

Is What You Believe The Truth?

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Final Thoughts

I just want to finish by saying that eternally more than you can imagine God wants to live His life in you to radically change you from the inside out. This God who has loved you for an eternity and put His life in you at salvation desires that you allow Him to be your Source for living life. As He lives His life in you, you will experience His promises of victory, freedom, healing, transformation and abundance. In addition, you will learn in a deeper, experiential way the words of Paul when he says:

“To live to me is Christ”

Christ Is Life Ministries

Website: www.christislifeministries.com

Email: CILM@christislifeministries.com

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Bill Loveless

Christ Is Life Ministries

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What Do You Think?

What has the Spirit revealed to you as you have read through these pages? Has it challenged what you believe or has it caused you to rethink what you believe about living the Christian life? If so, I want to share with you more about what it looks like for God to live His life in you.

The Next Step

If you would like to go deeper into what it means for God to live His life in you, please go to our ministry website which is www.christislifeministries.com and look under the **Store** section. You will find the series called ***Living A Transformed Life In Christ***. Part one of the series is called ***Living Life From A New Source***. This series is the next step in understanding more about God living His life in you.

This booklet will answer such questions as:

- **What is God's part and man's part in God living His life in me?**
- **What happens in me as I take steps of faith to release His life and power in me?**
- **What does God's process of transformation look like?**
- **What can I expect as I allow God to live in me?**

If you would like a copy of the booklet form of *Living Life From A New Source*, we would be happy to mail it to you free of charge. Just email your request including your mailing address to Christ Is Life Ministries at the email address on the following page and we will send the booklet to you.

My Story Continued

Before I finish, I want to share with you what God revealed to me after struggling for so many years of living from lying beliefs. God brought a man into my life by the name of Ian Thomas on October 4, 1998 who said these words:

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

I was stunned as I heard these words because this was the first person who ever 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 ready 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 those words. As a result, I began allowing God to live His life in me with the result that He has freed me of my chronic fear, anxiety, and inadequacy. He is transforming my life in other areas as well and I am experiencing His vast love for me. I don't want you to hear that I have arrived because God's process of transformation is a life-long process. However, I have journeyed long enough with Christ as my life so that I can say with Paul in Ephesians 3:20 that:

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

Introduction

You may be wondering at this point what truth I am referring to in the title. 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 foundational truth about living the Christian life and are therefore not experiencing the Christian life that God intends. As you read through this booklet, 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.

I would encourage you as well before you start to ask the Lord to give you personal revelation about what you will be reading. Ask Him to expose any lies you have been believing and to renew your mind to the truth.

My Personal Journey

I would like to begin by sharing with you 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 the question, I was told there were certain things I needed to do **for** God to be a “successful” Christian. Here are some of the things I was told to do:

- Have a quiet time with the Lord every day.
- Learn the Word of God and apply it.
- Evangelize.
- Go to church and give to the church.
- Get involved in some form of ministry.

Initially I appreciated having this list because it fell in line with how I had lived my life up to that point. By that I mean that living the Christian life was a lot like my job in that I learned how to do what was required and then went and accomplished it.

I believed that if I learned what I needed to do and then accomplished the list that God would love me, be pleased with me, and I would be happy. I assumed that if I did everything that was required of me that I would experience the abundant life that Jesus promised in John 10:10.



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

*“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? You were created for relationship with God. Believe it or not, God wants a personal, intimate relationship with you. He has wanted this love relationship with you for an eternity according to Ephesians 1:4

*“Long ago, even before He made the world,
God **loved** us...”*

Now that you are saved, God is in the process of drawing you into a love relationship with Himself. As He lives His life in you, you will begin to experience His eternal, unconditional, and immeasurable love for you.

section to give us a better understanding of the meaning of abundant life. I will do this in the form of a question for you.

If you were:

- **living in victory** over sin, the flesh, the world, and Satan,
- **experiencing freedom** from your defeating sin patterns,
- **being healed** of your past or present woundedness,
- **having your needs met,**
- **being transformed** to think, feel, choose, and behave like Christ, and
- **experiencing a personal, intimate relationship with God,**

would you consider that abundant living?

I believe you, like me, would consider this abundant living. Consider this as well:

If Christ is your life, and His life is ABUNDANT, then abundant living is allowing Christ to live in you so that you will experience His promises of freedom, victory, healing, transformation, and intimacy.

The ULTIMATE Outcome of God Living In You

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

from God. The result was that my Christian life became a thirty year life of working and striving to keep jumping over many bars to please God and to be happy. The problem is that I never felt I measured up to God's expectations. When happiness and a sense of pleasing God never came, I finally gave up. I would still read my Bible and would go to church but my Christian life became hollow and without meaning.

In Addition, I Had Internal Struggles.

