

Are You Dying to Live?



Step 2 - Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Step 12 - Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message and to others and practice these principles in all our affair.

How do you and I understand death, do we really grasp it?

Genesis 2:8-9; 15-17 The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midsts of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... 15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Romans 5:12 – Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned

DEAD

1: deprived of life: no longer alive

2 a (1) : having the appearance of death : deathly <in a *dead* faint> **(2) :** lacking power to move, feel, or respond : numb

b: very tired

c (1) : incapable of being stirred emotionally or intellectually : unresponsive <*dead* to pity> **(2) :** grown cold : extinguished <*dead* coals>

3 a: inanimate, inert <*dead* matter>

b: barren, infertile <*dead* soil>

c: no longer producing or functioning : exhausted <a *dead* battery>

We can live a dead life

Mathew 23:25-28 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. 27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

1 Timothy 5:6 **But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.**

The Prodigal

Luke 15:25-32 "Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' 28 But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. 29 But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; 30 but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 **But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live,** and was lost and has been found.' "

There was nothing the son had to do to clean up his act to receive life through his father. He just came to the father and the father restored him to life; all he had to do was to receive it and live in it. We can't do anything to earn a new life or work our way into a new life, we just receive a new life. What did we do to be born?

Jesus is our source for life

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 **In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.** 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 10:7-10 So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 **The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**

John 20:30-31 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but **these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.**

¹ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dead>

Ephesians 2:1-10 And **you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 **But God**, being rich in mercy, **because of His great love with which He loved us**, 5 **even when we were dead** in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Is our focus on the resurrected life or Acts 4 – with great power they gave testimony to Jesus resurrection from the dead, i.e. life. In him is life!

Some will not listen – The life transformation or resurrected life will be meaningless to some.

John 5:39-40 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; 40 and **you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life**.

Luke 16:30-31 But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' 31 But he said to him, '**If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.**'"

Do we really want true life or are we comfortable with our labels; addict, victim, so on?

The Changed Life

The demoniac was found to be clothed and in his right mind, Jesus had given him a new life.

Luke 8:35-39 – **The people went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind;** and they became frightened. 36 Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon- possessed had been made well. 37 And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned. 38 But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but He sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

Lazarus

John 11:17-27;28-46 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. 20 Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. 21 **Martha then said to Jesus, " Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.** 22 Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." 23 Jesus *said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha *said to Him, " I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 **Jesus said to her, " I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"** 27 She *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."...28 When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, " The 43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." 44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, "**Unbind him, and let him go.**" 45 Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.

Living a dead life has us bound up as well; Jesus can free us from this.

Raised from the dead – Jesus raised lots of people from the dead. Were these miracles just to show Jesus had the power to raise from the dead or could it be that he wanted to show that He alone has the power to impart life, life that we can have now that doesn't have to come after our mortal death as many of us perceive. Can you imagine if you or I were dead and God raised us from the dead? Do you think we would live our life differently or the same as before?

Do you and I perceive the miracle of someone being raised from the dead, just as that, a miracle? Or do you see it as a restoration of life, that Jesus is the giver of life, that he has power over death and that he institutes and maintains life?

So many times we may focus on what Jesus did for us through His death, and overlook and live our life without recognizing or even knowing our position of freedom we have in His resurrection and life.

My life has been transformed from death to life, has yours?

Are you living the dead life or do you have real life in Christ Jesus.