God's Word says about living the Christian life and determine if you are living from the truth. Before I go any further, I want to share part of my spiritual journey with you to bear out why these truths that I will be sharing are essential to be understood.

My Personal Journey

I trusted Christ for salvation at age 18. As I began my Christian journey I asked the question, “What is the Christian life, and how do I live it?” I assume that if you have been a Christian for any length of time that you have asked this question as well.

When I asked myself the question, the answer was in two parts. The first part was that I was required to do certain things **for** God so that He would love me and be pleased with me. The second part was the list of what I was expected to do:

- Have a quiet time with the Lord every day.
- Learn the Word of God and practice it.
- Learn how to evangelize and then go and evangelize.
- Go to church and give to the church.
- Learn how to minister and then go and minister.

Initially I appreciated having this list because up until that point I had lived my life by gaining understanding of something and then acting on that knowledge to accomplish what I thought that I needed to do. I assumed that living the Christian life was a lot like my job in that I learned how to do it and then went and did it.

Therefore, I believed that if I learned what I needed to do and then accomplished the list, God would be pleased. He would love me, and I would be happy. After all, Jesus did promise in John 10:10 that I could have an abundant life in Him. Therefore, I began a thirty year journey of trying to do what I was told would produce a “successful” Christian life.

I did all the things on the checklist, and I did them well. I really felt that I was doing all that God was asking of me, but I still felt that I was falling short. I felt that even with all that I was doing for Him that I still was not measuring up to His expectations of me. My life looked like this pole-vaulter trying to jump over the “bars” of expectations that I believed were from God. The result was that my Christian life became a thirty year life of working and striving to keep jumping over as many bars as I needed to please God and to be happy. When happiness and a sense of pleasing God never came, I simply gave up. I would still read my Bible and would go to church, but it became hollow and without meaning.

The ULTIMATE outcome of trusting Christ to live His life in you is a personal, intimate relationship with Him.

Questions: Did you realize God’s unchanging plan for you according to Ephesians 1:5? Did you realize that you were created for a close relationship with God?

Meditate: on Ephesians 1:4-5 and ask God to persuade you in a deeper way of His desire to have a love relationship with you.

Summary

These are key points to remember from this study:

1. The Christian life is NOT a formula, checklist, or a set of legalistic standards that God expects you to keep.
2. The Christian life is a PERSON, Jesus Christ.
3. The Christian life is about Christ living His life IN you.
4. God is to be your SOURCE for living life.
5. As your Source He PROMISES to heal, to free, to restore, and to transform you.
6. Your part in the Christian life is DEPENDENCE.
7. Faith is an ATTITUDE of dependence that allows Him to be your Source.
8. The OUTCOME of allowing God to live in you is freedom, victory, healing, supply, and transformation.
9. The ultimate outcome of God living in you is a deeper, more personal relationship with Him.

The Ultimate Outcome of Christ Living In You

In order to understand the ultimate outcome of Christ living in us, we need to first understand His plan for man in Ephesians 1:5:

*“His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by **bringing us to Himself** through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure.”*

God’s unchanging plan is to **bring you to Himself**. Why? It is because God wants a deeper, personal relationship with you. The truth is that God does not need a relationship with you. However, He wants a relationship with you. God’s motivation behind His desire for a deeper relationship with you is His unconditional love. We see this in Ephesians 1:4:

“Long ago, even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ...”

The truth according to this scripture is that God has loved you for an eternity. Before you were born, he was waiting to pour out His love on you. Now that you are here on this earth, God initially poured out that love on the cross so that you would never be separated from Him. However, there is much more than salvation in God’s plan. His desire is that you live dependently upon Him as your Source for life and to experience the transformation that He promises. However, more than that, God wants you to know Him and His love for you. This is why Paul said near the end of His Christian walk:

*“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with **the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ.”*
Philippians 3:8

In Addition, I Had Internal Struggles.

Even before I was saved, I had ongoing struggles with anxiety, fear, and inadequacy. Many of those struggles were a result of abuse, rejection, and woundedness. I brought these deep struggles into my Christian journey. I desperately wanted to be free of these struggles. I was told that if I learned enough biblical truth, I could take that truth with my strength, ability, and God’s help and set myself free. Therefore, I studied the bible diligently, learning truth after truth. I then took that truth and tried in my own ability and willpower for thirty years to set myself free from the bondage that I felt.

The result after thirty years was that I experienced no freedom. In fact, the bondage to these problems only became worse. After all those years of living what I thought was the truth, I concluded that I had done everything that everyone had told me about living the Christian life, and it was NOT working. My question was, “Am I believing the truth, or am I believing a lie about living the Christian life?” What do you think?

