

## “LIFE ~ ...LIVE for the WILL of GOD!”

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All that can and need be said of “LIFE” is in the word of God. In the account of 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the word of God says, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* It has been said by Bible scholars that the scriptures which was stated by Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16 is referring to the Old Testament. Although this description applies equally to the New Testament and describing the life we should live today.

For understanding the interpretation of phrases and words the following is provided. “Inspiration of God” is literally, God breathed and “Profitable” means that it is useful (a pattern for man). The purpose of the Scriptures is to teach true doctrine and correct false doctrine, remove immorality and instruct in a life of righteousness. Christians, the true obedient believers, are equipped through and by the word for service. When scriptures are known and believers apply them in their personal lives it is a life of service to others and a life of doing the will of God.

It has been taught that wisdom is the most desirable possession of humankind. And that he who gets wisdom pleases both God and people. He who gets wisdom lives successfully in this life, and in Proverbs 8:35 we are blessed with these words *“and in doing so obtain favor from the LORD.”* It is the scripture which instructs us how to live in God’s world. It is said, “Life is complex and complicated”, but its wonderful!

In the Scripture life is spoken about and taught in many and varied facets. I want to start out by analyzing scripture and words to find out how we are to live and what we need to do, and do better and more diligently. The formula is in the identifying words of the scripture. That’s a known, but it is needed that one should renew and revive that which is thought to be known, “How to Live”. I am choosing to say that renewing and reviving are acts in life for the benefit which will be received and spoken of metaphorically as “Preventive Maintenance”.

In 1 Peter 4:2, 6 we are told that we should live, *“for the will of God”*, and *“live according to God in the Spirit”*. In John 1:12-13 tells us that to those who believe in Jesus’ name, He gave them the “power” (right) *“to become children of God”*, and those *“which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”*. We can and should read again, study more diligently and accept the principles stated in John 1:12-13, and the only conclusion which can be gleaned is that the number one duty or responsibility of man is to live doing the will of God. It is commanded!

It is known that there many attributes that are inherent by our nature which by design God created in us. There are also obstacles in and of life which mankind try to justify and excuse their actions because of what is involved in the statement which I made above, "Life is complex and complicated."

I have given much thought to the whole of life. And to be honest about it some of the things which I have thought of and labored with, trying to come to a rational and complete understanding have been at times frightening to me. Life is complex and complicated but also fragile and sometimes deprived of the preventive maintenance required to make and keep it strong and focused. Please don't misunderstand me. I have relied upon the word of God to provide council to me. I want my thoughts and the rational of them to be founded on His truth. We all need that...Amen!

Knowledge gained in and of life has to be from and supported by the Doctrine which is the Pattern in God's word. And I know and confess, I have not done it right every time. It is my prayer that the use and application of my gain in this study will be effected into my life seasoned by wisdom. But, do you know what? I need help! I am weak and in need of strength. I tell you a truth, I gain strength each and every time I fellowship with the Saints. When we meet for Bible class, Sunday morning and Wednesday night and are instructed/taught truths and principles so knowledgeable by good Elders...I am truly blessed. Oh how I need it. I do appreciate it. And I covet it! I am sure that these ways are good and right, and I know it's the best way and the will of our Father who is in Heaven.

"Lean on the mighty arm of Jesus, hide in the hollow of  
His Hand; neath His protecting wings abide you, firm on  
the Rock of Ages Stand."

I'm quoting some words and expression from The Layman's Bible Encyclopedia (TLBE) concerning life as it says:

"In its simplest sense, this word "Life" refers to existence as opposed to non-existence, or death. There is life which is higher than mere existence, a life nourished on obedience to the word of God. Jesus came that we might possess this life, which is life indeed. As a consequence of His redemptive power, our lives are transformed by faith from lives of rebellion and pride to lives of grateful surrender to His will. In contrast to natural human life, which ends at death, this new, true life is indestructible. The blessings we are now enjoying as new born babes in Christ are but an installment of the life which is to come. To speak of Him as the "Living God" is to distinguish Him from dumb idols which have no life of their own and to acknowledge that He not only gives life to all things but that He is providentially active in guiding and sustaining His creation." Read that paragraph of words again! It is powerful. It is true about God.

Now, where do I start again? I am now so desirous to study about life that I should be refreshed, revived, and renewed that I could live life with a stronger and growing faith and be more zealous in dedication to doing His will. There are many bits of information and data (truths) to recall which will be even more refreshing and beneficial. Of that I am sure. So, I've made up my mind to start from the beginning.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. You know it wasn't until the fifth day that God created life...living creatures. On the very next day, the sixth day, God created man and gave him life and man became a *living soul*. That tells us that all life is of God. That tells us that our life belongs to God. And that also tells us that we belong to God. All that being true and we know that it is true, we should; in fact, we must live our life to and for God and for others.