Even before I was saved, I had ongoing inner 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 life. 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 of these struggles.

The result after thirty years was that I experienced no freedom. In fact, the more I tried, the worse the bondage to these problems became. After all those years of living what I thought was the truth, I concluded that I had done everything that everyone told me was required to live the Christian life, and it was NOT working. My question was, "Have I missed something or have I just not done enough?" What about you? What do you believe?

What Do You Believe About Living The Christian Life?

What have you learned up until now about living the Christian life?

- 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 stopping yourself from sinning or getting your sin under control? If so, how well is that working for you?
- Do you feel that to be a successful Christian that you have to follow a checklist like the one I shared above? Do you feel successful?

Where God is taking you through living His life in you is to transform you into the likeness of Christ. What does that mean?

Being TRANSFORMED into Christ-likeness means to think, feel, choose, believe, and behave LIKE Christ.

God Living His Life In You Will Produce A Life That Is ABUNDANT

Another promise of God living His life in you is that you will experience abundant life. He makes this promise in John 10:10:

"...I have come that they might have life and have it

ABUNDANTLY."



What do you think Jesus meant by an abundant life? I don't believe that He meant an external abundance because that can be easily taken away. Is it possible that the abundance that Jesus is talking about is an internal abundance? Let me use the promises listed in the previous

INTIMACY – He is your intimacy in that He is drawing you into a personal, intimate relationship with Himself.

“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

God living His life in you results in you EXPERIENCING His promises!

The Result Of God Living In Us Is A CHANGED Life



God living His life in us will result in our lives being changed. The word of God confirms this change in Romans 12:2:

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

We see further confirmation of this transformation in Romans 8:29 and 2 Corinthians 3:18.

*“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.” Romans 8:29*

*“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.” 2 Corinthians 3:18*

What About The Struggles You Are Facing?

- What internal struggles do you want victory over or freedom from? Is what you believe you should be doing to gain that victory or freedom working for you?
- Is there some sinful behavior that you want changed? Have you been successful in changing that behavior?
- Is there any past woundedness that you want to be healed from? Is what you believe you should do to be healed, bringing about that healing?

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 experiencing an inner joy, peace, and abundance?
- Do you feel that you are measuring up to God’s expectations? If not, how does that make you feel?

If your Christian life is not meeting your expectations, is it possible that some truth might be missing concerning what you believe?

If your answer is “yes” to this question, I would like to share with you 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 living the Christian life.

What Does Jesus Say Is The Truth 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

What are these two verses saying?

***They are saying that Jesus IS the LIFE.
What kind of life is He referring to?***

To answer this question, let's read what Paul says about what is the Christian life.

What Does Paul Say?

Paul takes the truth of Christ as “the Life” to a more personal level when he says in Colossians 3:4:

“..Christ who is YOUR life...”

Is it possible that Paul is saying that the life of Christ is more than 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 to live the Christian life is Christ. If this is true, then what is the Christian life?

What Does It Look Like For God To Live His Life In You?

You may be asking, “What does it look like for God to live His life IN me?” I want to share with you a few of God's promises to gain a clearer understanding:



VICTORY - He will be your victory over the power of sin, the flesh, the world, and the power of Satan.

“but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:57

FREEDOM - He will be your freedom from defeating sin patterns and ongoing inner struggles.

“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

HEALING - He will heal you of your past and present woundedness.

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

SUPPLY - God will supply all your needs.

“My God shall supply all your needs.....in Christ Jesus”
Philippians 4:19

**Christ living His life IN you is the KEY
to living the Christian life.**

What The Christian Life Is NOT!



If living the Christian life is Christ living in you, 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).

If any of these things characterizes your life, are they really working to give you the Christian life you desire? If not, 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 Christian life is a Person.
It is Christ Himself.**

Have you ever thought about the truth that the Christian life is Christ Himself?

What Does It Mean That Christ Is Your Life?

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

Key Truth: God as your source for living the Christian life means that only God can produce in you and through you what you cannot produce.

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?

Christ As Your Life Means That He Wants To Live His Life *IN* You

There is only one Person who has led a perfect Christian life, and that is Christ Himself. Now that He is in you as your Source, He wants to live His divine life **IN** you. Paul confirms this for His own life in the first part of Galatians 2:20:

*“I am crucified with Christ, and **I no longer live**, but*

***Christ lives IN me...**”*

When Paul says that “I no longer live,” he, in effect, is saying that he CANNOT be the source for living the Christian life. This is amazing considering all of Paul’s credentials, intellect, and ability. However, they were insufficient to produce a successful Christian life.



Since he admits that he cannot live the Christian life then he says, “Christ lives in me.” Paul recognizes his absolute need for Christ to live the Christian life in him. Have you thought about this verse in this way? Does this line up with what you believe?