What Do You Believe About Living The Christian Life?

Before we go on, I think that this is a good time to explore what you believe about the Christian life. Let me do that by asking you a few questions:

- Do you believe that the Christian life is about certain things that you should be doing for God to please Him and to be loved by Him? If so, do you believe that God is pleased with you?
- Do you see the Christian life as one where you learn what to do and then go and accomplish it by your

own ability with God's help? If so, do you believe that you have done enough?

- Do you believe that the Christian life is about YOU being the source to live the Christian life with God's help?
- Do you believe that the Christian life is about you getting your sin under control? If so, how well is that working for you?

Do you feel that you have an obligation to do any of the following?

- Have a quiet time.
- Pray.
- Memorize scripture.
- Evangelize.
- Go to church.
- Minister to others.

What About The Struggles That You Are Facing?

- What internal or external struggles are you facing? Is what you believe working in dealing with these struggles?
- Are you experiencing God's promises of freedom and victory concerning your defeating sin patterns?

What Are The Results Of What You Believe?

- Is your Christian life, meeting your expectations?
- Are you satisfied and fulfilled by what you believe is the truth about living the Christian life? Are you happy?

- **Will destroy your sin strongholds.**
- **Will transform your life to think, feel, choose, and behave like Christ.**

A Life Lived By Faith Fulfills Your Spiritual Destiny.

The outcome of a life lived in dependence upon God will result in fulfilling your spiritual destiny. Your spiritual destiny is found in Romans 8:29:

*“For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.”*

In other words, God is transforming our lives with the result that we will think, feel, choose, and behave like Christ. This is not a result of trying to imitate Christ. It is a life that God produces in you as you depend on Him by faith. I realized after being a Christian for 30 years that I could not produce self-transformation. However, as I began trusting God to do what I tried to do for all those years, He began a radical transformation in my life.

Exercise: Is there some area of your life that you want victory over? Is there some defeating sin pattern or lying belief that you want freedom from? Is there some attitude that you want transformed? Since God is the only One who can produce these changes in your life, come to Him and ask Him to begin the transformation process. It is a step of faith that might look like this:

“Lord, I can't produce the victory, freedom, or healing that I need. I am trusting You to transform my life in this area.”

Meditate: on the truth that faith is an attitude of dependence from which you receive all of what God promises to you as you trust Him. Since we cannot produce His promises in our life, our part must be to come to Him, to acknowledge our need, and to ask Him to do His work in us.

What Is The Result Of Living By Faith?

As we cooperate with God by faith, He unleashes His POWER into us to transform our lives. We see this in Ephesians 3:20 and Ephesians 1:19-20:

*“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the (God’s) **power** that works within us...” Ephesians 3:20 (Parenthesis mine)*

*“I pray that you will begin to understand the **incredible greatness of His power** for us who believe him. This is the **same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.**” Ephesians 1:19, 20*

I believe that if we truly understood the magnitude of God’s power within us, we would have a greater walk of faith. I hear so few Christians talk about the power of God. Is it because they have not truly experienced His power in changing their lives? If we don’t continually pursue God by faith, we will not experience His transforming power in our lives. What are some things that His power will accomplish as you walk by faith?

GOD’S POWER:

- Will make His promises an experiential reality in your life.
- Will renew your mind to believe His truth.
- Will heal your woundedness.

- Do you feel that you are measuring up to God’s expectations? If not, how does that make you feel?

Is what you believe about living the Christian life producing the joy, the peace, and the transformation that you desire and that God promises?

If not, is it possible that you are not believing the truth about living the Christian life?

If you feel that your Christian walk is not all that it could be, I would like to share biblical truth about what God says is the Christian life and see how it compares with what you believe. I would like to start by looking at what Jesus and Paul said about what the Christian life is.

What Does Jesus Say About Living The Christian Life?

Jesus says:

*“...I AM the way, the truth, and **the LIFE**...”
John 14:6*

*“...I AM the resurrection and **the LIFE**.”
John 11:25*

*“He who has the Son has **the LIFE**...” 1 John 5:12*

What is Jesus saying in these three verses?

**Jesus is saying that He IS the LIFE.
What kind of life do you think that He is referring
to?**

Read what Paul believes in Colossians 3:4:

“..Christ who is YOUR life...”

Paul makes this more personal by saying that Christ is **your** life. Is it possible that Paul is saying that the life of Christ is more than just the eternal life that He gave you at salvation?