One big problem in this old world is that all humankind does not live to and for God and others. Even though they have been taught this great truth they don't believe it or they will not accept it. There are some who believe that God created them, that they should live for Him but they are part-timers. Can this be? Does God accept part-timers, those who do not live and do all of God's will? Read James 2:10 then answer.

What we need to do now is to study and analyze some scriptures and check upon ourselves. I am experiencing that funny feeling right now. It is not really funny but a fearful feeling...I can't describe it but it is a feeling akin to the feeling you get when you were put on the spot so to speak and you were unprepared. Oh that is bad and it is fearful. Well fear can be good. It will make you straighten-up and get right! I do know that James 2:10 will put fear in your heart, it does mine and I read and ponder it often.

Note what we are taught of fear in Ecclesiastes 8:12-13, "*Though a sinner (we are all sinners) does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before HIM. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will HE prolong his days which are a shadow, because he does not fear before God.*" Now do you see why fear is good for us? Do we know the difference between a sinner and a wicked person? How does righteousness play into these questions?

Because we have fear does not disqualify us from enjoying life as God has made it. God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight. A commentary on this: "The best way to approach life is recognition of God as the source of all benefits and recognition that good things from HIS hand are designed for enjoyment. Why can man not see that a life doing God's will, all of it, all of his prolonged days would be the very best life that could be lived?"

Note the conclusion as set forth in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. You know it, but I will cite it here because I love to read it. "*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including*

*every secret thing, whether good or evil.*” In living our lives we need to seek, to be like Him and trust in His promise of life eternal. Can that give cause for additional or prolong thought?

If we are going to live a life dedicated to God and Christ we must become or be dead to sin. It is then that we are alive to God! How do you do that? It is explained in the Holy Word in Romans Chapter 6. When we are baptized into Christ we are baptized into His death. This is done that the body of sin might be done away with and we are no longer controlled by sin. When we have died with Christ we are freed from sin. The scripture says, *“Now if we die with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him”* (Romans 6:8). *“...reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:11). *“...having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness and the end...everlasting life”* (Romans 6:22). The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Permit me this observation; my fear is the jeopardy or condemnation of man may be that of failure to do, in life, those things which are most needful that should or must be done. Stewardship is always present in live as we do His will. I know that is true and my prayer is that we all agree on this. There is always much to do! Living life and doing His will must be our avocation [our calling; our charge; our mission] something one does in addition to a vocation or regular work. This is most important and must be seriously considered and accepted.

In living life for Him, “What is involved?” We know that much is involved. All that could be said or put into words or writing would fill volumes and we know that to be true. We are told this in the scriptures. But because this is a refresher study this writing will be limited. There are some questions which I need to ask and some analyzing points to ponder in exercise my thinking which I am going to incorporate here.

Living life incorporates three actions which I want to go over in my mind. These three words are; (1) Think, (2) Say, and (3) Do. Giving thought to those three words, just writing them, caused me to think that they could be rolled up into one word. That one word could be CONDUCT.

One of the strongest synonyms of conduct is “manage.” You say yea? Isn’t living life to be managed? Each of us, with help from God and the Saints of the Church family are to manage our lives in faith and love doing His will! Managing life is in the realm of stewardship responsibility. Yes it is, and we need only one tool with two attachments to do our life-living management. The tool is the Word, and the attachments are knowledge and wisdom.

I want to define wisdom here, not to question anyone’s intelligence but to help us look together and learn as to the prospective of my approach in this point of discussion. WISDOM: Deep thorough or mature understanding; the ability to judge

soundly; keen in sense perception with facts, esp. as they relate to life and conduct. Hey, I'm not that smart...I got that word arrangement from a Webster's Collegiate Dictionary and Roget's II Thesaurus. Now that I've seen it in print I say, "AMEN"!

No one of us should have any problem admitting that our pattern of life and conduct should be manifested by the pattern of instructions and examples given to us through the Holy Word. 1 Peter 1:14-16 says, "*As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lust, as in your ignorance; but as HE who called you is holy, you also be holy in your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'.*" The summary of what Paul said to us in 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 is, "...and do all to the glory of God." *We honor God when our conduct is motivated by a desire to live so that unbelievers will be attracted to Christ and those in the Church of God will be strengthened...*" Then in 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul said, "*Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*" In speaking about living and love, Paul said in Ephesians 5:1, "*Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us in giving Himself for us...*" Can there be any doubt? The pattern is ours to observe and do likewise. Please let's do!