I believe that Paul answers that question in Philippians 1:21:

“For me, to live IS Christ...”

Paul is telling us that Christ is more than eternal life at salvation. He is saying that life for him is Jesus Himself.

What can we conclude from the words of Jesus and Paul?

**Jesus not only came to give you eternal life.
He also wants to BE your LIFE!
In other words, the Christian life is a Person.
It is Christ Himself.**

Have you ever thought about the truth that Christ wants to be your life? What do you think that Paul meant when he said that for him to live IS Christ?

achieve anything additionally for God. Christ has done it all. If this is true, then what is God’s plan for man? We see the answer in Colossians 2:6:

“As you received Christ Jesus, so walk in Him”

Paul is saying that faith is an act of “receiving.” Your faith walk began “as you received” Christ for salvation. When Paul says, “so walk in Him,” it means that after salvation the Christian life is one of continuous receiving from God.

What are some of the things that we continue “receiving” from God after salvation?

- **His life**
- **His power**
- **His victory**
- **His freedom**
- **His transformation**
- **His love**

In addition to receiving, faith is an “**active**” act of trusting God and acknowledging to Him your need for Him to accomplish what He promises to do in your life. As you come to God through acts of faith, He will develop within you an ATTITUDE of faith.

Faith is an ongoing ATTITUDE of dependence upon God that says, “Lord, I am trusting You to accomplish in my life what ONLY You can accomplish.”

If you choose to live independently of God, you will be faced with impossible circumstances or relationships that you will never be able to fix, solve, or overcome in your own strength. If you continue to live independently of God, you will continue to live in bondage to what your lying beliefs, sin patterns, and flesh produce in you. Apart from Christ you will never experience the internal abundant life and transformation that He so wants you to experience and enjoy.

Independence is an ATTITUDE that says, "I can live life, meet my needs, solve my problems, and be a success apart from God."

Questions: Is there some impossible circumstance or relationship that you can't fix, handle, or resolve? Is it possible that God caused or allowed that situation to prove to you that you need Him as your Source to resolve the problem?

Meditate: on John 15:5 above and ask God to give you application of this verse to your life.

How Man Lives In Dependence Upon God

We discovered that our part in living the Christian life is dependence. The next question that you may be asking is, "How do we as Christians live in dependence upon God?" Paul gives us the answer in the last part of Galatians 2:20:

"...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God..."

Faith is the "HOW TO" for the believer. It is your part in living dependently upon God. What does faith look like? One of the things that Jesus is telling us is that since His work was finished on the cross, man does not and cannot

What The Christian Life Is NOT

If Christ truly is the Christian life, then I believe that this would be a good place to acknowledge what the Christian life is NOT. It is **not** "what" we need to do nor what we have to do (or not do) to please God. The Christian life is **not** about checklists, formulas, or keeping a set of rules. It is **not** a life of striving and struggling to try to produce God's promises in our lives. It is **not** a life that we live FOR God. It is **not** a life where we can manufacture the joy, the happiness, and the peace that we so desire (and that God promises).

The problem is that many Christians are climbing, striving, and struggling to live the Christian life through self-effort. If this characterizes your life, how well is it working for you? Is it producing for you what you desire? Or, have you given up trying to make the Christian life work? You may have tried and tried and yet nothing seems to change. If any of the above is true for you, I hope that you will continue reading because I believe that God is going to reveal to you through these next pages the true meaning of Christ as your life.

The True Meaning Of Christ As Your Life

The next question that you may be asking is, "What does it mean that Christ is your life?"

I believe that God sums up what it means that Christ is your life in 1 Corinthians 1:30:

"He is the SOURCE of your life in Christ Jesus..."

God gives us the answer to our original question in the first part of this verse. When He says that He is the life, it means that through His life He is the SOURCE for your life.

This may be a new concept for you because so many Christians have been taught that they are to be the source for living the Christian life with God's help. However, God makes the truth very clear in 1 Corinthians 1:30 when He says that He is your Source from which to live the Christian life.

Look at two other verses that reveal that God is your Source for living the Christian life:

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things..” Romans 11:36

“In Him we live and move and have our being.” Acts 17:28

Paul is telling us in these verses that it is through God as our Source that we live, move through life, and have our very existence. In other words, man was created to live only from God as the Source.

What are some of the ways that God is your Source as revealed in scripture? God promises:

- **To meet your needs.** Philippians 4:19
- **To work all your failures, conflicts, and struggles for good.** Romans 8:28
- **To be your power over the power of sin.** 1 John 3:6
- **To renew your mind to believe His truth.** Romans 12:2
- **To transform your life.** 2 Corinthians 3:18
- **To draw you into intimate relationship with Himself.** Ephesians 1:5

What Jesus is telling us is that He lived in total dependence upon the Father.

If Christ lived in total dependence upon His Father, then how should we live?

Meditate: on the verses above and ask God to reveal to you in a personal way the truth that you are designed to live in total dependence upon God.

Man Was Not Designed To Live Independently of God.

In the last part of John 15:5, Jesus gives us the key reason why our daily Christian walk must be one of dependence:

“.....apart from Me you can do nothing.”

What does Jesus mean when He says that “apart from Me you can do nothing?” We know in part what He means because we know that apart from Jesus's work on the cross we would not be saved. However, this truth from our Lord extends beyond our salvation. It involves every part of our life. What are some of the results of living apart from dependence upon Christ?

Apart from dependence upon Christ there will be:

- **NO power** over sin.
- **NO victory** over the flesh.
- **NO freedom** from defeating sin patterns.
- **NO healing** of woundedness.
- **NO fruit** of the Spirit produced in your life.
- **NO transformation** to be conformed to the image of Christ.

vine for life, you, as a spiritual branch, are designed to live totally dependent upon God, the spiritual Vine, for life. The word “abide” is another word for **dependence**. As we abide in Jesus, we are living dependently upon Him. Therefore, God’s design for man is that we walk in total dependence upon God as the Source for living life.

We first see God’s plan for dependence played out in the Garden of Eden before the Fall of man. Adam and Eve were totally dependent upon God to meet their every need. This was God’s design from the beginning, and it has not changed.

The following truth is a critical foundational truth for living the Christian life:

**God created man to live DEPENDENTLY upon
Someone greater than himself.
And, that Someone is God!**

One of the purposes for Jesus becoming a man was to reveal to Christians how we should live the Christian life. He did this by telling us how He lived in relationship to His Father. We can better understand their relationship through the following verses:

“I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” John 5:30

*“Jesus therefore said, ‘When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.’”
John 8:28*

If God is to be the Source from which you are to live life, does that mean that God does NOT intend for YOU to be the source? If He is the Source, does God want to help YOU be the source?

What Kind Of Life Is Christ’s Life?

What does God promise Christians that their life should look like? We see at least a partial answer in the second part of John 10:10:

“...I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly.”

In this verse Jesus promises abundant life for the believer. What kind of abundance is Jesus talking about? Is it an external abundance of health or wealth? Or could it be that the Lord is referring to an internal, spiritual abundance? We know that God never promises external abundance. Therefore, Jesus must be referring to a spiritual abundance that comes from within. If this is true, you may be asking, “What is spiritual abundance? When can I expect to truly experience this abundance in my life? How will spiritual abundance affect the internal and external conflicts in my life? Most importantly, what must I do to experience abundant life?”

Questions: Do you believe that the promise of abundant living is for you today, or will you have to wait until you get to heaven to experience it? If someone asked you, could you honestly answer that you are experiencing an abundant life? What do you think internal abundance looks like?

Meditate: on John 10:10 and begin asking God to give you further understanding of what internal abundance looks like.

God's Promises Of Abundant Living

The following are some of the promises that God gives us concerning abundant living:

Victory – over the power of sin, the flesh, the world, and Satan.

*“but thanks be to God, **Who gives us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57*

Freedom – from sin patterns and strongholds that we can't seem to overcome.

*“So **Christ has really set us free**. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.” Galatians 5:1*

Renewing – of your mind to believe God's truth versus your lying beliefs.

*“do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**...” Romans 12:2*

Healing – of your past and present woundedness.

*“He **heals** the brokenhearted and **binds** up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3*

Supplying – God Himself is your Source to meet every need in your life.

*“My God shall **supply** all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19*

These words have eternal significance for us as Christians. Christ's finished work on the cross resulted in the cleansing and forgiveness of our past, present, and future sins. This is a finished work that Jesus did FOR you. Therefore, God does not expect you to live the Christian life for Him. What does God expect you to do?

Christ Wants To Live His Life IN You.

God was not going to save you and then just turn you loose for you to be the source to try to live for Him. His intention all along was to not only be your Source for salvation but to also be your Source for living the rest of your life. That is the reason that He put His life **IN** you. Paul makes this clear in the first part of Galatians 2:20:

*“I am crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but **Christ lives IN me...**”*

Question: Have you ever given thought to the truth that Jesus wants to live His life in you?