It is easily seen that the active ingredient to living life is love. In Mathew 5:38-47, Jesus is teaching His disciples and us also, about relationships and conduct in dealing with our neighbor and yes our enemy also. He concludes Chapter 5 by saying this in verse 48, "*Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*" Jesus had just described the love that we were to have for others. He also made the promise that if we live the life of love for our fellowman we would be perfect. We know we will never be perfect in the sense that God is, but we can and must [shall] love everyone as God does. God loves everyone. Christ died for all!

I want to continue my thoughts in the prospective of the subjective which is "Life". Earlier I inferred that saying and doing really defines life and that live equals conduct equals management. We manage our knowledge from what we learn from God's word and by putting it into action we manage life and living. All of this is great to me it is a blessing and a learning challenge. I love it! I'm talking about this study, using words and expressions, reviving thoughts and reasoning and the reward of learning. I'll tell you...I've learned and have been revived. This 'old boy' can learn and be revived and be taught new tricks. Praise the Lord!

Jesus is speaking in Matthew 5:14 and He blesses and revives us by saying, "*You are the light of the world.*" If you are the light of the world you must let your light shine. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:16 to let our light shine. That is a blessing and a challenge and it is true. Question, "How do we let our light shine?" We are warned in Matthew 5:15 not to let our light be hidden, but to elevate it so all can see it shine.

Our properly managed life elevated for effect all around and everywhere is our conduct. I know I've said several of the selected words and phrases but the way I see it is that we cannot over emphasize such important manifestations, and I'm saying what I am saying now to lead up to set forth some refresher listings of 'Light Shinning', 'Walking', 'Conduct', and 'Management'.

1 John 2:5-6 gives us this 'walk', "Whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him." "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

In Luke 1:6 gives us this "*walk in all commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.*"

In 3 John 3 we are admonished to "*walk in the truth.*"

2 Corinthians 5:7 the exhortation to us is to "*walk by faith.*" Oh how we need that! "*What does it profit my brethren if someone says he has faith but does not have works?* (James 2:18). (cf. James 2:10)

Our walk, our conduct, our managing of life, our love, our faith, they all go together and we are one in the Lord! The admonishment to all of us is, "LIVE A LIFE OF GOOD WORKS, LEARN TO WALK, and WALKING THE WALK IS LIVING!"

So much more could be said about live but I will let what has been said in this study be it for this time. Don't stop learning by continued study...please.

The scriptures and commentary that were set forth or referenced in this study was of great benefit and no total of good. These wonderful scriptures and principles which we have studied are conscious (mind) motivating. It is my prayer that you, having read and studied the truths and principles herein will accept all truth, and that it will be a conscience server to you also.

Please give attention to page 7 and note how it involves in living a true and faithful life. Also, please note the author and give him credit for the truths of his writing. I use his writings very often as enclosures to the studies which I write. He is a dedicated minister and preacher of the true gospel. Mark N. Posey – Minister – Austinville Church of Christ, Decatur AL, explains the question of "Work out your own salvation", not what he says.

QUESTION: Paul said, "Work out your own salvation," in Philippians 2:12. What does that mean?

ANSWER: Paul's close relationship with the Philippians was obvious from his desire that they grow spiritually. He told them to keep on growing more and more in love, knowledge and discernment (Philippians 1:9). He also instructed them to have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5), which was a mark of spiritual maturity. However, he also wanted them to keep on growing regardless of his absence or presence (Philippians 1:12). Therefore, he said. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12).

The Philippians' obedience was not dependence upon Paul's presence among them. In his absence they must now take the initiative. Now more than ever before they must exert themselves, for they are on their own. Not as far as God is concerned, but as far as Paul is concerned. They must carry their salvation to its conclusion, completely digest it and apply it to their lives (Philippians 1:11). They must set for their spiritual lives the goal of maturity.

Others had become dormant in their spiritual growth. Paul had to address the Corinthians as "carnal" instead of as "spiritual" because of growth (1 Corinthians 3:1-3). The Hebrew writer issued a rebuke to those that had become "dull of hearing" (Heb. 5:11). The Bereans were found to be "more noble" than the Thessalonians because of their proper handling of God's Words (Acts 17:11).

The central issue in Paul's admonition is salvation. The Philippians were to pursue, follow after, press on and strive for "the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). They were to put forth a constant and sustained effort in remaining faithful "until the day of Jesus" (Philippians 1:6). Because this task was so vital, Paul said it must be performed with "fear and trembling."

Fear and trembling does not indicate despair, but rather respect, reverence, and sincere dedication and commitment.

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