Meditate: on Galatians 2:20 and ask God to give you some personal understanding of this truth.

Now that you understand that God wants to live His life in you, what is your part in living the Christian life?

*“**I am** the **vine**, **you** are the **branches**; he who **ABIDES** in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit...” John 15:5a*

Jesus is saying that as the physical branch is designed to be **totally** dependent moment by moment upon the physical

Let's summarize what it means for God to be your Source:

**God is the CAUSE and EFFECT of
change in your life.**

I was taught that I was to be the cause and effect of change in my own life. In other words, if any change was to occur, it was up to me to transform myself. It is because of this false belief that so many Christians have either given up or else are trying harder to live the Christian life. The truth is that only God, as your Source, can be the cause and effect for true transformation in your life.

Questions: Is it possible that you have been believing that it is up to you with God's help to transform your own life? If so, have there been any real significant changes in your life? How might it affect how you live your Christian life knowing that **only God, not you**, can bring about real transformation in your life?

Meditate: on Philippians 1:6 and ask God to persuade you that **He alone** is the source for change in your life.

**Since God is your Source for living life,
do you need to continue trying to live your life FOR
God?**

The Christian Life Is Not Living FOR God.

Since God is your Source for living the Christian life, we can conclude that the Christian life is not about something that we do FOR God. Let's explore further why this is true. Let's begin by looking at the last words of Jesus on the cross:

“IT IS FINISHED!”
John 19:30

Intimacy – a relationship with God.

*“His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by **bringing us to Himself** through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:5*

Which of these promises concerning abundant living would you most like to experience?

Let me ask you a question:

If you experienced

- **Consistent victory** over sin, the flesh, the world, and Satan,
- **freedom** from your defeating sin patterns,
- **a renewed mind** to believe God's truth,
- **healing of** your internal woundedness,
- **your needs being met**, and
- **an intimate relationship** with God,

would you consider that abundant living?

**What is the result of experiencing God's promises
for abundant life?**

The Result Of Experiencing God's Promises Is A CHANGED Life.

I believe that most of us would agree that if God would accomplish these promises in our lives, we would be living abundantly! If you look closely at these promises, you will see that they all involve change. As we begin to experience the reality of these promises, change will take place.

We see this in the first part of Romans 12:2:

*“do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed**...”*

And in 2 Corinthians 3:18:

*“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being **transformed into His likeness** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”*

Being transformed into Christ’s likeness means that we will think, feel, choose, and behave like Christ.

Questions: What are the changes that you would like to see in your life? How have you been taught that those changes would occur? Is what you were taught bringing about the desired changes? If not, why not?

Who Is Going To Be The Source For Making These Promises A Reality In Your Life?

Like so many Christians, I believed that it was up to ME to produce abundant life. In other words, if abundant living was going to take place, it was up to me, with God’s help, to make it happen. As hard as I tried, I never experienced the spiritual abundance which Jesus promised. In addition, I could never break free of my sin strongholds of fear, anxiety, and inadequacy.

Therefore, since I could not attain abundant life through my own self-effort, I came to the conclusion that this abundant life must occur when I get to Heaven. The truth is that God is the Source to make these promises for abundant life an experiential reality in our lives while we are on this earth. We see this in Philippians 1:6:

*“being confident of this, that **He who began a good work in you...**” Philippians 1:6a*

What Paul is telling us in the first part of this verse is that God initiated or began a good work in you. What was that work? It was salvation. Through His initiation, He drew you to Himself for salvation. However, the rest of this verse tells us that this is just the beginning of His work.

Look at the second part of Philippians 1:6:

*“...**He** who began a good work in you **will carry it on to completion...**”*

In addition to being the initiator of His work in us, the second part of Philippians 1:6 says that He, and He alone, will be the CAUSE and EFFECT of His transforming work in our lives. Therefore, in addition to the work that God accomplished at salvation, God is the One who will make His promises of abundant life an experiential reality in your life.

In other words, God, as the cause and effect of His work in you, WILL:

- **BE your VICTORY over defeating sin patterns. 1 Corinthians 15:57**
- **MEET your physical and spiritual needs. Philippians 4:19**
- **BE the POWER over the power of sin within you. 1 John 3:6**
- **TRANSFORM your life in order to experience His abundance. Romans 12:2**
- **PRODUCE the fruit of the Spirit in your life. Galatians 5:22, 23**
- **DRAW you into an INTIMATE relationship with Himself. Ephesians 1:5**